

To: The Canberra Times

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Dear Editor

Why are even republicans, of all people, now saying that the republic won't eventuate until the Queen dies. The mindless repetition of this mantra bears close examination.

It wasn't an issue just before the republic referendum when the polls were 90 percent in favour of replacing the Queen but Malcolm Turnbull's 2007 soundbite has become the sole reason not to have another vote. Nearly five years on, the words don't make any more sense.

The naively sentimental affection so afflicting the media at present is solely reserved for the Queen of Australia as a person and is the stuff of popular magazines. It does not spring from love of or conviction about having a queen or king, who also doubles as the British monarch, at the top of our government as spelled out in Section 1 of our Constitution.

The confection has been swallowed hook, line and sinker. The role has become completely confused with the person.

As the current British monarch now 85, we should be having an extensive national discussion about how to change our government structure when she dies and holding non-binding votes and referendums to make the changes.

Are we getting prepared and making plans? No, we are not. Onwards with Charles and Camilla we will go! Is our government leading us well in this respect? No, it is not.

Most politicians now cling to the British monarchy as a way of avoiding direct election of the republic's head of state. If it weren't so ridiculous, it would be tragic.

Changing our government must also include open debate about whether we want to remain a constitutional monarchy with our own royal family and rules of succession, or become a modern republic with the people at its apex.

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