

Flying of Flags Policy



1 Policy Objective

The objectives of this policy are to:

- ensure that the flags displayed at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre and other council buildings are flown in accordance with the flag protocol as determined by the Australian Government
- establish guidelines for flying flags other than the Australian National flag

2 Background

As flags are highly symbolic, it is important that Council complies with the appropriate protocols for flying flags and that the flags be used with the proper respect and dignity.

3 Policy and Principles

- Council will always fly the Australian National Flag and the Aboriginal Flag and will usually fly the Victorian State Flag on the three flagpoles at the front of the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre
- Council will always fly the Australian National Flag and the Aboriginal Flag on the two flagpoles at the front of the Williamstown Town Hall
- the Torres Strait Islander Flag will be flown NAIDOC Week, Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week
- the Rainbow Flag will be flown on the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), the annual Pride March in Victoria, for the duration of the Midsumma Festival, and on Intersex Awareness Day and International Transgender Day of Remembrance
- Council will fly the national flag of a sister city during visits by the mayor (or their delegate) of a sister city
- Council will only fly the national flags of other countries during Council sanctioned visits by dignitaries of the country
- when a flag needs to be removed to accommodate a celebration or event as noted above or any other event, the Victorian state flag will be replaced with the relevant flag for the specified event or timeframe
- Council will fly its flags at half-mast as a sign of mourning on appropriate occasions as advised by the Department of Premier and Cabinet – Victoria

4 Procedural Guidelines

- flags will be flown in accordance with the Australian Government protocol and guidelines for the flying of flags
- requests to fly flags other than those referred to in this policy will be referred to the Council for consideration or the Chief Executive Officer as appropriate

Document Control

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