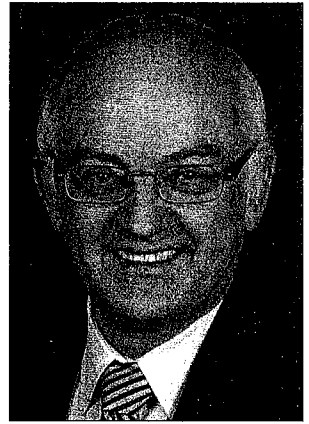




BOB McMULLAN MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FRASER



30 October 2006

Mrs Margaret May
Chair
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Procedure
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Margaret
Dear Mrs May

Thank you for the opportunity to make submissions on the recent controversy concerning the process for condemnation of members and concerning Question Time.

In response please find attached:

1. An article which I had published recently in the on-line magazine *New Matilda*.
2. A brief comment on possible amendments to the relevant Standing Orders to implement the proposals in the article, and
3. A submission in response to the reference concerning condemnation of members.

} separate inquiry

- Submission No 1.

Might I suggest that, whatever other changes may be considered, the Committee give consideration to splitting the Standing Orders with regard to written and oral questions into discrete sections to make the flow of Standing Orders more logical.

Yours sincerely

Bob McMullan

BOB MCMULLAN

Attachment 3

Reference concerning condemnation of members

The precedent set on 10 October 2006 was unfortunate.

While I had previously thought the Standing Orders and precedents were clear on this matter, if they are not they should be clarified.

It would be undesirable if the practice of such important motions being incorporated in suspension of Standing Orders resolutions became accepted because:

- a) It truncates and limits the options for members to defend themselves in the debate, and
- b) It denies members the right to vote FOR the procedural motion to allow the debate to proceed BUT against the substantive motion.

The Standing Orders should enhance members' rights not limit them. Therefore, I suggest the committee should consider making it clear that such a composite motion should not be accepted in future other than by leave to deal with minor or procedural matters.