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Chelmsford, QLD, 4068
3rd February 2009

Finance and Public Administration Committee
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT, 2600

SUBMISSION RE: PLEBISCITE FOR AN AUSTRALIAN REPUBLIC BILL

I wish to lodge an objection to the *Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill's* proposal for a plebiscite with the next election.

Briefly, my reasons include:

- This country is on the verge of a recession, as is most of the world. The last two things Australia needs are a period of constitutional instability, and the waste of money on a plebiscite of no value in a country striving to retain jobs.
- Few people understand the implications of a plebiscite.
- There is only one way to change the constitution – by Referendum. If the constitution is to be changed it should be put fairly before the Australian people, not by sleight of hand.
- The proposed plebiscite invites Australians to vote for a republic without a model proposed or even designed. This Bill should not be supported by either side when sufficient work has not been done to be assured that a resulting republic is in Australia's interests and that the new constitution will work as effectively as the present one.
- There is no reason Australia should be wasting millions of dollars which could be used in hospitals, schools or for elderly or disabled people, and providing jobs.
- The 1999 referendum resulted in a NO vote in every state and most electorates.

This bill should not be supported by the Government or the Opposition. It would be a willful waste of millions of dollars on an exercise which will produce nothing for the country except instability and division and will create nothing positive.

Yours sincerely


C. Pugh-Thomas AM