

**SUGGESTED FORM OF ELECTION FOR A HEAD OF STATE  
USING A PREFERENTIAL METHOD OF VOTING:**

1. Must be a fully national election with Australia as one electorate, each vote having equal value.
2. For economy and voters' convenience, should be held in conjunction with a federal parliamentary election.
3. Nominations received from any Australian citizens qualified to vote and stand for federal parliament, provided they are endorsed by a minimum of 1000 citizens' signatures including 100 from each state. The final ballot paper should list no more than ten candidates as determined by a special committee appointed by the Australian Electoral Commission.
4. Voting should be optional. Voters mark their ballot papers at their usual federal polling place or use pre-poll or postal if necessary.
5. Voters must number their first preference, and may number a second preference from the list of candidates on the ballot paper.
6. A candidate who reaches an absolute majority of valid first preference votes would be declared elected.
7. If no candidate reaches that majority, second preferences would be distributed beginning with the lowest first preference candidate, then the next lowest and so on until all are exhausted. The candidate who has the only, or highest, absolute majority of first and second preferences is declared elected.

EXAMPLE DISTRIBUTION: 10 candidates, 100 voters, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> prefs count:

Candidates:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	(Win = minimum 51 votes)
First prefs:	28	3	7	6	10	3	20	18	3	2	(No absolute majority)
Second prefs:									1	1	(J: 2 second prefs distributed)
	3			1	2		3				(B,F, I: 9 " " " )
	4										(D: 4 only " " " )
										3	(C: 3 only " " " )
	3	2		3		2					(E: 10 " " " " )
	11						7				(H: 18 " " " " )
	8				8						(G: 16 only " " " " )
			5								(A: 5 only " " " " )

NB: "A" total 57: "A" is declared elected.


("B"=5, "C"=12, "D"=10, "E"=20, "F"=5, "G"=30, "H"=19, "I"=4, "J"=5)

8. If after exhaustion of second preferences, no candidate has reached an absolute majority, the two highest first preference votes would contest a run-off election.

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FAX  
TRANSMISSION

Classic PhoneTools



FROM	bryan lobascher
TO	Senate Finance & Admin Committee Ref Plebiscite Australia Republi

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### Message

(This version supersedes a draft mistakenly sent about 10.10am today, to be destroyed)

This is a further and separate submission for consideration by the Senate Finance and Admin Committee Reference a Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill 2008.

My proposal concerns the wording of the plebiscite question as laid out in the Bill.

That question reads: "Do you support Australia becoming a republic?"

My proposal adds the following question:

"If Australia becomes a republic, do you prefer a head of state who:

is elected by Australian citizens? (If you prefer this option, mark only this box)

OR

is selected by Parliament? (If you prefer this option, mark only this box.)

The reason for the added question is that, without these options, voters in the plebiscite could be deterred from asserting support for the first main question by the lack of an avenue to indicate their preference on the method of selecting the head of state. This lack could thus negatively distort an accurate reflection of opinion on the main question, and could cause support for a republic to be lost for this invalid reason.

A further benefit of my proposal would be the elimination of the need of a further plebiscite at a considerably later time, seeking a response to the added question I have proposed in the above.

I would appreciate confirmation of receipt of this submission, and of the submission I made by fax on 30 January 2009.