

To: The Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

Re: Submission regarding the Private Members Bill entitled “**Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Act 2008**”.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic Referendum held in 1999 lost both nation-wide as well as in all States. Unless there is an agreed upon republican model that can be shown to be fully superior to the present system, then I will not support this plebiscite and I will actively encourage my fellow Australians not to support it either. To ask in a plebiscite “*Do you support Australia becoming a republic?*” is a nonsense question which leaves the interpretation wide open to anything. Furthermore, by not accepting the result of that referendum, this proposed plebiscite question by the supporters of some sort of republic is seen by this Australian as whinging, plus a waste of time and money.

Witness the numerous, disastrous examples of those former colonies that chose a republican independence, as opposed to those Commonwealth nations (Canada, Australia, and New Zealand) who continue to prosper as independent constitutional monarchies under a stable and time-tested Westminster system of government.

Our constitutional monarchy survives by reminding Australians of the invaluable role the Crown and our Australian Head of State, the Governor General, plays in binding together a nation that could otherwise very easily be split asunder.

What’s to prevent the folks who seem to think that the Australian Constitution isn’t worth the parchment it’s written on, and that an un-defined, un-modelled republic trumps the stable, time tested, Westminster Constitutional Monarchy, from doing whatever the heck they want?

Here's the reality: 99% of the time, if not more, when people yowl about wanting a republic and an ‘Australian Head of State’, it's not true. Worse yet, most of the people doing the shouting *know it's not true*. They're merely crying wolf for political gain because they believe they may benefit personally from it; it keeps them rolling in money and publicity.

Unfortunately, since the people benefiting from continually playing the republican card are unlikely to give it up any time soon, those of us who put our country first are going to have to be bolder about confronting them, drawing attention to the real issues, and sticking up for people who have the courage not to be cowed by political correctness and the repeated lies that we do not have an Australian Head of State when, in fact, we do. Whether our country remains a shining city on a hill or becomes just another unremarkable slum basking in its faded glory will depend on how successful we are at that task.

Respectfully submitted, 02 February 2009, by:

Randy Wilson

