



Monday 15 October 2018

### **Wentworth candidates the republic**

The Real Republic Australia says half of the 16 candidates standing in the Wentworth by-election support an Australian republic and three of those back a direct election model for head of state.

Chair of the Real Republic Australia, David Muir, said all 16 candidates were asked to state where they stood on the republic issue by answering two simple questions:

- do you support Australia becoming a republic?
- do you support a republic model with a head of state directly elected by Australian voters?

Mr Muir said the Real Republic Australia supported a republic with a directly head of state and that model was supported by three candidates:

- Deb Doyle, Animal Justice Party
- Licia Heath, Independent, and
- Shayne Higson, Voluntary Euthanasia Party.

Five other candidates supported a republic but not a directly elected head of state:

- Kay Dunne, Sustainable Australia
- Steven Georgantis, Australian People's Party
- Dominic Wy Kanak, The Greens
- Barry Keldoulis, The Arts Party, and
- Andrea Leong, Science Party.

"It's disappointing that responses were not received from all candidates. Voters deserve to know where their would-be MP stands on this important issue for our nation's future especially since they are seeking to replace someone who supported Australia becoming a republic," Mr Muir said.

"Sadly, Malcolm Turnbull as Prime Minister failed to show true national leadership so we hope the next Member for Wentworth will be a stronger and more active advocate of a republic with an elected head of state."

In addition to a directly elected head of state the Real Republic Australia supports a package of Constitutional reforms including recognition of indigenous Australians, recognition of local government, and parliamentary reforms to deliver greater stability through cutting Senate numbers and implementing synchronised, fixed, four-year terms for both Houses of Parliament.

"These reforms that would mean cost savings and more stable government," Mr Muir said.

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## RESPONSES BY WENTWORTH CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE	PARTY	DO YOU SUPPORT AUSTRALIA BECOMING A REPUBLIC?	DO YOU SUPPORT A REPUBLIC MODEL WITH A HEAD OF STATE DIRECTLY ELECTED BY AUSTRALIAN VOTERS?	NO DIRECT ANSWER
Robert CALLANAN	Independent	No response	No response	
Deb DOYLE	Animal Justice Party	Yes	Yes	
Kay DUNNE	Sustainable Australia	Yes	No	
Ben FORSYTH	Derryn Hinch's Justice Party	No response	No response	
Steven GEORGANTIS	Australian People's Party	Yes	→	If Australia becomes a Republic, we support replacing the Monarchy with the PM as Head of State.
Samuel GUNNING	Liberal Democrats	No response	No response	
Licia HEATH	Independent	Yes	Yes	
Shayne HIGSON	Voluntary Euthanasia Party	Yes	Yes	
Dominic WY KANAK	The Greens	Yes	→	We are not opposed to direct election of the Head of State. The Greens propose using a combination of on-line and in-person citizen forums in every state and territory to discuss the range of views on the threshold question of moving to a republic and to explore a range of possible models; a national jury of citizens to address the threshold question and models for a republic informed by the state and territory discussions.
Barry KELDOULIS	The Arts Party	Yes	→	I am undecided on the second question. I would not want to go down the American path of the President becoming a divisive figure, but I like your idea of the office being responsible for the integrity of government.
Andrea LEONG	Science Party	Yes	→	Our preferred model is a head of state elected by a two-thirds majority of a joint sitting of both houses of parliament.
Tim MURRAY	Labor Party	No response	No response	
Kerryn PHELPS	Independent	No response	No response	
Tony ROBINSON	Australian Liberty Alliance	No response	No response	
Dave SHARMA	Liberal Party	No response	No response	
Angela VITHOULKAS	Independent	No response	No response	

