



Sunday 15 October 2023

### REFERENDUM RESULT SHOWS REFORM PLAN IS NEEDED

The [Real Republic Australia](#) says the Albanese Government must not only recommit to a republic referendum but also implement as soon as possible a workable and inclusive long-term process to secure other beneficial constitutional reforms.

“One of the lessons from the Voice referendum is that people need to see, understand, and be comfortable with the model being put to them for approval,” said David Muir, chair of the Real Republic Australia which advocates for [a genuine directly elected head of state](#).

“That can best be achieved by investing time and energy through a non-partisan process involving Australians themselves, not politicians, in assessing constitutional reform proposals.

“The Albanese Government needs to flesh out urgently its proposed Australian Constitutional Commission so everyone can see what is being proposed in terms of a longer-term plan for reform.

“Besides a republic, there are proposals for beneficial constitutional reforms such as four-year terms for federal parliament and recognition of local government in our Constitution. But it is no good handling them in a piecemeal manner.

“We need a non-partisan process involving the Australian community that delivers outcomes if we are to achieve real reforms.

“All eligible Australians vote ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to a referendum question so all need to be engaged and informed.”

Mr Muir said the Real Republic Australia had proposed [a roadmap for reform](#) involving Australian Constitutional Assemblies based on [Citizens’ Assemblies](#) used successfully in Ireland to achieve constitutional and law reforms.

“Our suggested Australian Constitutional Assemblies would comprise 99 average voters proactively chosen to broadly reflect the composition of the wider Australian community,” he said.

“Led by an independent expert chair, each Assembly would examine a proposed reform, hear evidence, filter facts from fictions, and report its recommendations to the federal government which would decide when to hold any referendum.

“In the case of a republic we believe such an Assembly should shortlist workable republic models which should be put to voters in a non-binding plebiscite with the most popular model then proceeding to a referendum.

“In that way the model on the ballot paper will not belong to the government, politicians, nor the Real Republic Australia or the Australian Republic Movement or any other group. It will be the people’s preferred choice and it will have the best chance of success.

“That process will also help make Australians familiar with the model being proposed which is important because although it may be simplistic, it’s also true – people will not vote for a blank cheque.”

Mr Muir said the Albanese Government needed to explain if its proposed Australian Constitutional Commission was a body similar to the Real Republic Australia’s proposed Australian Constitutional Assembly anchored in the Australian community.

“We need such details because if the Commission is open to political point-scoring or its membership does not reflect the wider community, it may have limited effect and could damage the chances of future referendums,” he said.

Mr Muir said offering the right model at a future republic referendum was crucial.

“Giving people a say through a plebiscite to pick the republic model going to a referendum is essential, and spending time informing voters early and answering their questions is one way to avoid misinformation that can sink a referendum,” he said.

“Who knows what bizarre and baseless claims will emerge via social media in particular about an Australian republic, or even four-year terms, and local government recognition.”

Mr Muir said there were already groundless myths about an Australian republic.

“The facts are we do not propose shifting to a US-style system with a would-be Donald Trump as president running the government,” he said. “We will not automatically leave the Commonwealth when we become a republic. In fact 36 of the 56 Commonwealth nations are republics.

“Royal visits won’t end. The British royals like members of any other royal family around the world will always be welcome here.

“There is also fake information being circulated already by monarchists who claim the Governor-General who is an Australian is our head of state so we don’t need to change to a republic. The big problem for monarchists peddling that lie is that not even Buckingham Palace believes it and nor does avowed monarchist and former PM John Howard,” Mr Muir said.

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