

Dear Senator Brown,

You are a fellow Australian and there is far more that unites us than divides us. Nonetheless, I am passionately **opposed** to your proposed bill to introduce a plebiscite concerning some nebulous future Australian republic. There are many reasons for my opposition, but they may be conveniently summarised by the following bullet points:

- Details of the proposed republic are being kept secret
- There is only one way to change the constitution (i.e. referendum) - so why isn't it being used?
- The smaller states (such as your own Tasmania) are not protected in a plebiscite
- This plebiscite invites the people to reject the existing constitution without knowing what is to be put in its place
- If passed it will lead to a period of constitutional instability
- It will be costly, and add to the millions and millions already spent on this non-issue
- In the 1999 referendum, every state and 72% of electorates said no to the republicans' preferred model
- When will republicans like yourself take No for an answer?
- The agenda of many if not most republicans includes changing our flag

We are indeed fortunate that within Australia's constitutional monarchy, ordinary citizens such as myself are afforded the opportunity to comment freely on your proposal: such freedom does not exist in the majority of the world's republics! I am personally proud of our British-based institutions, of which you are a notable beneficiary, and am proud of the Australian Governor-General as our 'Head Of State' and to share our historical monarch with the UK, Canada, New Zealand and numerous other well-governed Commonwealth members.

Yours sincerely,

Philip R. Wood