

The Secretary,  
Finance & Public Administration Committee,  
Parliament House,  
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( Date . 29 January 2009 )

*Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill, 2008*

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

- o 1 There is only one way to change the constitution. This is a referendum. So why isn't it being used?
- o 2 Details of the proposed republic are being kept secret. Surely we should know what is being planned before we vote.
- o 3 The smaller states are not protected as in a referendum. For a referendum to pass, it must be approved by a national majority and also by a majority in at least four states. Some lawyers think a referendum on such a basic change would need to be approved in all states.
- o 4 This plebiscite invites the people to reject the existing constitution without knowing what is to be put in its place.
- o 5 If passed it will lead to a period of constitutional instability.
- o 6 It will be costly, and add to the millions and millions already spent on various attempts to persuade the people to support a republic.
- o 7 In 1999 every state and 72% of electorates said no to the republicans' preferred model.
- o 8 Don't the republicans understand that No means No?
- o 9 The agenda of many if not most republicans includes changing our flag.

B/ I would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt.

10 A republic with a president, needs to be elected by either universal suffrage or an electoral college !

11 What would be the proposed option?

12 The president and a vice-president would need some constitutional power to preside!

13 Such power would to be taken from the current arrangement, to the new system.

14 Less power from one , then more power for the other!

15 On million Australian reside overseas, what would be the plan to inform such Australian , and potential role?

Yours Faithfully