

The Standing Committee on Finance and
 Public Administration,
 The Senate,
 Parliament House,
 Canberra. A.C.T. 2600

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Senate Hearing On A Plebiscite For An Australian Republic Bill 2008

I wish to make a submission concerning the abovementioned Bill. The main points are as follows: 1. Facts 2. Opinions

1. Our Australian Christian nation has as one of it's secure foundations The Constitution, which contains our supreme laws and states in it's Preamble: "Whereas the people of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and Tasmania humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God, have agreed to unite in one indissoluble Federal Commonwealth under the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and under the Constitution hereby established:" I have quoted these extremely important words because the clarity of their meaning cannot be denied.

A plebiscite, being a simple question, does not allow a full explanation of a complex matter to be given to the electorate, as would be the case in a referendum. The correct process for changing something in The Constitution is in Section 128, which describes the referendum procedure, requiring voters to be fully informed of the proposal. To be successful, a referendum requires a majority of votes nationally, as well as a majority of votes in a majority of States. However, for a plebiscite to be successful it only requires a majority of 50% + 1. There has never before been a question concerning The Constitution put to the people in the form of a plebiscite.

In the Republic Referendum held in 1999, the Australian peoples' response was a resounding no and it lost both nationally and in all States.

If a plebiscite was successful it will give politicians an opportunity to cause disaffection and to undermine the stability of the checks and balances, provided for us by the Crown, that prevent them having total control over the people.

Senator Brown has estimated that the cost of holding a plebiscite at the next Federal election would be approximately \$10.5 million. This amount could well be exceeded and would be a great monetary burden on Australia, especially in these financially difficult times and most importantly in view of the fact that the people have already given their answer to this question. It is not the people who are calling for a republic, rather, this is a politically motivated campaign.

2. I believe our Constitutional Monarchy is the best system in the world, standing distinctly, guarding our precious peace and cherished freedoms, which our brave service men and women fought to save for us. The request for a plebiscite appears to disregard the decision made by the Australian people, who earlier rejected a republic.

This extremely important matter should not be subjected to the frailties of a plebiscite.

Yours faithfully,

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