Renmark Paringa Council

FLAG FLYING POLICY

Responsible Officer	Adopted
Information Management & Cemeteries Officer	24 July 2012
Local Government Act 1999 Reference	**Reviewed**
N/A	June 2024
	Next Review*
	June 2028

OBJECTIVE

To provide standard conditions and operational guidelines for the flying of flags at key Council flagpole locations. Flags are the symbol of a nation, state or organization and it is important for the Council to be aware of and comply with the appropriate principles and flag flying hierarchy in a diligent and proactive manner.

The Renmark Paringa Council will fly flags on civic property owned by the Renmark Paringa Council as an expression of Council's governance responsibilities and will ensure the flags displayed are acknowledged with due diligence, dignity, and attention to position.

The Renmark Paringa Council will, where practicable and subject to asset capabilities, have a preference for the *provision* of a maximum of two (2) flagpoles at each of its civic properties. The timing for the provision of flagpoles is subject to budget constraints.

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

- Flags Act 1953 (Commonwealth)

  This Act formally identified the Australian National Flag, as well as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags (proclaimed in July 1995) as "Flags of Australia".
- State Proclamation 1904

POLICY

Flags of Australia should be used with respect and dignity. The protocols developed by the Commonwealth Government outlined in the *Australian Flags* booklet (https://www.pmc.gov.au/government/australian-national-symbols/australian-flags) are to be followed when flying or using Flags of Australia.

Flags may be flown for the purpose of governance if they are:

- A recognized national flag, pursuant to the *Flags Act 1953*, including subsequent proclamations
- The South Australian state flag (*State Proclamation 1904*)
- Council's corporate image and brand
- Approved by specific resolution of Council

Hierarchy

The Australian National Flag takes precedence in Australia over all other flags when it is flown in company with other flags, *the following is dependent upon the number of flagpoles erected in any one location*.

When flown in the community the order of precedence of flags is:

1. The Australian National Flag.
2. National flag of other nations.
3. State and territory flags.
4. Other flags prescribed by the *Flags Act 1953* including:
    a. The Australian Aboriginal and the Torres Strait Islander Flag in either order and;
    b. The Defence ensigns which should be flown in the following order:
        i. The Australian Defence Force ensign;
        ii. The Australian white ensign;
        iii. The Royal Australian Airforce ensign.

Guidelines to display the Australian national flag (as determined under national protocols)

Ensure that when flown on Council properties, the national flag is:

- Hoisted as the premier flag and flown on the furthest left flagpole from an observer's point of view when facing the Council property.
- Not flown when it is damaged, faded, or dilapidated.
- Not smaller than any other flag or ensign.
- Proper protocols are observed on national commemorative days (as recognized under national protocols) and other dates as determined by Council resolution.

Guidelines to display the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags

The Australian Aboriginal flag was proclaimed as flag of Australia under Section 5 of the *Flags Act 1953* (14 July 1995). Mr Harold Thomas, an Aboriginal Elder, was later recognized as the deigner of the Aboriginal Flag by the Federal Court and was given a backdated copyright to the design in 1971. In 1998, Mr Thomas awarded an exclusive licence of the manufacture and marketing of Aboriginal flags, banners and bunting, to Carrol and Richardson Flags.

The Australian Aboriginal Flag is not a privately controlled and commercialized product, but rather it is a proclaimed flag of Australia which differs from other flags of Australia in that the individual holder of the copyright of the design is recognised.

Any commercial use of the Australian Aboriginal flag would be subject to the restrictions imposed by the Harold Thomas copyright and licence agreement.

Guidelines to display a flag under specific resolution of Council

Council supports civic engagement and encourages local participation in causes which are important to the community. It is therefore recognised that on occasion, flags are used to support, symbolise, or raise awareness of a cause. Requests will be considered by Council

from non-political and non-commercial community organisations in recognition of special events and / or causes.
Organisations wishing Council to fly their flag must apply in writing to the Chief Executive Officer and include the following information:

- A coloured example of the design
- Preferred dates of display
- Detail the relevance or significance of the flag to the Renmark Paringa Council
- Contact details of the person responsible for supply and collection of the flag.

Note: A Council resolution to allow display of an alternative flag does not constitute Council's endorsement or support of a specific cause. Conversely, a resolution to not allow display of an alternative flag does not constitute Council's opposition to such cause.

Special Dates when Flags are to be Flown (including at half-mast)
The Commonwealth Flag Network, of which Council is a subscriber to, provides email notification to Council when all flags must be flown at half-mast. Flags flown in half-mast position are a sign of mourning. Such notices will be received, for example, in the event of a death of the royal family or death of the Governor-General. When lowering the Australian National Flag from a half-mast position, it should first be raised briefly to the peak, then lowered ceremoniously.

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

The Renmark Paringa Council will fly all flags at half-mast on the following dates:

- Anzac Day – 25th April
- Remembrance Day – 11th November

Other Occasions where the Australian National Flag is Displayed
The Australian National Flag is displayed at all citizenship ceremonies to promote greater public awareness of its national symbol.

It should also be noted that the National Flag, Aboriginal Flag, and Torres Strait Islander Flag are all permanently displayed in the Council Chamber.

Other Information
The key drivers of the Flag Flying Policy relating to governance are the following:

- The *Flags Act 1953* and relevant Proclamations.
    - This formally identifies the Australian National Flag, as well as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Flags (proclaimed in July 1995), as 'Flags of Australia'.
- The South Australian State Flag was authorised by a State Proclamation in 1904 as the State Flag of South Australia. It has not been proclaimed as a 'Flag of Australia' under the *Flags Act 1953*.
- The need to give due recognition to the Renmark Paringa Council logo and branding.
- The need to vary standard arrangements from time to time as per the advice of the Commonwealth Flag Network.

Flags will be flown at key locations as follows:

- The flag poles will only be used for the flying of the Australian National flag and the Council flag.
- If only one pole is available, the Australian National flag will be flown.
- That both flags will be in good order and flown at the Community and Civic Centre at all times as the flagpoles are illuminated.
- That the Australian National flag will be flown at all times at the other locations on Renmark Avenue and SS Ellen Park, Lyrup, as the flagpoles are illuminated.
- That the Australian National flag at the Civic Centre be flown at half mast on the day of a funeral if requested in writing by a family member
- That the Australian National flag be flown at half mast, at an appropriate location, for the funeral of Local, State and Federal Government dignitaries and the Kings representatives when notified by the Commonwealth Flag Network and/or the Protocol Unit of the Department of Premier and Cabinet
- That the Council flag be replaced with the Aboriginal Flag during NAIDOC and Reconciliation week celebrations.
- That the official flag for any visiting International Dignitaries to our region will be flown at key locations on the day/s of the visitA communication request is to be submitted to the Communications Team to alert the community via Council's social media outlets the purpose why Council flags are being flown at half-mast.

DELEGATION

That pursuant to section 44 of the Local Government Act 1999, Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer authority to administer Council's Policies.

Document Control

Version #	Approval Date	Approved by	Amendment
	17 October 2023	Policy Review Committee	Inclusion of SS Ellen Park as a location and comms request paragraph
	26 June 2024	Policy Review Committee	Content added with greater detail on requirements and hierarchy of flag flying according to the *Flags Act (1953*).