



January 2009

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE RECEIVING SUBMISSIONS FOR A PLEBISCITE
FOR AN AUSTRALIAN REPUBLIC BILL 2008.**

Dear members of the above Senate Committee,

I wish to state my opposition to the plebiscite put forward by Bob Brown on 11th November.

I believe that a plebiscite is not a democratic way for this very important question, which was decided upon by a referendum in 1999.

A successful plebiscite question on the Constitution will provide politicians with a blank cheque to demean, to demoralise and to do whatever they can to disintegrate the checks and balances of the Crown that block them from assuming absolute power and authority over the people.

A plebiscite is not the way to proceed.... The proper process for constitutional change is set out in Section 128 of the Constitution, which is the referendum process.

Wording of a plebiscite must be made public before putting any changes or questions to the people.

As to the cost put forward by Bob Brown of 10.5 million. If you include labour and material costs, this would likely be far in excess of this figure. With the present economic climate, such matters as constitutional change would be better put on the back burner when it comes to priorities for the government to consider.