

The Standing Committee on Finance And Public Administration
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600

29th January 2009

My Submission to the "Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Act 2008"

Dear Sir/Madame,

I find it strange that in times of an economic crisis that might be the harshest since 1945 an unconstitutional plebiscite is suggested to start changing our constitution.

The only way to change the Australian Constitution is a referendum. Everybody should stick to this only legal way.

Should a plebiscite be held as just another "public opinion poll", then it should not be the taxpayer to shoulder the costs, but it should be paid for by those who want to hold a plebiscite – as opinion polls are usually paid for by the commissioning party.

Should the only legal way to change the constitution show once again a vote in favour of the Australian Monarchy, can we get an assurance from the organisers that the republic question will be off the table for another generation? Or will we have constantly plebiscites and referenda until those who want to change our constitution are satisfied?

I think there are more urgent questions that have to be solved than the question if the Queen of Australia should be stripped of Her title.

Yours sincerely

Harold Schmautz

Note: I take it for granted that my postal and e-mail addresses plus my telephone number are treated as confidential.