

1. Can you confirm you went to The Daily Telegraph with your story?

I can confirm this, yes. I sent a brief of the story to several media outlets and the Telegraph ran it.

2. What were you hoping to achieve?

Potentially several things. As I said consistently to the outlets that contacted me on Thursday, I do think there is a need for greater protections for renters, especially during very challenging times in the housing and rental market. The contrast with Southern Europe in terms of current protections for renters here is pretty astonishing.

I also felt strongly there was an inconsistency between **Albo's** messaging on the topic and his personal statements around evictions during the housing crisis, along with Labor's conspicuous and ongoing stated commitment to providing more support to renters. And lastly of course I would prefer (like all renters served with 'a notice to vacate') to stay in the property longer.

Was I naïve, desperate, bold, stupid, to try and keep my affordable rental near my place of work by going public and agreeing to have an article published in the Telegraph? I suspected a combination of all of those things beforehand and feel **that's** about right now. I was again, pretty desperate.

3. How do you feel about the coverage?

Of course, the risk you run whenever seeking media coverage is that you have zero control over what is published. I was interviewed by the Telegraph and unpredictably the final article assumed a quite different feel, tone, and in some areas, content to what I provided. **That's** fine and I **don't** begrudge or criticise them for that.

They have their own audience to tailor articles to and I anticipated it would be reworked accordingly. Perhaps not to the extent that it was but **that's** neither here nor there. There was certainly no pleading or even direct request of any kind to Albo provided in my interview.

After that, it largely went about as well as I thought it would go, which is that the response was decidedly mixed, with a lot of very virulent and hostile opposition. There is seemingly no clear, consistent left/right split, with Albo and myself vilified and championed from commentators on both the left and the right. My side was celebrated

equally by unions and Peta Credlin and heavily criticised along similarly unpredictable lines.

I was slightly (but only slightly) surprised at the level of hostility I attracted from some quarters. **Albo's** initial response seemed to play pretty compellingly in depicting me as an ungrateful renter who had for years received rent below the market rate. The reports and analysis published later in the day (<https://www.realestate.com.au/news/truth-behind-albos-ruthless-eviction/>) suggesting I'd been overcharged by Albo for years and thus had paid all up about the market rate over my time in the property was given very little attention.

I was also a little surprised at the lack of analysis and fact checking applied to some of **Albo's** points defending his position. The suggestion that I was uncooperative with the agent and refused to communicate with him is demonstrably false (something I mentioned several times later in the day). I'd had an inspection of the property arranged with the agent only the week before and plenty of correspondence (a lot of it very recent), all on record. The agent had also several times conversationally mentioned changing the terms of the rental agreement. I had always in response informed him that I needed any correspondence related to this provided in writing, and would then receive no further correspondence on the matter.

The suggestion from the prime minister that I'd acted improperly and inappropriately in going public also seems at best disingenuous. His statements infer a media ambush that caught him unawares, which is not accurate. I emailed the estate agent twice in the days prior to the printing of the initial story, seeking clarification on the letter and definitive confirmation it was fully aligned with the wishes of the landlord. These emails explicitly mentioned I had received approaches from the media regarding the story. I received no response to either of these emails. I call this out several times in later media appearances during the day of the story.

That is in stark contrast to the very considerable delving and digging done into every statement made by me in the article and throughout the day and every facet of my current and past personal and professional life, including myriad incorrect or wholly irrelevant details related to my marital status and professional experience. Again, I'm not bemoaning this. He's the prime minister and I'm a small business owner in Dulwich Hill, so it was not unexpected.

Similarly, my intention in going public, which I reiterated in all subsequent media appearances, wasn't about how good a landlord Albo had been (which I never disputed) nor the amount of rent I was paying. It was about the impact on renters in the current crisis of being evicted or issued with a notice to vacate and the disconnect in Albo's actions and policy statements..

4. Do you regret going to the media?

No. It has not been a pleasant experience. But I wanted to push back. I sincerely felt there was a significant contradiction in **Albo's** comments related to protecting renters ('no one should lose their home in a **crisis**') along with the messaging from the Labour party consistently around wanting to prioritise and address the issues facing renters during the crisis.

Perhaps the initial communications channel (the telegraph), along with the broader circumstances surrounding the situation (**Albo's** previous good record and generous behaviour as a landlord, which I never once disputed) made that central message difficult to communicate to the intended audience and left me too open to being discredited and criticised. That is, I think, valid criticism.

I do also think we are a country obsessed with property ownership and the 66% who do seemingly **don't** take well to the 36% rising above their station. I do think that 66% tends to protect their rights as property owners instinctively, even if it falls outside of their traditional party and left/right tribal identity. **I'm** yet to meet a fellow renter who **hasn't** supported my chosen path of action.

Again, **I'm** sure I was also naïve and to an extent of course, self serving in taking it to the media (which media story **isn't**). But I also genuinely felt there was an issue here and an example of a **politician's** personal decisions clashing with their long running policies worthy of public attention and discussion. I knew the risks and look I was essentially taking the PM on publicly, so they were pretty high). I was also absolutely desperate to not lose my home in the current environment.

Do you have any other comments?

No.

Follow up question:

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Did you receive any benefits (eg. housing, money) from News Corp in exchange for your story?

I did not.