

THE AUSTRALIAN MONARCHIST LEAGUE  
(Tasmanian Division)

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THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND PUBLIC  
ADMINISTRATION

THE FOLLOWING SUBMISSION RELATES TO THE PROPOSED  
PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL – PLEBISCITE FOR AN AUSTRALIAN  
REPUBLIC ACT 2008

- (i) Is every Member of Parliament, and every Member of this Standing Committee, familiar with our Constitution and recognise the meaning and importance of “the Crown” in the whole context.
- (ii) Please explain – in your view – why any particular part is not relevant.
- (iii) Clearly set out the Republican model BEFORE Australians are asked to vote on the issue.
- (iv) Clearly explain – in your view – what is wrong with the present system.
- (v) Will you make sure Australians understand the steps leading up to Australia becoming a Federation, and the framing of the Constitution.
- (vi) How would becoming a republic improve on our present system?
- (vii) I question the need for a plebiscite on this issue. If it is a question of asking the Australian people whether they wish to change to a republican form of Government surely the normal procedure is sufficient, i.e. a referendum as set out in our Constitution. A plebiscite is a very expensive exercise, and will not decide the issue.
- (viii) There must be a firm guarantee that both sides of the debate are given the opportunity to present the important aspects of their argument.
- (ix) Will the committee guarantee the Australian people will be clearly informed that the Australian Governor-General is the Australian Head of State, and his/her function is set out in our Constitution.?
- (x) And that the Queen has no authority over the Governor-General or the Australian people.
- (xi) Should a plebiscite be held and a majority “No” vote is recorded by the Australian people I would like to know the proposed next step.

The reason given for the Inquiry is :

*“The issue of Australia becoming a republic is an extremely important one for the Australian Parliament and public. It is important that the process by which the issue is progressed now has appropriate public input and is properly scrutinised and debated”.*

Why is it an “extremely important” one, particularly at this time?!!!

*David Murray*

David Murray (Tasmanian State Chairman – Australian Monarchist League)