

Finance and Public Administration Committee
Canberra.

8 JAN 2009

RE: Possible Plebiscite on a republic.

I understand that submissions are now open on the issue of whether the Australian Constitution should be fundamentally altered to provide for a republican system of government in lieu of the arrangements that are currently, and have been for over a century, in place.

I had thought the issue had been resolved over a decade ago, by way of referendum. I object to the Plebiscite proposed by Senator Brown as it is clearly a waste of money.

Although the politically charged "2020 Summit" governance panel voted 98:1 to recommend Australia become a republic, a (more representative) Morgan Poll soon after found that public support for such a proposal (even with an elected president), had FALLEN to 45%, the lowest in 15 years. The lack of support among the coming generation (aged 14 - 17 years) was, significantly, MUCH LOWER at 23%.

There is clearly little interest in or support for the plebiscite. Spend the money on health.

Yours faithfully,

Hugh Hodgkinson