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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**A WIN FOR DEMOCRACY**

Monarchy New Zealand welcomes the defeat of Keith Locke's Head of State Referenda Bill.

"This has already been an expensive and time-consuming waste of taxpayer's money" said Professor Noel Cox, Chairperson of Monarchy New Zealand. "It is remarkable that one man's obsession has been allowed to take up so much parliamentary time and money when there are many other more important issues of concern to New Zealanders."

"Mr Locke's bill was poorly conceived, attempted to subvert the democratic process, and sought to hide dramatic constitutional changes behind a rather glib question."

"Studies have repeatedly shown that constitutional monarchies around the world are more gender balanced, more multi-cultural, and more inclusive than republics. New Zealanders strongly support their democratic monarchy, and are rightly proud of it."

"Individual politicians should not promote radical constitutional change simply because of their own personal ideological agenda, and then attempt to persuade us that they are acting in the best interests of all New Zealanders. We are mature enough to decide our own constitutional future."

**ENDS**

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