

To whom it may concern

RE: THE SENATE HEARING ON A PLEBISCITE

I hereby reject a plebiscite on Australia becoming a republic.

A plebiscite is, ostensibly, a non-binding simple question put to the electorate. It will pass if it receives a simple majority of 50% plus 1.

A referendum is a more complex vote requiring a majority of votes nation-wide plus a majority of votes in a majority of States, which means that as well as the national majority, it must receive a majority vote in four of the six States to win.

The Republic Referendum held in 1999 lost both nation-wide as well as in all States.

No question, on the Constitution, in the form of a plebiscite, has ever before been put to the people. This is because amending the Constitution is a complex matter which cannot be explained in a simple populist question.

Should a plebiscite succeed and a subsequent referendum fail, it could well cast doubt on the future integrity of the constitution.

A successful plebiscite question on the Constitution will provide politicians with a blank cheque to demean, to demoralise and to do whatever they can to disintegrate the checks and balances of The Crown that block them from assuming absolute power and authority over the people.

A plebiscite is not the way to proceed. The proper process for constitutional change is set out in Section 128 of the Constitution, which is the Referendum process. This requires the electorate to be properly informed of what is proposed. No populist question could possibly do this.

Senator Brown estimates that a plebiscite question held along with the next general election would cost approximately \$10.5 million. However, when one includes labour and material costs, it is more likely to be far in excess of this figure. Australia cannot afford to waste money at this time of financial concern, particularly on a matter which has already been voted upon by the people.

Kind regards,

Annette Altendorf