

4 February 2009

Committee Secretariat,
The Standing Committee on Finance & Public Administration,
The Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA 2800

Australian Capital Territory
re 'Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Act 2008'

To Whom It May Concern

I thought the above matter had been resolved by a well publicised Australia-wide constitutional referendum some ten years ago?

Thus, it was a surprise for me to learn in the last week or so that your committee is now canvassing the desirability of holding a plebiscite for Australia to become a republic. A Bill to this effect, I note, was moved by Senator Robert Brown - representing Tasmania - and read a first time in that chamber during November 2008.

This is the reason why I am making the enclosed submission, albeit within the last week of them being registered and filed for acceptance. Little publicity appeared to have been given this important course of action which could subsequently entail change to the Commonwealth Constitution.

Apart from a re-run of the same, 1999, circumstance which was defeated by the voting population, this new approach is not even being brought before the federal parliament by a minister of the government.

Furthermore, the Commonwealth Constitution can only be changed by a properly conducted referendum, as was the case in issue during 1999.

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Furthermore, the Commonwealth Constitution can only be changed by a properly conducted referendum, as was the case in issue during 1999.

What, then, is the purpose of having a plebiscite — admitted by Senator Brown — to incur a likely cost of \$10½ million if run parallel with the next federal election in 2010? The electorate's response carries no constitutional legal weight. Clearly the exercise is a waste of money.

Like most Australians I'm in no way dissatisfied with the present status the Constitutional Monarchy has in the affairs or the organisation and administration of our nation.

In the light of the foregoing remarks I have expressed, it is my will that the federal legislature rejects the aim of Senator Brown's Bill.

I would appreciate an acknowledgement of your committee's receipt of this submission for which a stamped / addressed envelope is provided.

Yours sincerely