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Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
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Parliament House
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SUBMISSION RE PLEBISCITE FOR AN AUSTRALIAN REPUBLIC BILL 2008

I wish to register my objection to the holding of a Plebiscite for an Australian Republic to be held at the time of the next general election.

My reasons are as follows:

1. The holding of a national plebiscite on such an important constitutional question is misleading because it is non-binding and cannot effect an amendment to the Constitution of Australia.
2. The proposed question to be put, 'Do you support Australia becoming a republic?' is simplistic because it does not state what kind of republic is being proposed.
3. A simple 'yes' or 'no' answer to the general question has no merit because only a referendum in which the nature of the proposed amendment is spelt out can result in an informed decision being made by voters [to change the Constitution](#).
4. The national plebiscite has no more standing than a public opinion poll.
5. The cost of the national plebiscite estimated to be around \$10 million is therefore a waste of public money that should not be borne by the taxpayers of Australia.
6. Since the defeat of the republic proposal in the 1999 referendum, public opinion polls have registered no surge of support for a republic which appears to be an issue of little importance or priority to Australians.
7. Senator Brown wants to spend public money on a partisan cause in the hope of breathing life into what appears to be a moribund movement.
8. Supporters of a republic should be encouraged to raise and spend their own money on promotion of their cause and not expect a handout from the Commonwealth Parliament.
9. Given the global financial crisis and the expected recession that Australia will undergo in the next several years, the Government would be imprudent to spend millions of dollars on a non-binding plebiscite and could expect to be criticized for doing so.
10. The Government needs to spend money to stimulate the Australian economy not the republican movement.

3 February 2009