
MR19/003 ABORIGINAL FLAG

File Ref: E17.1001

Attachments: Nil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this Mayoral Report is to seek support from my fellow Councillors to endorse and publicise an online petition, led by Cheree Toka, calling for the Aboriginal Flag to be flown from the Sydney Harbour Bridge permanently.

As of this morning, 28 May 2019, the petition had 123,863 signatures.

The Australian Aboriginal Flag represents Aboriginal Australians. It is one of the official flags of Australia, and holds special legal and political status. Currently the Aboriginal flag only flies on the Sydney Harbour Bridge for 15 days of the year, during NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation Week and on Australia Day.

Flying the Aboriginal flag permanently on the Sydney Harbour Bridge, an international symbol of Australia, would acknowledge and celebrate our ancient Aboriginal culture and help move reconciliation forward.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

1. Endorses the petition calling for the Aboriginal Flag to be flown from the Sydney Harbour Bridge 365 days a year.
2. Publicises the petition through our regular communications channels including social media and the local newspapers.
3. Writes to the NSW Premier, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight and the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and local State Members calling on them to support displaying the Aboriginal Flag on the Sydney Harbour Bridge permanently.