

The Secretary,
Finance & Public Administration Committee,
Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT 2600

2 February, 2009

Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill, 2008

In response to the invitation to make a submission on this bill, I wish to put the following to the Committee for their consideration:

Section 128 of the Constitution sets out the correct way for constitutional change, which is the Referendum process. The electorate need to be informed of what is proposed. For a Referendum to pass, it must be approved by a national majority and also by a majority in at least four states.

A plebiscite denies us this process. It will invite the people to reject the existing constitution without knowing what is to be put in its place. This is not democracy. Should a plebiscite on the Constitution be successful, politicians will be able to change our Constitution, and remove the checks and balances of the Crown that prevent them from exercising absolute power and authority over the people.

There is only one way to change the Constitution and this is a Referendum. Why is it not being used?

I would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt.

Sincerely,

Barbara J Little (Mrs)

Note: Please keep my postal address and my phone number confidential.