

Phone: 03 8297 6341
catweasal@dodo.com.au



LOOMALOOKALLA

16th. February, 2004.

The Secretary,
Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee,
Parliament House,
Canberra, 2600.

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Reading through the Discussion Paper of the Senate Inquiry into an Australian Republic I find it largely assumes the consensus is already favouring a Constitutional change in Australia to a republic. It does however, state the 1999 Referendum into such a change was defeated.

I place on record my objection that the Inquiry does not canvass opinions from Australians who do not wish change to a republic, and I would like it formally recorded I do not agree with any change to our existing Constitution.

Furthermore, I am opposed to any plebiscite being held. Neither the Constitution or the Law of this country provide for plebiscites, and any Government can purposely frame the question to facilitate obtaining the answer they desire.

It is my opinion, as a native-born Australian, and the opinion of many others who, for various reasons, do not have the drive nor ability to fight against this proposed change, the present governmental system, with the Sovereign as the primary fact of our parliamentary system, and referred to as The Crown, is one of stability, a stability not paralleled by most of the various existing republics throughout the world, including the United States of America.

Whatever type of presidential system a republic may have, it can never approach the stability which is openly displayed by a modern Constitutional Monarchy such as Australia enjoys at the present time. Also to be considered, is the heritage value and history of Australian association with The Crown, it is something not to be unthinkingly discarded. Along with many others, I hold Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her whole family in great respect and affection, and without hesitation accept the hereditary aspects of The Crown. As the theoretical final arbiter of all things through the Governor-General, I hold The Crown, which is devoid of all political entanglements, to be a figurehead to look up to and respect as representative of my country.

My contention is this inquiry and any plebiscite which may be held in the future is not only a waste of effort and of taxpayer funds, but also a totally unnecessary reaction in the face of the defeat of the 1999 Referendum.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony C. Trumble". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Tony C. Trumble.