

03 March 2009

The Secretary
Finance and Public Administration Committee
Parliament House Canberra
Via Facsimile

Dear Sir/Madam,

PLEBISCITE FOR AUSTRALIAN REPUBLIC BILL, 2008

I seek your indulgence for my late submission & seek consideration of the following:

I am concerned regarding the use of a plebiscite as a proposed method against that of a referendum. This matter is of national significance and it has previously been dealt with in the form of a referendum i.e. 1999 Republic Referendum. Under what circumstances is there justification to change to a plebiscite?

Regarding the proposed changes I have yet to be advised of what the proposed change is. In the Republican Referendum constituents were fully informed of models and in this situation we are not being provided the opportunity.

The result of the previous republican referendum was unambiguous, a clear rejection for change. I would have thought that such matters would be held once in my lifetime. I have seen little public evidence/voicing for change since 1999 why is there the desire to thrust this on the Australian public again?

Democracy works by both sides of the political spectrum respecting the decision of
respect the decision made by the Australian public only ten years ago?

In this time of global economic turmoil and concern regarding my employment status,
I want parliamentarians focused on these important issues, not narrow partisan issues
such as this.

I humbly submit these views for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

BRUCE HODGES