

**Submission
No 13**

INQUIRY INTO STATE SENATE BILL 2015

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Date received: 30 March 2018

Dear Ms. Thompson,

Thank you for your email inviting me to make a submission to the inquiry into the State Senate Bill 2015, which I am now pleased to do.

I understand the desire of some members of the Legislative Council to have the title of Senator rather than the honorific of The Honourable.

However it is important that all members are aware of the risks, especially the real and horrific risk that esteemed members of Australia's oldest and most revered House of Parliament might be confused with the (mostly) unrepresentative swill that comprises the upper chamber of the Commonwealth Parliament.

It should also be understood that the word Senate is more American than British. Surely most loyal New South Welshmen and Welshwomen would prefer to identify with our priceless British heritage than with a country which elects a bullying bonehead as its head of State.

God save the Queen, I say!

There is, however, a way to satisfy the desire of Legislative Councillors to acquire a title while still honouring and nurturing our links to our mother country.

And that is to finally accept the suggestion of William Charles Wentworth to establish an hereditary peerage based on appointment to the Legislative Council.

This was once described as The Bunyip Aristocracy.

The upper house could then be called the House of Bunyips and members of it would become known as, and addressed, as Bunyip. That is, instead of just being plain old Mr. Harwin, or Mr Searle or Mr Nile, they would be Bunyip Harwin, Bunyip Searle and Bunyip Nile.

While the title would be conferred on all present and past members of the upper house every Bunyip would also have the right to renounce the title provided they had the concurrence of all their heirs and successors.

Arrangements should also be made with the British House of Lords for reciprocal rights and titles.

Alternatively, the Committee might reconsider my proposals In 1999 to reform the Legislative Council by reducing its membership to thirty, reducing the term of members from eight years to four years and having a joint vote of both houses to settle legislative disputes between the houses or, as is the case at Westminster, limiting the time the upper house can block legislation.

I wish the Committee well in its deliberations.

Bunyip Egan.

Michael Egan AO