

*Frank V. Bibby* M.B.E.



23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2009

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

Dear Sir,

*Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill 2008*

In responding to the opportunity to make a submission on the abovementioned, I wish to lodge my objection to such a bill. I am 84 years of age and have always believed that the only way to change our Australian Constitution is by a referendum. Such was the case when it was proposed in the 1940s to nationalise the banks and to the best of my knowledge, the requirement that a referendum is necessary to amend the Constitution has not changed. Why then is a plebiscite now being proposed? What does it accomplish?

The plebiscite will apparently invite us to reject our existing Constitution without giving us any idea of what is to replace it. That's not a fair question.

In 1999 a referendum to change to a republic was rejected overwhelmingly by the people, with a strong "NO" vote. What part of "no" does Senator Bob Brown and his fellow republicans not understand? And would Senator Brown care to advise us, the people who pay our taxes and therefore his salary, what his proposed plebiscite would cost us at this time of economic concerns.

To confirm that my objection will be placed before your Committee I would appreciate an acknowledgement of this letter, by e-mail if necessary.

Yours faithfully,