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PM needs to state his position on republic

The public holiday in Queensland to mark the Queen's Birthday is an opportunity for Prime Minister Scott Morrison to declare where he stands on Australia becoming a republic and what his plans are to give Australians a say on the issue.

Chair of the Real Republic Australia, David Muir, said Scott Morrison had replaced Malcolm Turnbull nearly six weeks ago and had since made numerous comments about the type of nation he wanted Australia to be.

"The republic issue is central to our nation's future, yet Mr Morrison has not made any declaration about whether he wants to see an Australian as Australia's head of state and if he wants to see other Constitutional reforms," Mr Muir said.

"In the past Mr Morrison has said little on the republic issue except that he supports the current Constitutional arrangements.

"Now as Prime Minister he needs to make clear where he stands and if he opposes an Australian as our head of state he needs to declare why.

"He replaced a republican as Prime Minister, although Malcolm Turnbull was disappointingly wishy-washy on the issue while in office.

"Mr Turnbull's idea for Australia to wait until the end of the Queen's reign to even discuss the issue was never a sensible or logical approach. He effectively sat on the fence and did not take the lead on this significant issue that goes to the heart of our nation's future and our national identity.

"By wanting to wait for the end of the Queen's reign, Mr Turnbull was also laying the groundwork for a negative and divisive 'get Charles' campaign when we need a positive debate about our nation's future."

Mr Muir said the October royal tour to Australia by Prince Harry and the Duchess of Sussex was another opportunity and another reason for Mr Morrison to make his position clear on a republic.

"Bill Shorten's plan to consult Australians on the republic issue remains the only one on the table, so now is the time for Mr Morrison to outline his own plan if he has one so voters can consider it before the next election," he 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.

"The Real republic will be asking candidates in the Wentworth by-election where they stand on the republic and these types of Constitutional reforms. They too are all seeking to replace a republican as a local MP so voters need to know where they stand."

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