

## At What Cost?

I think we all came away from our last event feeling a bit sombre but paradoxically also uplifted. It was tough to hear the facts on how climate change has increased the risk and incidences of fire and flood and the flow on effect on our cost of living. If we walked into the room thinking that climate change and the cost of living crisis are two discrete crises, we walked out knowing that they are one and the same - the crisis of poor governance.

Our expert guests Greg Mullins and Sharanjit Paddam provided us with keen insights into the issues, with many great questions all expertly navigated by our moderator, Tina Brown.

So you may then ask how was the event uplifting? Because we're part of a growing community who continue to advocate and work for change! Community powered democracy in action!

Greg and Sharanjit both shared some great resources which we've pulled together below.

- Check out the [Resilience Building Council](#) of Australia's [app](#) for improving the resilience of your home and the potential of a [reduction in insurance premiums](#) with certain insurers.
- Conduct an annual review and spring clean of your property using the [Rural Fire Service Bush Fire Survival Plan](#)
- Do a deep dive into the most recent Actuaries Institute Report on [Home Insurance Affordability and Home Loans at Risk](#)
- Or perhaps The Australia Institute's recent report [Premium price - The impact of climate change on insurance costs](#).

To experience the night, you can find the recording on our website [here](#).

## OUR CANDIDATE SEARCH IS LOOKING VERY GOOD!

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE!

### Voices of Berowra Executive Committee

In between all the fun and events, Voices of Berowra has been setting up our Incorporated Association and have recently elected a new Executive Committee at our Annual General Meeting. Our new Executive Committee are:

Co-Presidents : Ruth Barcan & Mark Higgs

Vice President: Stuart Crossman

Treasurer: Vanessa D'Souza

Secretary: Paula Brodie

Committee Members: Ivonne Font, Michelle Rawson

The role of the Executive Committee is bring the goals and objectives of Voices of Berowra to life.

## MYTHBUSTERS!

There's a lot of talk about the community independents or 'Teals' as they get called, and we are here to set some myths straight!

### Myth: The "Teals" Wanted to Abolish the Seat of Berowra

Unfortunately, this piece of misinformation is being spread by the current Federal MP for Berowra. In the recent AEC boundary redistribution, one – **only one** – of the community independents put in a submission suggesting that instead of abolishing their seat of North Sydney, the AEC could abolish the seat of Berowra.

