



# POLICY

**Policy Title:** ECU Flags

**Policy Owner:** Manager, Campus Operations and Resources

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## 1. INTENT

The purpose of this policy is to clarify arrangements for the display of the Australian National flag, State flag of Western Australia, Australian Aboriginal Flag, and other flags on the campuses of Edith Cowan University (ECU).


## 2. ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE


All staff and students of Edith Cowan University.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
Australian National Flag	<p>The Australian National Flag has three elements on a blue background: the Union Flag, the Commonwealth Star and the Southern Cross.</p> <p>The Union Flag occupies the upper left corner and acknowledges the history of British settlement.</p> <p>Directly below the Union Flag is the white Commonwealth star. It has seven points</p>

	<p>representing the unity of the six states and territories of the Commonwealth of Australia at the time of Federation. It is immediately beneath the St. George's Cross in the Union Flag.</p> <p>The Southern Cross is shown in white on the fly of the flag. This five star constellation can only be seen in the Southern Hemisphere and is a reminder of Australia's geography.</p> <p>Graphic representation:</p> 
<p>State flag of Western Australia</p>	<p>State flag of Western Australia consists of the British Blue Ensign, with a badge on the fly depicting a black swan on a gold disc that is facing the flag pole.</p> <p>Graphic representation:</p> 
<p>Australian Aboriginal Flag</p>	<p>The Australian Aboriginal Flag is divided horizontally into equal halves of black on the top (representing Aboriginal people) and red at the bottom (representing the earth) and has a yellow circle in the centre (representing the sun).</p> <p>Graphic representation:</p> 
<p>Torres Strait Islander Flag</p>	<p>The Torres Strait Islander Flag has green panels at the top and bottom of the flag represents the land with the central blue panel representing the sea. The black lines dividing the panels represent the Torres Strait Islander people.</p> <p>The centre of the flag shows a white <i>dhari</i></p>

	<p>(dancer's headdress) which is a symbol for all Torres Strait Islanders.</p> <p>Underneath the <i>dhari</i> is a white five-pointed star. White symbolises peace and the star is an important symbol for navigating the sea. The five points of the star represent the island groups in the Torres Strait.</p> <p>Graphic representation:</p> 
PRIDE Flag	<p>The PRIDE Flag, sometimes referred to as the Rainbow Flag, is symbolic of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and Intersex (GLBTI) people.</p> <p>The colours reflect the diversity of the GLBTI community.</p> <p>The flag shows six horizontal stripes, with the colours red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet. It is flown with the red stripe on top, as it would be in a natural rainbow.</p> <p>Graphic representation:</p> 
Mussalah	<p>A room allocated for the purpose of worship by students and staff of Islamic Faith.</p>

ECU Flag	<p>The ECU flag depicts the ECU logo.</p> <p>Graphic representation:</p> 
Half mast	Half-mast is the flying of a flag below the top of a flag pole to indicate mourning.
University Campuses	Campuses at Joondalup, Mount Lawley and Bunbury
University Grounds	University Grounds is all property owned or leased by the University.

#### 4. POLICY CONTENT

- 4.1 The display of flags on University grounds complies with the *Flags Act 1953*. The display of flags on University campuses accords with the protocols and guidelines set out by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Australian Capital Territory. These protocols guide the handling and flying of the Australian National flag in a variety of situations, e.g. flying the Australian National flag together with other national flags or to symbolise mourning (flying at half-mast)
- 4.2 The Australian National flag is flown daily at each campus.
- 4.3 The Western Australian State Flag is flown on appropriate occasions in accordance with State Government protocols.
- 4.4 The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the State Department of the Premier guide the University on special occasion flag events.
- 4.5 The Australian Aboriginal flag is flown daily at each campus.
- 4.6 The Torres Strait Islander flag is flown during NAIDOC Week, National Sorry Day and during Reconciliation Week.
- 4.7 The PRIDE flag is flown during PRIDE Month.
- 4.8 Flags of other sovereign nations are flown to recognise the presence of dignitaries from other countries in their capacity as official visitors to the University.

4.9 The Vice-Chancellor's approval is required for the flying of other flags, in the case of visiting dignitaries or on special occasions.

4.10 The ECU flag is flown daily, excepting when other flags are using this flag pole. This includes during NAIDOC Week, National Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week, PRIDE Month and when flags of other sovereign nations are flown.

## 5. ACCOUNTABILITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In relation to this policy, the following positions are responsible for the following

The Manager, Campus Operations and Resources has overall responsibility for the content of this policy and its operation in ECU.

The Manager Quality and Service Delivery has the overall responsibility to ensure that the administration and operational processes and procedures are managed as per the established Policy.

## 6. RELATED DOCUMENTS:

The policy is supported by the following:

- *Flags Act 1953*
- Awards and National Symbols Branch, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (1998). *Australian Flags*. Canberra.
- <http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/symbols/flag.cfm>
- Carroll & Richardson (1999). *The Australian National Flag*. Melbourne: Carroll & Richardson.
- This policy is available online at [http://www.ecu.edu.au/GPPS/policies\\_db/policies\\_view.php?rec\\_id=0000000070](http://www.ecu.edu.au/GPPS/policies_db/policies_view.php?rec_id=0000000070)

## 7. CONTACT INFORMATION

For queries relating to this document please contact:

Policy Owner	Manager, Campus Operations and Resources
All Enquiries Contact:	Manager Quality and Service Delivery
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## 8. APPROVAL HISTORY

Policy Approved by:	Facilities and Services Directorate Management Group Vice- Chancellor
Date Policy First Approved:	2 July 2012 (Vice-Chancellor)
Date last modified:	May 2015
Revision History:	22 September 2008, 2 July 2012

Next Revision Due:	May 2018
Related Policies/Documents	Flag Policy Guidelines
TRIM File Reference	SUB/65337

# **GUIDELINES**

## **LINKED TO ECU FLAGS POLICY**

### **1. Intent**

- 1.1. These Guidelines provide an outline of the protocols associated with the flying of flags on University campuses and other University grounds (owned or leased), and must be read in conjunction with the ECU Flags Policy.

### **2. Organisational Scope**

- 2.1 All staff and students of Edith Cowan University.

### **3. Guidelines**

- 3.1 The Manager, Campus Operations and Resources will assign appropriate staff to undertake all duties related to the raising and lowering of flags on University campuses.
- 3.2 Under the direction of the Manager, Campus Operations and Resources, authorised staff will be trained in all matters relating to the raising and lowering of flags on University campuses.
- 3.4 A request to fly the flag of another sovereign nation is to be made to the relevant Executive Dean or Centre Director to whom the person is scheduled to visit. Subject to the Vice-Chancellor's approval:
  - 3.4.1 In circumstances where there are visitors from two countries at the same time, the flags of the two nations are to be flown.
  - 3.4.2 If there are visitors from more than two countries at the same time, no flags representing other countries are to be flown.
- 3.5 The Australian National Flag, the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the State flag of Western Australia will be flown at half-mast to signify when the country or State is in mourning; Flags of sovereign nations will be flown at half-mast where the country of a visiting dignitary is in mourning.
- 3.6 Decisions on requests to fly other flags representing other local or international dates of significance will be made to the Vice-Chancellor or nominee, who will advise the Director, Facilities and Services should the University wish to honour a person or event.