



Friday 9 September 2022

STATEMENT BY DAVID MUIR, CHAIR OF THE REAL REPUBLIC AUSTRALIA

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Chair of the Real Republic Australia, David Muir, says the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II would be remembered as a unique period in world history just as she would be remembered as a unique British monarch.

“Queen Elizabeth’s historically long reign spanned more than seven decades and straddled two centuries during which the world changed dramatically and during which she fulfilled her role and responsibilities with dignity, grace, and strength,” Mr Muir said.

“All Australians should recognise her service to our nation and as head of the Commonwealth, the many times she visited our shores, and the manner in which she accepted the transition of many member states to republics.

“There is nothing inconsistent with republic supporters acknowledging her service as our nation’s Head of State under current constitutional arrangements.

“It has always been the position of the Real Republic Australia that we should be respectful of her and we have never viewed the republic debate as an opportunity to criticise her or any members of her family since they have little say in the roles handed to them.

“The founder of the Real Republic Australia, the late Clem Jones, had a wonderful rapport with Queen Elizabeth whenever she visited Brisbane during his record term as Lord Mayor from 1961 to 1975.

“Queen Elizabeth herself recognised that the republic debate was for Australians to have and that she would respect whatever decision we made, which is also the stated position of her son and the new British monarch.

“The Real Republic Australia will in coming months continue to advocate for a republic and to help inform Australians in preparation for a future referendum.

“But our advocacy will always be based on facts and we will continue to show respect for the monarch and royal family,” he said.

Mr Muir said the Real Republic Australia advocated for an Australian republic with a directly elected Head of State.

“We do not support the concept of politicians picking a Head of State for us or giving us a shortlist of people to vote for,” Mr Muir said.

He said in addition to its advocacy for a republic the Real Republic Australia supported other constitutional reforms including recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the Constitution as well as:

- eliminating costly by-elections with a referendum question creating a Senate-style casual vacancy system for the House of Representatives
- four-year, fixed, and synchronised terms for both houses of Federal Parliament to stop prime ministers gaming the system by picking election dates, cutting the number of elections now costing more than \$300 million, and ensuring government mandates are not hostage to Senators elected years earlier
- breaking the constitutional nexus that demands the lower house is twice the size of the Senate – a reform that if not taken would one day see a lower house of 300 MPs and around 150 Senators
- cutting the number of Senators for each state while retaining two apiece for the NT and ACT,
- constitutional recognition of local government,
- instituting a fairer process for changing the Constitution.

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