

January 2 2009

The Standing Committee on Finance and Administration

The Senate

Dear Committee Members

I wish to offer my submission regarding the possibility of a Plebiscite being held regarding Australia becoming a Republic.

In the year 1999 a referendum on the Republic matter was held and soundly defeated. It did at least specify the type of republic for consideration, whereas a plebiscite question is likely to be so 'open' with no defined type of republic mentioned and therefore be useless.

It would be like asking someone if they would like to have a motor car without seeking the details of whether the person wishes to have an automatic gearbox, a four cylinder engine and a boot to accommodate a child pusher etcetera. Without the details, the question is pointless.

When we next need to decide the republic issue we must have the detailed model before us. Only when the preferred model is displayed, will it be approved.

Yours sincerely