



Premier of New South Wales  
Australia

**A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FROM PREMIER MORRIS IEMMA**

**Australian National Flag Day 2008**

A flag is only as good as the people it represents.

A country may have a fine flag, but if it lacks the accompanying institutions of good government, personal freedom, the right to property and the rule of law, then a flag is simply a meaningless piece of cloth.

The Australian flag is far from that. Our flag, the emblem of a free nation, was created by ordinary Australians in a public competition in one of the earliest actions of the new Federal Government in 1901.

It is true there is not a universal desire to retain the current flag. As a republican, I understand that argument.

But I appreciate more forcefully the fact that this is the flag under which Australians fought and died from Gallipoli to Iraq. It is the flag that marked our gold medal victories at every Olympic Games. The flag that flies proudly in schools across the land.

So let us treasure our flag and let any movement towards a replacement develop organically so that if change ever comes, it does so naturally and respectfully.

For now, the banner of "stars and crosses" has our loyalty and our love. It is a good flag because it symbolises a good people.



**Morris Iemma MP**  
Premier of New South Wales