

To whom it may concern

Please find below reasons the why the above named Plebiscite should **NOT** be granted:

- Current model is effective: Although Australia is one of the youngest nations on earth, it is one of the oldest democracies. The reason why I believe this to be the case is due to the number of checks and balances in place
- our separation of powers through the three tiers of government and so-on, that does not allow one person to hold absolute power; Arguments against Australia remaining a constitutional monarchy are unfounded in my belief.
- I have heard a number of republicans state that we should have an Australian as Head of State but we already do, the Governor-General. Others refer to the Queen as the Queen of England, and that we are somehow still subjugated by the old-country but this is not the case. She is referred to as the Queen of Australia, and under the Australia Act 1986, all legal ties with Britain were severed. We are a sovereign nation, with HM Queen Elizabeth II Queen of Australia as our sovereign.
- Plebiscites not legally binding: A plebiscite is only a glorified opinion poll. Questions may be phrased to allow differing interpretations of the question and to gain a preferred result.; A referendum is a more complex vote requiring both the majority of votes nation-wide plus the majority of votes in the majority of states. This is undoubtedly a fairer way in which to put the question to the people, and would mean that all plans for a republic would have to be laid-out on the table for the Australian public to see.
- The Republic Referendum held in 1999 lost both nation-wide as well as in all states, with 72% of electorates voting against the proposal. Interestingly, most of the electorates for the No case were Labor electorates.
- An unprecedented plebiscite: No question regarding the constitution in form of a plebiscite has ever been put to the Australian people;
- What will replace the checks and balances of the Crown?:
- The cost of a republic: Sen. Brown estimates that a plebiscite question put to the people at the next general election would cost approximately \$10.5 million. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. There is the following national referendum, and following the result of this, numerous state plebiscites and referenda to officially convert to a republic. Total actual cost up until 2005 on proposals for constitutional change come around the \$129.8 million mark. Predicted costs for such things as national and state plebiscites and referenda, election information, labour and material costs to carry out the votes, Presidential elections, changes to the flag, money, military, police, and other government uniforms and institutions conservatively estimate to be approximately \$2.2 billion.

- Australia cannot afford to waste money at this time of financial concern, particularly on a matter which has already been voted on by the people. There are many more important things to get right before this issue should be considered, e.g. public transport vs road usage, education support, etc

Yours faithfully,

Stuart Hayman