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**STATEMENT BY DAVID MUIR, CHAIR OF THE REAL REPUBLIC AUSTRALIA**

**PM TAKES SENSIBLE APPROACH**

Chair of the Real Republic Australia, David Muir, says Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is taking a sensible approach to the coronation by recognising current constitutional arrangements while advocating the need to discuss an Australian republic.

“What we need in the lead-up to possibly another republic referendum in the next term of federal parliament is a calm and reasoned discussion on the merits of a republic and especially how we can achieve a genuine directly elected Head of State,” Mr Muir said.

“The Prime Minister’s approach underlines the fact that our current Constitution means King Charles III is our Head of State and there is nothing wrong with acknowledging and respecting that constitutional fact while advocating for change through the lawful, constitutional, and democratic processes available to us.

“The republic debate should not be about attacking the British royal family or denigrating its current role as outlined in our Constitution.

“We need to engage with Australians and inform them of the reasons we should change the Constitution to become a republic and a truly independent nation on the world stage.

“The debate should not be side-tracked by anti-royal stunts and personal attacks. For the Real Republic Australia that has never been a focus.”

Mr Muir said the Real Republic Australia advocated for a genuine directly elected Head of State, not one picked by politicians nor one chosen from a shortlist drawn up by politicians.

“We do not support the concept of politicians picking a Head of State for us and we do not support the idea of politicians giving us a shortlist of people to vote for,” he said.

“We have issued [a discussion paper on our model](#) for a genuine directly elected Head of State and [a roadmap for achieving a republic and wider constitutional reforms](#).

“The debate is and always has been about what we as Australians want for the future of our nation. It’s not about the royal family and certainly not about denigrating or attacking them.

“Most republic supporters, myself included, were great admirers of the late Queen Elizabeth and respected her role as Australia’s Head of State under current constitutional arrangements.

“But we also continue to press for constitutional change through our democratic system to have an Australian elected as Head of State,” he said.

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