



Sunday 7 October 2018

Wentworth candidates polled on republic

The Real Republic Australia is asking every candidate standing in the Wentworth by-election their views on an Australian republic.

Chair of the Real Republic Australia, David Muir, said voters deserved to know where their would-be new MP stood on the republic issue.

“Malcolm Turnbull was a republic supporter, although as Prime Minister he was disappointingly wishy-washy on the issue and failed to show true national leadership,” Mr Muir said.

“Wentworth voters need to know if their next MP will also be a supporter of an Australian republic.

“We are contacting all 16 candidates in Malcolm Turnbull’s old seat of Wentworth to find out if they support an Australian as Australia’s head of state.

“We are also trying to find out if they want to see our head of state directly elected by Australians themselves or if they prefer a model for a republic where politicians get to choose our head of state — the model that Australians failed to support at the 1999 referendum.”

Mr Muir said the Real republic Australia was asking candidates 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?

“We are seeking a simple ‘yes’ or ‘no’ response to the two simple questions and we will release the results prior to the 20 October by-election,” Mr Muir said.

The Real Republic Australia supports a republic with a directly head of state as well as a package of Constitutional reforms to benefit Australians, 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 are Constitutional reforms that would lead to 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 | |