

AC Paper No. 19

OUR AUSTRALIAN CROWNED REPUBLIC*

The above description is an agreed alternative one for our Constitutional Monarchy/System of Government.

* The four words are not new. They were used initially in ACM's 1993 Charter. – "...Australia is already a form of republic under the Crown: a 'crowned republic'."

They have been used advisedly by many including:-

- The Hon. Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG
- The Hon. John Howard OM AC
- Professor George Williams (*Constitutional Politics*. Brisbane: UQP, 2002; p.135.)
- Professor Brian Galligan (*Oxford Companion to Australian Politics*. Oxford: OUP, 2007; p. VII.)
- Emeritus Professor Peter Boyce AO (Ibid; p. 347.)
- Professor John Kane (Ibid; p.518.)
- Senior Journalist Paul Kelly (*100 years: the Australian story*. Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 2001; p.27.)
- Lawyer and noted author Hal Colebatch in *The Australian* on 2 May 2008.

Similarly, the sage RC Archbishop of Sydney Patrick Cardinal Moran said in an address to the 1896 Constitutional Convention:-

"There can be no doubt that there is a republican spirit abroad amongst us, but this is far from implying a tendency to separation from the Imperial Crown. Nothing is more ambiguous than the word Republic in modern times. It is generally supposed to be a synonym of liberty, and yet nowhere will you find Liberty so crushed and such vexatious tyranny exercised as in some of the so called republics. The Constitutional government which we enjoy in these colonies is in the truest sense a republic."¹

Also the (increasing) use of those four words assists those seeking information about "a republic" to be better informed about our existing Crowned Republic when searching the internet for accurate information. The word "Republic" attracts their attention, whereas "Constitutional Monarchy" is a turn-off for some.

Written by a supporter who asks anyone to add to this by emailing <sean_oLeary100@hotmail.com>

It is important that as many names as possible of other respected persons be added to this draft to preclude a degree of initial scepticism (even objection) by some. If you know of a well-known name which can be added, please email it as above

NB: Malcolm Turnbull agreed with John Howard that "In many respects we are a republic already" – Sky TV News on 6 November 2009.

NB * A Republic is "a state in which the supreme power rests in the body of citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by representatives chosen directly or indirectly by them". (*i.e. which is what we are, precisely.*)

* The Macquarie Concise Dictionary 3rd Edition.

"The term 'crowned republic' in relation to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia was first used by an elected representative of South Australia to the 1897-8 Convention, Patrick McMahon Glynn BA LLB in the Adelaide Session of March 24, 1897" (*Debates of the Australasian Federal Convention, Adelaide Session 1897 p. 73*).

¹ *Proceedings, People's Federal Convention, Bathurst, November 1896*. Sydney: Gordon & Gotch, 1897, p. 85.