

30 January, 2009

The Secretary
Finance & Public Administration Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Dear Sir

PLEBISCITE FOR AN AUSTRALIAN REPUBLIC BILL 2008

The public has been invited to make written submissions on this Bill by 6 February, 2009.

I feel that to be promoting and debating this Bill at this time is irresponsible of Parliamentarians.

While the country, indeed the world is in such economic and financial meltdown, such activity is really akin to playing the violin, while Rome burns.

There are far more important matters that need to be considered by both the Senate and the House of Representatives than the change to the Australian Constitution envisaged by this Bill. Furthermore, this Bill, if it is enacted, will cost the country millions of dollars, which we can ill afford at this time. The Federal and States budgets are all in or about to go into deficit.

Many citizens of Australia are now becoming unemployed or are threatened with unemployment and others are finding that their income and savings, as senior citizens, are being reduced day by day.

Besides the major economic and financial difficulties that this country and indeed the world faces there are other far more pressing matters that should be considered by Parliament including:-

- (a) The major defects in national and local infrastructure;
- (b) The problems concerning the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander citizens;

- (c) The perennial problems relating to the liaison between the Federal and State governments;
- (d) The problems in the health system, including the mental health and suicides of younger and older Australians;
- (e) The problems in the education of our youth;
- (f) The economic, social and structural problems concerning the country and regional areas of Australia;
- (g) The carbon emission and related environmental problems; and
- (h) Many other major issues.

This Bill will set in train a process, which will divide Australians as opposed to bring them together at a time, when we should be “picking ourselves up and dusting ourselves down” to challenge the major problems, that each one of us faces at this time.

It is the duty and responsibility of each Senator and Member of the House of Representatives to consider deeply, as to whether they should be proceeding with this Bill at this time and, by so proceeding, in essence rendering themselves useless to the ordinary citizen for a substantial period of time and for a substantial amount of wasted money and resources.

Finally, should be very grateful, if you would kindly acknowledge this letter.

With many thanks in anticipation.

Kind regards.

Yours faithfully