

W.H.F. STEPHENS

30 TH JANUARY 2009

**THE CONVENOR
THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE.**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I wish to oppose in the strongest possible terms the proposed **Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill 2008** being put to the electorate.

I am a seventy seven year old male Australian elector and have lived in Australia all my life but have visited other countries and I believe that Australia is one of the best countries in this present world.

Australia is what it is to day because of the Laws and Constitution by which it is governed and will continue to prosper even in difficult financial times because of these Laws and Constitution.

We the Electorate did at the **1999 Referendum** with a **NATIONAL MAJORITY** voted against a Republic and the States also with a **MAJORITY** voted against a Republic.

I am not prepared to have a Government where there will be a disintegration of the checks and balances that our Constitution delivers which also blocks Politicians assuming absolute power.

The huge cost to our country of this change is not warranted and particularly as we now have as a Nation have to deal with the financial crisis of our time and the costs of coping with climate change.

Yours faithfully. J

W.H.F. STEPHENS