

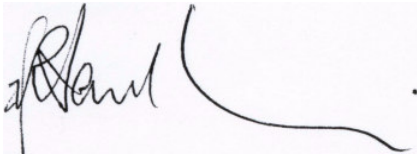
The current Chief Justice, the Hon Murray Gleeson AC, noted the status of the Constitution as Australia's basic law in the 2000 Boyer Lectures (published as *The Rule of Law and the Constitution*, ABC Books, 2000, at page 6):

In Australia, unlike the United Kingdom we have a basic law, the Constitution, which defines and limits the power of the Parliament to alter the law. Because the basic law can now be altered only by the people of Australia, the sovereignty of our nation lies with the people, both as a matter of legal principle and as a matter of practical reality.

Suggestions that the Constitution or laws made under it are invalid because of the Constitution's origin as an Act of the imperial parliament, or Australia's evolution into an independent nation, were held to be unarguable by the High Court in *Joose v Australian Securities and Investment Commission* (*Australian Law Reports*, Volume 159, page 260) and, more recently, in *Helljay Investments Pty Ltd v Deputy Commissioner of Taxation* (*Australian Law Reports*, Volume 166, page 302).

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Faulkner', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right and then curves back down.

James Faulkner
Ag First Assistant Secretary