

The Secretary,  
Finance & Public Administration Committee,  
Parliament House,  
Canberra, ACT 2600.

30.01.2009

re Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill 2008

In response to the invitation to make a submission on this bill, I wish to put the following to the Committee for their consideration:

There is only one way to change the Constitution is by referendum. A plebiscite can not do that, and if the matter at issue were to be incorporated into the Consitution a subsequent referendum would still be needed .

Details of the proposed republic are being kept secret. Surely we should know what is being planned before we vote. There is a huge difference between a theoretical republic and an actual proposed model.

This plebiscite invites the people to reject the existing constitution without knowing what is to be put in its place.

If passed it will lead to a period of constitutional instability.

It will be costly, and add to the millions and millions already spent on various attempts to persuade the people to support a republic.

In 1999 every state and 72% of electorates said no to the republicans' preferred model. A clear majority rejected the proposition.

In any discussion about the "Head of State" being Australian, it should in all fairness be pointed out the the Governor General is acknowleged as the "Head of State" and has been an Australian for longer than most Australians have been alive. Why should we need a plebiscite on something which is already in place?

Yours Respectfully

R.L. Galley

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