

Australian Monarchist League
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Committee Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

2nd February 2009

Submission for consideration against Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill 2008

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of the Members who constitute the Queensland Branch of the Australian Monarchist League.

We entirely reject the need for a plebiscite to gauge Australians views regarding Australia becoming a republic.

Australians already enjoy the benefits of our system of constitutional monarchy that have provided stable and democratic government for over 100 years. Our constitution was written by Australians for Australians and since then we have reaped the rewards from the wisdom of its authors.

In these financially unpredictable and challenging times the last thing Australia needs to be wasting money on is a plebiscite, which is not legally binding, and is effectively very expensive opinion polling. Senator Bob Brown has estimated that the cost of this plebiscite will be \$10.5 Million dollars. This is a ridiculous price considering that Australians have already voted on this issue at the referendum in 1999 where they overwhelmingly rejected the concept of Australia becoming a Republic.

As Monarchists we have consistently requested that Republicans put forward a model that is more beneficial in terms of its democracy, stability and cost effectiveness and to this day we still have not seen a model better than the current system. We believe that Republicans need to go back to the drawing board and finalise their model and put it forward for public debate before going ahead with plebiscites. Given the magnitude of this change to our governance this is not an issue that should be trivialised or rushed.

We believe that there is absolutely no need for this plebiscite and no reason for Australia to become a Republic. When the emotive lies and misinterpretations are

filtered out, there have been no valid reasons put forward since 1999 and we believe that until such time that valid reasons are put forward any plebiscites or referenda are entirely unwarranted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TJ Rogers', written over a horizontal line.

Tristan J. Rogers

Deputy State Chair

Queensland Branch

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