



February 24, 2004

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to make a submission to your present inquiry into an Australian republic.

I believe it is relevant to your terms of reference because it asserts that as the law stands, the Government and Federal Parliament have no legal or constitutional power to convert Australia to a republic. It also asserts that the 1999 republican legislation was unlawful and unconstitutional.

These deliberations are contained in the epilogue to one of my books, *Dare to Dream - the life and times of a proud Australian* - the biography of Tom Hayson, without whom we would not have had the Sydney celebration centre of Darling Harbour, nor indeed the 2000 Olympic Games.

The views, which make it clear that the Crown cannot be removed from the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, 1900 under existing Australian law, are based on the opinions of some of our best legal authorities over the years. These opinions are quoted in the epilogue with references in the end notes.

The submission is clear cut. If we are to have a republic it should be done under the rule of law, not by some unconstitutional means such as in the 1999 republican legislation. I invite you to debate the epilogue issue.

Yours faithfully,

Kevin Perkins

Encl: Copy of book *Dare to Dream* for your convenience.