

SUBMISSION AGAINST A PLEBISCITE REGARDING AUSTRALIA BECOMING A REPUBLIC

In this my submission I protest against Senator Brown's (or any other's) proposed plebiscite in support of Australia becoming a Republic at the next Election (2010?) or at any other time.

I protest against any proposed plebiscite on the basis that

- A plebiscite would invite citizens to cast a vote of no confidence in one of the world's most successful constitutions.
- That there has been no indication of what is wrong with the existing Australian Constitution
- That there is no indication of how it is proposed to correct the situation (in the event of there being anything wrong with it)
- The plebiscite 'path' suggests/indicates an irreconcilable division over the form of republic which should be adopted. This is quite an unsatisfactory state.
- A plebiscite will lack details about the form of republic envisaged.
- A plebiscite will falsely indicate republican unity in campaigning for it.
- A plebiscite will not discern between different forms of a republic
- A plebiscite will use wording falsely to distract from details of precise changes to be made to the Constitution
- A plebiscite (if successful) would isolate 'constitutional monarchists' and make effectively make them unable to participate in any debate about a model. This would be a totally discriminatory and unsatisfactory situation.
- It is likely to be without any detail and in the form simply as a question
- A plebiscite goes against the spirit of the Constitution.
- A plebiscite would be a contrived opinion poll (and an expensive one at that)

Graeme Legge