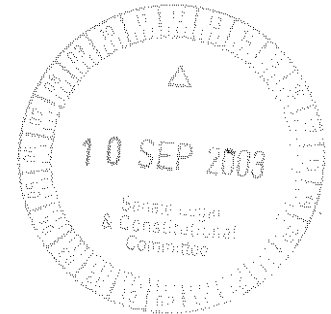


Eurobodalla Republican Forum,  
C/o 7/5 Edgewood Place,  
Surf Beach, NSW 2536.  
8 September, 2003.

Ph: 02 4471 1443

The Secretariat,  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Room S1.61, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600.



Dear Senators,

SUBMISSION, TOWARDS AN AUSTRALIAN REPUBLIC.

The basis of this Submission is a consideration of the six Models presented by the Australian Republican Movement for discussion at the Corowa Conference late in 2001. However, in reaching our decision to support in principle, Model 2, our Forum has been strongly influenced by the belief that

- Direct election would undoubtedly politicise the selection of a Head of State and may deter the most suitable Australians from accepting nomination.
- Citizens should have the opportunity to nominate a candidate of their choice, for consideration by an appointed/elected national Committee or Assembly.
- Our elected representatives, in a joint sitting of the Senate and House of Representatives, should, by a two thirds majority, elect the Head of State from a short list drawn up by the above Committee or Assembly. Removal, when necessary, would be by a simple majority vote of the House of Representatives.
- A plebiscite, not a referendum, should firstly be held to gauge the public sentiment regarding support for an Australian Head of State. Such a plebiscite could consider also whether (a), the Head of State be titled Governor General or President, and (b), the nation continue to be known as the Commonwealth of Australia or the Republic of Australia.
- Between a plebiscite and any referendum there needs to be sufficient time for wide discussion and consultation on models to be put to the people.

The Summary of the essential elements of Model 2 is attached.

Yours sincerely,

Four handwritten signatures are shown above dotted lines. From left to right: Ken Fry, Tom Grace, Ken Johnston, and Lorna Johnston.

Ken Fry

Tom Grace

Ken Johnston

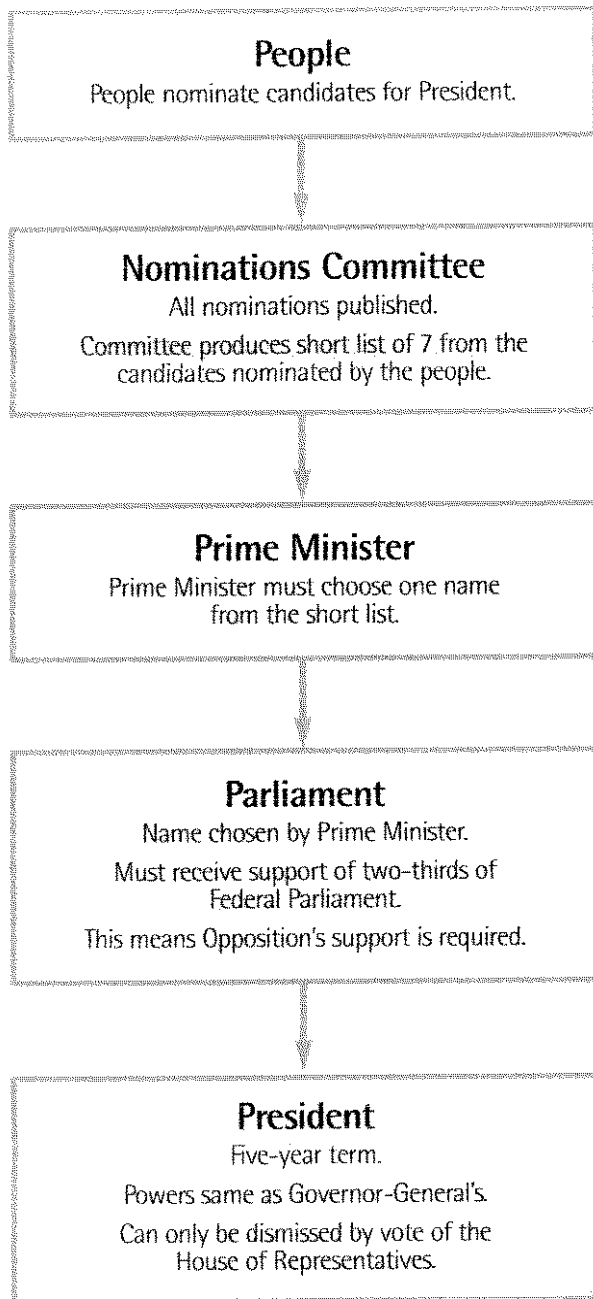
Lorna Johnston

A handwritten signature of Stewart Kendell is shown above a dotted line.  
(All Members of Eurobodalla Republican Forum)  
Stewart Kendell

Copy to: John Warhurst

# Model 2 continued

## Model 2 – Summary



# Model 2

## People nominate, Parliament appoints the President

### Comments

In this model we have used the same provisions as were set out in the 1999 proposal except that the dismissal mechanism has been altered to provide that a President may only be removed by means of an ordinary resolution of the House of Representatives. The 1999 proposal envisaged the Prime Minister having the power to sack the President at any time.

In addition, the Prime Minister is obliged, in this revision, to nominate for President a person who is on the short list of the Nominations Committee established by Parliament. As was the case in the 1999 proposal, the Nominations Committee would be appointed by Parliament and would be required to reflect the cultural and geographic diversity of Australia.

### Eligibility

Every Australian citizen qualified to be a member of the Commonwealth Parliament, provided that he or she is not a member of the Commonwealth Parliament or a State or Territory Parliament at the time of nomination.

### Nomination

Nominations for the Presidency would be accompanied by a required number of signatures of support and would be presented to a Nominations Committee, established by parliament. While the details of the Nominations Committee is not to be set out in the Constitution (as it will undoubtedly change with experience), we propose that the legislation establishing the Committee should provide that all nominations received should be made public. The shortlist should have not less than three and no more than seven names.

### Election

Prime Minister must choose a name from the shortlist and seek ratification by a two-thirds vote of a joint sitting. The nomination would need to be seconded by the Leader of the Opposition.

### Tenure

Five year term of office

### Removal

By an ordinary resolution of the House of Representatives.

### Casual Vacancy

To be filled by the most senior state governor until a new president can be appointed.

### Non-Reserve Powers

Same as the Governor General- incorporated by reference.

### Reserve Powers

Same as the Governor General



Every citizen has the chance to nominate a candidate for president and every nomination is considered and made public.

Best chance of obtaining an independent, impartial and non-political person as president because the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition have to agree and neither would accept a candidate allied with the other side.

Prime Minister loses the power he has now to sack the Governor-General.

No need for spending on a presidential election.

Our current stable democracy is preserved, whereas an elected President may claim a mandate over the Prime Minister.



Although this model is more consultative than the 1999 referendum model, there is no direct election of the President.

While it has a few significant alterations, it is essentially the same model that was defeated in 1999.

Model 2 continues on the following page >