

Mrs Barbara Horkan,

5th Feb 2009.

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

Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill 2008

I object to the Bill on the following grounds.

We are being asked to vote for an undefined republic with no detail supplied. To ask people to reject the current constitution without telling them what would replace it is nonsensical.

No protection is provided for the smaller states as it would be in a referendum.

Should a plebiscite be successful but the subsequent referendum fail we will have years of instability and conflict to no purpose.

The Government expects to run a budget deficit well into the future. Borrowing money on behalf of the tax-payer to fund an unwanted and unwarranted plebiscite is not prudent financial management.

There is no evidence that a plebiscite and/or subsequent referenda will be any more successful than they were in 1999. On this basis alone the Bill should be rejected.

Barbara Horkan (Mrs).