



January 2009

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE RECEIVING SUBMISSIONS FOR A PLEBISCITE  
FOR AN AUSTRALIAN REPUBLIC BILL 2008.

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Dear members of the above Senate Committee,

I wish to state my opposition to the plebiscite put forward by Bob Brown on  
11<sup>th</sup> November.

I believe that a plebiscite is not a democratic way for this very important question,  
which was decided upon by a referendum in 1999.

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.

Wording of a plebiscite must be made public before putting any changes or questions  
to the people.

As to the cost put forward by Bob Brown of 10.5 million. If you include  
labour and material costs, this would likely be far in excess of this figure. With the  
present economic climate, such matters as constitutional change would be better put on  
the back burner when it comes to priorities for the government to consider.