

23rd January, 2009

The Secretary,  
Finance & Public Administration Committee,  
Parliament House,  
Canberra, ACT 2600.  
[fpa.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:fpa.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

In response to the invitation to make a submission on this bill, I wish to put the following to the Committee for their consideration:

- o There is only one way to change the constitution. This is a referendum. So why isn't it being used?
- o Details of the proposed republic are being kept secret. Surely we should know what is being planned before we vote.
- o The smaller states are not protected as in a referendum. For a referendum to pass, it must be approved by a national majority and also by a majority in at least four states. Some lawyers think a referendum on such a basic change would need to be approved in all states.
- o This plebiscite invites the people to reject the existing constitution without knowing what is to be put in its place.
- o If passed it will lead to a period of constitutional instability.
- o It will be costly, and add to the millions and millions already spent on various attempts to persuade the people to support a republic.
- o In 1999 every state and 72% of electorates said no to the republicans' preferred model.
- o Don't the republicans understand that No means No?
- o The agenda of many if not most republicans includes changing our flag. I would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt.