



Speech by

Mr T. SULLIVAN

MEMBER FOR CHERMSIDE

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AUSTRALIAN REPUBLIC

Mr SULLIVAN (Chermside—ALP) (10.24 a.m.): On 6 November Australia will vote on establishing an Australian republic. If successful, the referendum will see an Australian head of State fill the role currently held by the Queen and her representative, the Governor-General. An Australian head of State will complete a century-long journey towards final Australian independence that started with Federation and that has witnessed significant milestones such as full parliamentary independence through the Statute of Westminster and the passage of the Australia Acts, judicial independence through limiting and finally ending appeals from the Australian courts to the Privy Council and the replacement of imperial honours with Australian awards.

A successful national referendum will not of itself introduce a complete republican system. As honourable members are well aware, each State is a monarchy in its own right and Queensland must amend its own constitutional arrangements for the State to have a republican system.

Today I table a petition from almost 1,000 Queenslanders calling on the Government to place before Parliament the measures necessary to facilitate Queensland's place within an Australian republic. I am pleased to note that the Government is responding by organising the State Constitutional Convention to discuss the position of States, establishing a constitutional committee to review the State's documents to make them consistent with a republican system and placing before the House Bills to amend the Australia Acts so as to facilitate the national change.

An Australian head of State is the natural desire of an independent nation. It is the symbolic end of our journey to full membership of the world community. It reflects the make-up of our people and the maturing of our relationship with England. An Australian republic is an achievement whose time has come.
