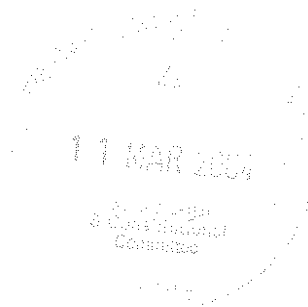


D W Rogers AO



9 March 2004

Ms Louise Gell
Committee Secretary
Australian Senate
Legal and Constitutional Reference and Legislation Committees
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Gell

Inquiry into an Australian Republic

I refer to previous correspondence.

As you are aware I am the Acting Chairman of the Corowa Committee.

The Committee met on Thursday 26th February and unanimously instructed me to place before your Committee the Conference Resolution of the Corowa Conference passed the 2nd December 2001 which has my Committee's complete support.

So that your Committee may have a better understanding of the circumstances which engendered the Peoples Conference and the debates which followed I tender a copy of the Report of the Peoples Conference.

It was for those attending a most stimulating two days which culminated in the Conference's final Resolution as follows:

This Conference resolves that:

1. A multi-party Commonwealth Parliament Joint Committee should be established to consult the community and constitutional experts in order to prepare a plebiscite asking the following key questions simultaneously:
2. (i) Should we become a republic with an Australian Head of State?
(ii) Should the Head of State of the Australian Commonwealth be called:
 - A. The President
 - B. The Governor-General?

- (iii) Should an Australian Head of State be:
 - A. Selected by the Prime Minister
 - B. Selected by a 2/3 majority of the Parliament
 - C. Chosen by an Electoral College
 - D. Elected by popular vote with codified powers?
3. A Commonwealth Parliament Joint Committee shall outline the core features of the models in 2(iii) and prepare neutral information for the plebiscite.
4. An elected Constitutional Convention be convened to draft a constitutional amendment reflecting the will of the people as expressed in the plebiscite.
5. A referendum be held under s 128 of the constitution to give effect to the amendment proposed by the Constitutional Convention.

The members of the Committee all of whom support and recommend the Resolution are those identified on the enclosed list.

Individual members of the Committee may make their own submissions on various aspects of the Republican Head of State issue and models but the Resolution process has complete support.

The Committee will not wish to speak to the Resolution as a Committee but your Committee may wish to take submissions from individual members.

Yours faithfully



D W Rogers
Acting Chairman Corowa Committee

Encl