



Republic Delayed is Republic Denied!

A revised Position Paper by **Peter Consandine** © 2022*

Since time immemorial we have ALL heard the legal term: **Justice delayed is Justice denied**. Many of us can relate to this aphorism. Genuine Republicans *certainly* can. If a Prime Minister of a major political party (the federal Labor Party) which has a Republican plank in its platform won't advance Australia's constitutional future then we have delay.

The new Labor Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese** [a.k.a. 'Albo'] since the May 2022 federal election has - many times over - made it known that a second Oz republican process will be delayed until his gummint achieves a second consecutive term, say, from early-mid 2025! a **Republican** future. So much for the federal Labor Party. Although, to be fair, the Labor Opposition Leader going in to the May 2019 federal election, **Bill Shorten**, *did* make it generally known that he would - if elected - advance a second republican referendum process in his *first* term in Office.

Liberal/Coalition Prime Minister, **Malcolm Turnbull**, exactly like his Labor predecessors **Kevin Rudd** and **Julia Gillard** held to the view that Australia must wait until the then monarch, Queen Elizabeth died before the country could, as it were: "**go Republican**".

The writer, **Peter Consandine**, was in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly at the time of the centenary celebration of the 1891 Sydney Constitutional Convention in March 1991 when the then Prime Minister of Australia, **Bob Hawke**, made *the very same* statement. From the floor of the "Bear Pit" **Peter Consandine** took issue with **Bob Hawke** on that occasion in front of the 275-odd delegates. **Peter Consandine** laments the stand **Malcolm Turnbull** took when he seized the Prime Ministership and the fact that he avoided addressing the issue when he was the incumbent Head of Government.

Oz Republican Denial lingered through the Liberal Prime Ministerships of **Tony Abbott** & **Scott Morrison** - *both* died-in-the-wool monarchists cum status-quoists - and lamentably so. These majoritarian politicians and others who espouse the same sentiments were 'torpedoes' for the Australian Republic. They are also UNpatriotic; NON-patriots!

What then Prime Minister **Bob Hawke** in 1991 was saying and what eventually-overthrown Prime Minister **Malcolm Turnbull** (the last *known* republican in the Top Dog role) was purporting UP and until his death - unwittingly and unfortunately - overlooked the harsh reality of the consequences of this delay, namely: that when the present monarch dies or

abdicates - as surely some day **King Charles III** must or will - we long-suffering Republican Australians shall automatically get his son & heir, **Prince William**, as our next/new Head of State because of the hereditary line structures in place. The 11th monarch since European (well, British) settlement in 1788, indeed!

The Australian Republic cannot be delayed *another* 5-10 years! **Delay equates to Denial!** Already, there has at least been 39 years of **delay and denial** if one goes back to 1983 - when **Bob Hawke** was first elected Prime Minister or 41 years with the Republican plank having been built in to the Labor Party federal platform, albeit by default, in 1981!

REPUBLIC NOW! NOT WHEN the MONARCH DIES or ABDICATES!!

Once upon a time, our 9th monarch [**QE II**] went on the public record and clearly indicated that, if and when Australians - by way of a referendum - decided to “cut the proverbial apron strings” she, though disappointed, would not put anything in the way of a smooth, seamless transition from constitutional monarchy to constitutional republic. After ALL, many former British Colonies which became Independent Republics, retained links with their former overlords by remaining participating countries in the so-called Commonwealth of Nations of which the British monarch is the traditional titular head.

And her son, the new, **King Charles III**, did on one (distant now) famous occasion made it plain that “The Australian Republicans may be right!” He even won The RPA REPUBLICANS’ ‘Republican of the Year 1994’ gong for *this* assertion which made the headlines and newspaper placards of the day. Australia-wide.

As monarchs went, **Lilibet** hardly put a foot wrong in virtually 70 years on the throne. Insofar, she was “acceptable”. On the other hand, it could be generally and fairly surmised that Australians overall, Republicans et al, do not share the same affection for **Chukka** and his second wife (**Camilla Parker Bowles**) who has, after ALL the scandals associated with her long-term courtship of & with our new monarch, been afforded the title: ‘Queen of Australia’. Heavens to Betsy!!

In sum: most of us have grown up with a British foreigner Head-of-State but our links with the crown are holding back the natural progression to Republicanism for the aspiring Australian people. If we desire an end to the outmoded arrangements which obtain then we must act for the Australian Republic *before* the 10th monarch dies/abdicates. However, the most appropriate, indeed respectful, steps must be taken. A multi-pronged approach is envisaged preceded by a campaign of “kind advocacy”.

KIND ADVOCACY

The monarch must not - in any way - be subjected to ridicule or insult. Looking at it from *his* perspective...he has much say in the matter; moreover, he is merely performing his defined duties/doing his appointed job. He is a prisoner, in every respect. If ALL the Australian Republican groups - large and small - can coalesce under one *united* approach to “freeing the monarch” then we will earn our freedom in the wash-up! It is *the only safe* and secure *approach* the writer can think of which will attract the doubters and waverers (the “Don’t Knows”) to **The Quest**. This will be the big challenge for dutiful, dedicated

Republicans. This challenge will need to be complemented by a well-trained army of advocates/disciples to carry forth a successful second and final republican referendum.

The 3-PHASE PROCESS

Stage 1: Indicative Referendum on the YES/NO Question...Republic desired OR Status Quo retained? [this initial part of the 3-Phase Process would be, transparently, a nationwide Opinion Poll with, perhaps, voting voluntary a la the plebiscite process utilised in the same-sex marriage postal ballot in 2018];

Stage 2: Predicated on a “YES” Vote overall in Stage 1, a nationwide *binding* Plebiscite offering a menu of four (4) models [the precedent for this method & means was established in the 1977 National Song/Anthem Plebiscite];

Stage 3: The most popular of the four Plebiscite models forms the fundamental basis of the Official ‘YES’ Referendum Question which is then put to the Australian People under Section #128 of the *existing* Australian Constitution with voting, of course, compulsory.

*The original version of this Position Paper was written, printed and distributed in late May, 2009.

This 3-Phase process was, essentially, agreed upon in a February, 2006 meeting held at Crows Nest (NSW 2065) between then Chairman of the Australian Republican Movement, **Ted O’Brien, and the National Executive Director of The Republican Party of Australia, **Peter Consandine**.