

27 January 2009

The Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
The Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

SUBMISSION OPPOSING THE BILL FOR A PLEBISCITE

My arguments against meddling with the Constitution can be summarized simply as follows:

1. The 1999 referendum on turning Australia into a republic was rejected by the people despite an almost fanatical campaign by republican politicians and their cohorts and a saturation pro-republic campaign in the media financed by Big Business and other overseas interests.
2. Attempts by pro-republican politicians to get around the referendum rejection by switching to plebiscites will be seen by the people as treachery.
3. Those republican politicians who betray their oath of office and continue to undermine our system of government could be viewed in some quarters as being guilty of treason.
4. The crown is the basis on which our system of government operates. Those countries which have abandoned the crown in favour of becoming a republic have invariably become political dictatorships. We could well end up as the next Third World Republic.
5. None of the republic models dreamed up are viable. You cannot simply exchange the Governor-General for a President. The Governor-General must remain apolitical, representing the Crown (the Australian people) and retain the reserve powers in the interests of political stability and protecting the people from a tyrannical central government.
6. There is no republican system of government that is better than - or even as good as - what we've already got. To jeopardise the future of our nation simply to appease the republican putsch would be the height of madness.
7. If our rabid republican politicians and their high profile supporters continue to push for their politicians' republic, their names could well go down in history - but for all the wrong reasons.
8. Finally, the time and money being spent on this republican "sideshow" can hardly be justified when the nation is facing a financial crisis of catastrophic proportions.

For the sake of our children and the future stability of the nation, I urge the Committee to put aside any possible republican bias, accept the decision of the Australian people which was made quite clear in the referendum of 1999, and start concentrating on the very real problems we are currently facing.



Garth Kimberley