	POLICY NO:	1.12.5(v2)
	POLICY TITLE:	Flags
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POLICY

Bourke Shire Council will fly the Australian Flag with the required respect and dignity as the nation's foremost symbol.

The Aboriginal Flag will be flown during NAIDOC Week and National Reconciliation Week.


- NAIDOC Week celebrates and promotes greater understanding of Indigenous peoples and culture.
- National Reconciliation Week recognises 27 May as the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum which removed from the Constitution clauses that discriminated against indigenous Australians and 3 June as the anniversary of the High Court decision in the Eddie Mabo land rights case of 1992.

The use of these flags will adhere to the following protocols:-

Flying the Australian Flag

- The flag should be raised briskly and lowered ceremoniously.
- The flag should be raised no earlier than first light and lowered no later than dusk.
- Unless all flags are raised and lowered simultaneously, the Australian National Flag should be raised first and lowered last.
- When the flag is raised or lowered, or when it is carried in a parade or review, everyone present should be silent and face the flag. People in uniform should salute.
- The flag should always be flown freely and as close as possible to the top of the flagpole with the rope tightly secured.
- Two flags should not be flown from the same flagpole.
- The flag should not be flown upside down, even as a signal of distress.

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- The flag should not fall or lie on the ground or be used as a cover (although it can be used to cover a coffin at a funeral).
- The flag may be flown at night only when it is illuminated.
- When the Australian National Flag is flown with flags of other nations, all flags should be the same size and flown on flagpoles of the same height.
- When flying with only one other national flag, the Australian National Flag should fly on the left of a person facing the flags.
- The flag should never be flown if it is damaged, faded or dilapidated. When the material of a flag deteriorates it should be destroyed privately and in a dignified way. It may be cut into small unrecognisable pieces then disposed of with the normal rubbish collection.

Order of Precedence

- The Australian National Flag takes precedence over all national flags when it is flown in Australia or Australian territory.
- After the Australian National Flag, the order of precedence of flags is: national flag of other nations, state and territory flags, other Australian flags prescribed by the Flags Act 1953, ensigns and pennants.
- The Australian National Flag should not normally be flown in a position inferior to any other flag or ensign and should not be smaller than any other flag or ensign.

Flying Flags at Half Mast

Flags are flown at half-mast as a sign of mourning.

The half-mast position will depend on the size of the flag and the length of the flagpole. The flag must be lowered to a position recognisably half-mast to avoid the appearance of a flag which has accidentally fallen away from the top of the flagpole. An acceptable position would be when the top of the flag is a third of the distance down from the top of the flagpole.

There are times when direction will be given by the Australian Government for all flags to be flown at half-mast.

Flags in any locality can be flown at half-mast on the death of a local citizen or on the day, or part of the day, of their funeral.

When lowering the flag from a half-mast position it should be briefly raised to the peak and then lowered ceremoniously.

The flag should never be flown at half-mast at night even if it is illuminated.

When flying the Australian National Flag with other flags, all flags in the set should be flown at half-mast. The Australian National Flag should be raised first and lowered last.

Funerals

The flag can be used to cover the coffin of any Australian citizen at their funeral.

The upper left quarter or canton should be draped over the 'left shoulder' of the coffin to represent the heart.

The flag should be removed before the coffin is lowered into the ground or after the service at a crematorium.

DESCRIPTION OF FLAGS

Australian Flag

The Australian National Flag is Australia's foremost national symbol. It was first flown in 1901 and has become an expression of Australian identity and pride.

The Australian National Flag has three elements on a blue background: the Union Jack, the Commonwealth Star and the Southern Cross. The Union Jack in the upper left corner (or canton) acknowledges the history of British settlement. Below the Union Jack is a white Commonwealth or Federation star. It has seven points representing the unity of the six states and the territories of the Commonwealth of Australia. The star is also featured on the Commonwealth Coat of Arms. The Southern Cross is shown on the fly of the flag in white. This constellation of five stars can be seen only from the southern hemisphere and is a reminder of Australia's geography.

Aboriginal Flag

The top half of the Australian Aboriginal flag is black to symbolise Indigenous people. The red in the lower half stands for the earth and the colour of ochre, which has ceremonial significance. The circle of yellow in the centre of the flag represents the sun.

The Aboriginal Flag was proclaimed on 14th July 1995.

Murray Darling Flag

The Murray Darling Flag was first hoisted at Goolwa, South Australia in March 1853.

The Murray Darling Flag features a red cross with four horizontal bars of blue (said to represent the Murray, Darling, Murrumbidgee and Goulburn Rivers). The Union Jack in the upper corner and five stars on the cross (said to represent the Australian Colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia).

RELATED POLICIES

There are no related Policies.