

## Electoral Commissioner

REF: EC22-000012

Mr Patrick Hodder  
Secretary  
Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Dear Mr Hodder

I am writing to provide further information regarding a matter raised during the Budget Estimates 2022-23 hearing of the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee on 8 November 2022.

During the hearing, Senator Malcolm Roberts asked if the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) audited the voter rolls scanned to produce the Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) spreadsheet available on the AEC website at [www.aec.gov.au/Elections/federal\\_elections/2022/downloads.htm](http://www.aec.gov.au/Elections/federal_elections/2022/downloads.htm).

This spreadsheet provides the number of House of Representatives votes cast per SA1 at each polling place for the 2022 federal election.

Specifically, Senator Roberts asked:


**Senator ROBERTS:** *Did you audit the voter rolls you scanned to produce the SA-1 file for signs of marks being rubbed out to cover up votes being lost?*

To which, I commenced my response with:

**Mr Rogers:** *Well, hang on. Yes, we do—*

I wish to clarify that in this exchange, the opening statement 'Yes, we do' was to confirm the AEC does undertake quality assurance processes in relation to the scanning of paper certified lists. The AEC rejects any claim of certified list marks being '*rubbed out to cover up votes being lost*' and my subsequent evidence reflects this. Due to the fast pace of the verbal exchange and break in my evidence, there is potential for the opening statement to be misconstrued when reading the Hansard.

I trust this clarification assists the Committee.

Yours sincerely 

Tom Rogers

25 November 2022