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2 Feb 09

6'day Secretary,

I just found out about the proposal to have a plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill. I can't believe what is happening. Why hasn't this information been at the top of every news bulletin across the country? Didn't we have a referendum back in 1999 to settle the republic issue once and for all? Didn't Australia, at that time, say NO to a republic? If I recall, at that time, EVERY state and 72% of electorates said NO. Why is it now happening that 10 years down the track the republic issue has once again popped up? Are we to have a vote on this issue EVERY decade or so until the budding republicans get what they want? A republic that the majority does not want and we do NOT need.

As the proposed plebiscite invites the people to reject the existing constitution without knowing what is to be put in its place we are being asked to sail into uncharted waters littered with all kinds of hidden rocks, drop offs and storm tossed seas. This alone is enough to have any

plebiscite squashed before it gets off the ground.

Aren't the details of a proposed republic being kept from the Australian republic? This is another reason NOT to have a plebiscite.

This proposed plebiscite will add millions of dollars to the next election; money that could be better spent elsewhere in these recessionary times.

Our system is working well enough now and we don't need a republic a new constitution or any other destabilizing political manoeuvrings.

I would like to sum up by saying that I am against the idea of having a plebiscite and the idea of a republic should be dropped FOREVER.

I would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this submission

Regards