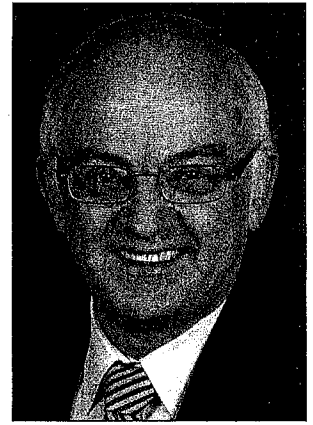




BOB McMULLAN MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FRASER



30 October 2006

Mrs Margaret May
Chair
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Procedure
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600


Dear Mrs May

Thank you for the opportunity to make submissions on the recent controversy concerning the process for condemnation of members and concerning Question Time.

In response please find attached:

1. An article which I had published recently in the on-line magazine *New Matilda*. — Exhibit No. 1.
2. A brief comment on possible amendments to the relevant Standing Orders to implement the proposals in the article, and Submission No. 1.
3. A submission in response to the reference concerning condemnation of members. (separate inquiry)

Might I suggest that, whatever other changes may be considered, the Committee give consideration to splitting the Standing Orders with regard to written and oral questions into discrete sections to make the flow of Standing Orders more logical.

Yours sincerely

BOB McMULLAN

Attachment 2

Possible Amendments to the Standing Orders

- 98 a) as at present
b) as at present
c) A question must refer to public matters with which the Minister is officially connected.
d) delete
- 99 as at present
- 100 a) delete
b) as at present
c) as at present
d) delete
e) delete
f) delete
- 101 a) as at present
b) delete (replace with NEW 107 below)
c) as at present
- 102 as at present
- 103 as at present
- 104 Option a**
All responses made by a Minister in answer to a question must be relevant to the task of answering that question
OR
Option b
The reply to any question must be concise and confined to the subject matter of the question. (This is based on NZ Standing Order 377)
- 105 as at present
- New 106 No question or supplementary question shall be longer than one minute and no answer shall be longer than four minutes.
- New 107 The Leader of the Opposition shall have the opportunity to ask, or allocate to other members to ask, up to six supplementary questions during each Question Time.
- New 108 There shall be a minimum of 20 questions, plus supplementary questions, during each Question Time.