



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

26 February 2004

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: "Inquiry into and Australian Republic"

1. I write in response to the public notice inviting all Australians to submit their views on the above constitutional issue and to that end have before me your 'discussion paper' of December 2003. Before setting out my replies to the questions set out in the discussion paper may I comment on the historical survey set out on pages 5 and 6 and end note 6 on page 22. I should at this stage advise I am British by birth (and proud of it) and Australian by choice and hold a certificate confirming my Australian status. I am also registered as a voter in all elections at the above address.
- 2.1 It is noted on page 6 (Recent History of moves toward a Republic) "Recent polling suggests that a majority of Australians now support the move to an Australian Republic". It refers to endnotes number 6 on page 22 (in confirmation), which reads, "A Newspoll survey published in The Australian of 15 November 2002 showed that 52% of those surveyed in July 2001 were in favour of Australia becoming a Republic."
- 2.2 Being aware that not a single State at the referendum in November 1999 voted in favour of a Republic, (nor did Northern Territory), I felt the statement in the discussion paper on page 6 re "Recent polling" warranted examination and contacted Australian News Poll Office on 19th inst and received the following information:-

Quote: "In the Newspoll of 15 November 2002, a total of 1200 persons were interviewed. They were asked whether they were

STRONGLY or **PARTLY** in favour of Australia becoming a Republic. They voted as follows:-

39% (468) voted **STRONGLY** in favour
13% (156) voted **PARTLY** in favour
48% (576) supported **NEITHER** of the above options.

- 2.3 One's conclusion from the above result must be contrary to that set out on page 6 of the discussion paper, for clearly the greater number supported the status quo (48%) or had doubts about changing the existing system.
- 2.4 May a copy of this letter be placed before the Senate Committee since it challenges in a material manner the substance on which the discussion paper is based.
- 2.5 Answers to the questions set out in the discussion paper will be forwarded later.

I am, Sir
Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E W Ruston', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

E W Ruston MC

cc: Prime Minister The Rt. Hon. Mr John W Howard
President of the Senate