



30-1-09

# The Senate Select Committee for a Plebiscite for an Australian Republic

I wish to inform the Committee that I totally oppose a Plebiscite for Australia to become a Republic

A Plebiscite is unnecessary, unwarranted, costly in a time of unprecedented economic turmoil, amoral and irresponsible.

- A simplistic question cannot encapsulate the far reaching consequences it could have for our nation now and in the future and therefore deceptive for the people
- No question on the Constitution in the form of a plebiscite has ever before been put to the people. This is because amending the Constitution is an extremely complex matter. Our forefathers so highly valued democracy they enshrined the process of a referendum with its safety net, of a more complex vote requiring a majority of votes nationwide plus a majority of votes in a majority of States.
- A successful plebiscite via a simplistic question on the Constitution will provide politicians with a blank cheque to disintegrate the checks and balances

of the Crown that block them assuming absolute power and authority over the people. This is extremely dangerous as no one knows what the future holds. Democracy is hard won but easily lost.

- There is no form of a Republic around the world that would provide any benefit whatsoever to Australia. Our present Constitutional Monarchy with its carefully crafted checks and balances works well providing us with a stable democratic way of life over a hundred years.

A Plebiscite is a simplistic deceptive procedure able to be manipulative and therefore totally unAustralian. It is asking the people to act in ignorance since it does not inform the people of all the implications of its outcome nor does it provide any plan for its implementation.

At a time of global calamity a Plebiscite on such deeply held values as are enshrined in our Constitutional Monarchy is extremely divisive when Australians need to pull together.

I want you to note my very strong opposition to the Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill 2008 and that this Bill should be withdrawn. Please acknowledge receipt of this submission.

Yours sincerely