

Voice opponents will have to explain negative tactics

No, George Brandis, the campaign is not dividing us ("If it's No, PM must heal a divided nation", October 9). The nation has been divided for more than 200 years, testimony to the incompetence of every government. Should No prevail, it will not be Albanese's job to explain himself. It will be for the Coalition, its hangers-on and yourself "to offer words of reassurance to Indigenous Australians that the defeat of the Voice is not a rejection of constitutional recognition, that it will not stop efforts to close the gap, that it is not the end of reconciliation".

An honest appraisal of the No campaign would admit its reliance on prophecies of doom and the manipulation of fear. May I ask what you have done, and intend to do, to improve the state of Indigenous health, education, employment and life expectancy?

Susan Connelly, Lakemba

"Next Saturday night, Anthony Albanese will make the most important speech of his life. It is the speech that will define his prime ministership," writes George Brandis. More to the point, the night will define our nation.

Edward Loong, Milsons Point

He claims that it will be the result of the poor quality of the Yes campaign. But he ignores the tactics of the No campaign: the lies and misinformation, the deliberate fostering of fear and doubt. His statement that Australians are not a racist people is meaningless. My experience handing out Yes materials has shown me that there is a deep well of racism in this country.

Martin Mansfield, Baulkham Hills

Thank you, George, for your insight into how many are feeling.

So many of us would be voting Yes if the referendum was about a powerful recognition inserted into our constitution. It is indeed with a heavy heart that we are rejecting the flawed model that is being put to us.

This flawed model is seen as dividing us by race and this idea is anathema to many Australians.

I believe it is vital for the future of our country that all Australians are equal in our most important document, the Constitution.

Pamela Shepherd, Balgowlah

Sean Kelly says Australian voters are resistant to change ("What next if Yes is defeated?", October 9). I wonder if that is true and what would happen if we had leaders with vision and enthusiasm for bringing people