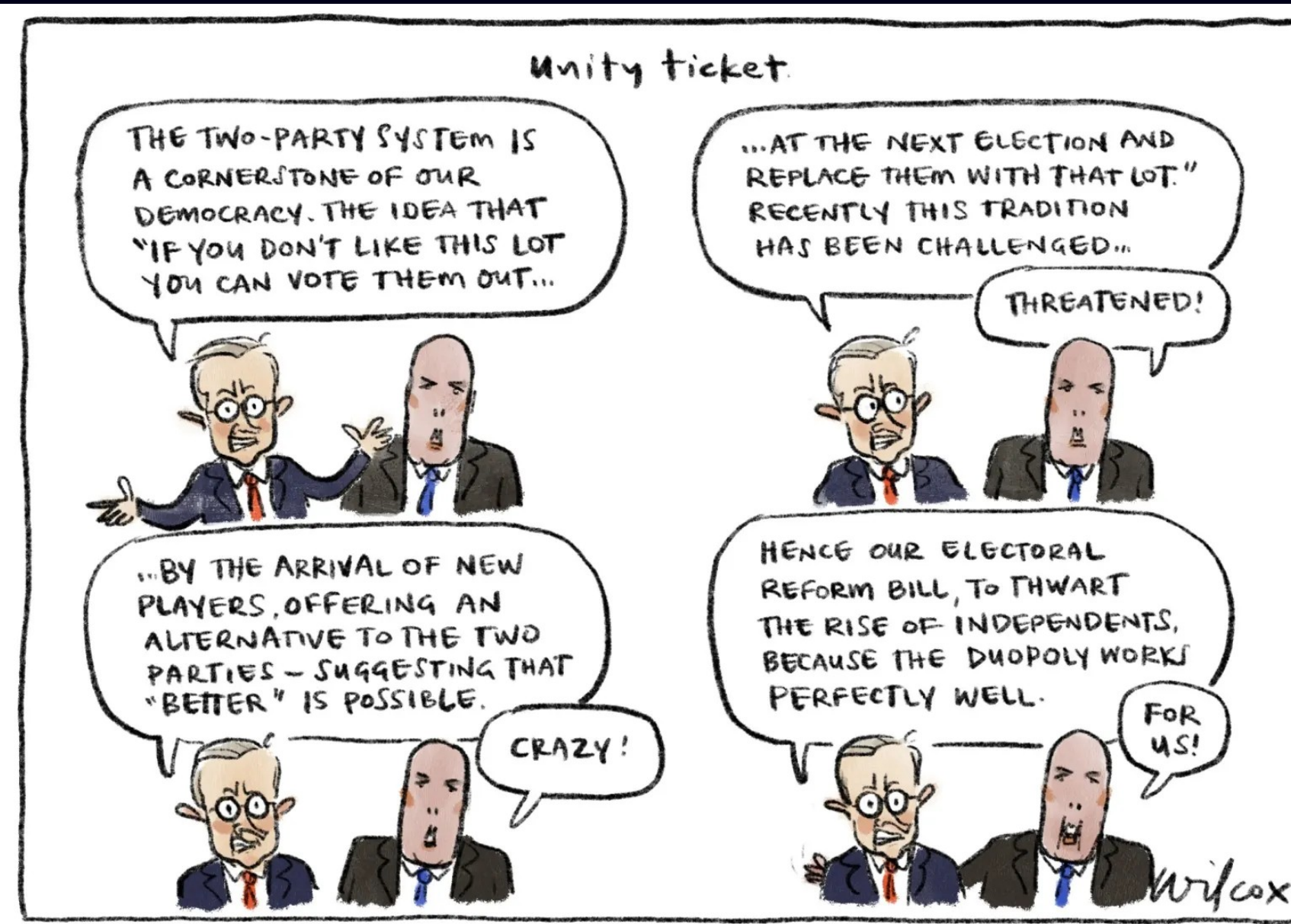
No other community independents proposed this. They are not a party.

### Myth: A Minority Government is a Recipe for Chaos

We addressed this myth in an earlier newsletter. Minority governments can produce much better outcomes, as the dominant party is forced to negotiate for better legislation. Lots of commentators are actually welcoming the dawning of an era of "balanced" (not hung) parliaments.

We've seen what has happened in the US election where the major parties dominate. The option of voting for a community independent candidate is one of the safeguards of our democracy that stops the same thing happening here.

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE LEGISLATION



Something we're keeping a very close eye on in parliament is the new campaign finance bill that has been introduced and is being rushed through the House of Representatives by the Labor Party (with the support of the Liberal-National Coalition).

Yes, new campaign finance laws are needed to create greater transparency on campaign donations but at the same time the government has sort to increase the public funding of campaigns to the major parties and almost cutting out the possibility of any new independent candidate being able to community fund a campaign. Read more from [Transparency International Australia](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Glenorie Meet-Up Thursday 21 November

Come along to Glenorie to meet some of our team.

We'll be at Glenorie Memorial Hall from 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

Glenorie Memorial Hall  
1729 Old Northern Rd, Glenorie

### Hey Glenorie



Meet some of the Team

Q&A with a Cuppa

Glenorie Memorial Hall  
Thursday 21/11/24 6.30-8.30pm



### Epping Station Saturday 23 November

Join us as we chat with the locals about who Voices of Berowra are, what we're trying to achieve and to listen to concerns.

From 11am to 12pm. Meeting at the eastern side of the station at Langston Place.

