

THE NEWCASTLE-HUNTER BRANCH
of *Australians* for Constitutional
Monarchy

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5th Feb 2009.

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

Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill 2008

Please note that this is separate from the individual submission forwarded by the undersigned.

We submit that Parliament has no mandate to address this subject again following the overwhelming defeat of the republican proposal in 1999.

Nothing material has changed since then and there is no evidence of an increase in public support for a republic. We are aware of no justification for Senator Brown's assertion that the issue of Australia becoming a republic is an extremely important one for the Australian public.

Our feeling is that raising the matter without popular support is an indication of arrogance. The implication is that the people of Australia 'got it wrong' in 1999 and must be made to go through the arid exercise again.

Irrespective of the above comments, we regard the use of a plebiscite as a duplicitous method of undermining our Constitutional safeguards.

If republicans in and out of Parliament are convinced that they have genuine popular support then let them put the matter to the test by means of a properly constituted referendum that will allow people to know what they are voting for.

We are obliged to assume that the use of a plebiscite or plebiscites is deliberately designed to remove those of us who support the current constitution from contention should there be a second round. As such it is undemocratic, immoral, and deceptive.

If the Australian Parliament sanctions such a procedure it's reputation will be diminished.

David Horkan.
Hon. Secretary.