



TOWARDS A REPUBLIC

A Confident Australia

Building a modern, independent nation

There's never been a better time for Australia to become a republic. With all three federal political leaders in favour of a republic, and with the state and territory leaders declaring their support, there's more momentum than ever before.

Currently Australia's head of state is inherited from overseas and is determined by birth rather than merit. A confident Australia does not need to cling to the reigning British monarch as our head of state or wait for the Queen to depart before finally embracing a republic.

The Greens have the courage and vision to move Australia towards becoming a republic with an Australian head of state that will place Australian people and institutions at the heart of their work. Australian children born today should have the opportunity to hold this position into the future.

> WHAT'S THE HOLD UP?

Malcolm Turnbull is currently beholden to the monarchists within his party who support the status quo and has – to date – shied away from articulating a timetable for Australia becoming a republic. He was the head of the Australian Republican Movement before becoming Prime Minister, so it's time for him to show leadership on the issue, rather than just abolishing knights and dames.

The last thing we need is a leader who believes one thing and does another – or worse, lacks the courage to do anything at all. The Greens have a vision to move Australia towards a republic that Australians can be proud of.

> PATH TO SUCCESS

Many Australians will remember the referendum of 1999. The Greens have a clear plan to ensure that history does not repeat itself. The Greens first called for a simple 'Yes or No' vote on Australia becoming a republic back in 1998 and a key recommendation from the 2020 Summit was to hold a plebiscite within two years on whether Australia should become a republic or not.

A threshold question asking whether we should become a republic will allow Australians to indicate their support for a republic before voting on any specific republican model. If there is not majority support for a republic, the question is decided clearly and without confusion. If the majority supports Australia becoming a republic, the specific details of the model to be voted on can be worked out in a context of that certainty.

To ensure that the views of the community are adequately reflected in any proposed model, and to build on the current momentum of the republican movement, the Greens plan to fund a consultative, democratic process involving everyday Australians and organisations from around the country.

The Greens propose:

- Step 1: 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;
- Step 2: a national jury of citizens to address the threshold question and models for a republic informed by the state and territory discussions;
- **Step 3: a plebiscite to address the threshold question;**
- Step 4: a national convention on the republic to work on technical aspects of constitutional amendments following the outcome of the plebiscite; and
- Step 5: a referendum to formally put a proposal for a constitutional change to the Australian people.

On-line engagement would be open to all. Participants for the in-person events would be randomly selected with some simple demographic indicators to ensure the events were representative of the population.

This process would commence at the beginning of 2017 and culminate in the step 5 referendum being held at the 2019 election.

The Attorney-General's Department would manage the project with guidance from an Advisory Board made up of community stakeholders selected through an open expression of interest process.

> BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Steps 1, 2 and 4 of this initiative have been costed by the Parliamentary Budget Office at \$5 million over the forward estimates and the plebiscite at Step 3 has been estimated at \$160M based on other plebiscite proposals in the 2016 Budget.