

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing re Senator Brown's Plebiscite for an Australian Republic bill, 2008.

I believe that the proposed plebiscite is an attempt to force through the idea that a republic is "inevitable", despite the very clear result of the 1999 Referendum, and despite the fact that a republic is very low on the agenda of most Australians, when it is on there at all. It is an attempt to make the public reject the constitution and the monarchy without at all telling us what kind of republic will be set up in its place. I am not a supporter of changing our constitutional arrangements. But if the plebiscite is pushed through, and is to have any sort of legitimacy, it should at the very least give Australians the opportunity not only to say whether or not they favour a republic, but also what kind of republic they would prefer. Anything else is a confidence trick.

Yours sincerely
Sophie Masson
Invergowrie, NSW.