

## AC PAPER NO. 7

### THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG – OUR CHIEF NATIONAL SYMBOL

Q: Who are those who would change / downgrade it?

A: The ARM, the Greens and the ALP (Federal and State) and their leaders (**not** their rank and file)

1. *The Australian Republican Movement (ARM)* It was co-sponsor, with Harold Scruby of Ausflag Ltd (committed to changing our flag) and Turnbull and Partners, of the Exhibition *Flagging the Republic*, which was shown along Eastern Australia and Tasmania in 1997-98.

**Note** The Australian Republican Movement opts out by saying “it’s a separate subject”. If so, why won’t they publicly support (or oppose) it? Let it be discussed as a separate subject beginning with the question to the ARM: ‘*Do you, as a subject separate from the Republic, support or oppose our Chief National Symbol?*’

2. *The Greens* led by Senator Bob Brown. See *Hansard*, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2000 and “Senator Brown has indicated his support for a new National Flag” – *John Dodd, Sen. Brown’s Electorate Officer*, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

3. *The ALP* “The logo using the Australian Flag has not been used since 1995 in any ALP material” *Letter from Mr Karl Bitar, ALP National Secretary*, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009

AND

At the ALP 1994 National Convention in Tasmania, the following amendment was passed: Amendment 1. Moved D. Melham (Banks FEC)

Seconded: A. Symonds (Coogee SEC)

**“Conference recognises that many Party members have strong views about the Union Jack on the Party’s logo. Conference directs the NSW Branch of the ALP to remove the Union Jack from the ALP logo on all Party material as a demonstration of the Party’s commitment to a republic by 2001. Further, Conference requests the National Executive to also consider a redesign of the Party’s logo to remove the Union Jack from the Logo”**

Amendment 1 was put and carried unanimously. Confirmed by ALP National Secretary, Tim Gartrell, 5 August 2004 (ALP National Secretary and Director, Canberra). **See penultimate item overleaf, underlined.**

The Hon. Paul Keating has repeatedly and publicly opposed our National Flag.

Our U.S. Ambassador, Hon. Kim Beazley seeks its change!

#### NEW FLAG ON TRACK: BEAZLEY

The Sydney Morning Herald 1994

By MIKE SECCOMBE in Canberra

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SECTION: News and Features

Monday, 6 June 1994

The Government was sticking to its timetable for changes to Australia’s constitution and flag by the end of the century (i.e., by 2001) in spite of strong public opposition, the Minister of Finance, Mr Beazley, said yesterday.

Other ALP leaders like Mark Latham pledged to “fly the Eureka flag at Parliament House” if he became Prime Minister, as did ALP MP Catherine King – *Ballarat Courier*, July 2004.

P.T.O

Chris Hurford (who was on Ausflag Ltd's Board in 1990) and others want to change it. The Hon. Gough Whitlam is on record as a changer (*Sydney public meeting on 8 July 1997*). His son, Nicholas, was a Board member of Ausflag Ltd. in 1990.

AND

- *The Queensland Labor-State Platform Document – 2004:*  
**“10.1 Labor will ensure that the State symbols including the Queensland flag and oaths of office reflect Queensland’s position as a State of Australia rather than a colony of Britain”.**
- *Platform of West Australian Branch Australian Labor Party adopted June 2003:*  
 “The State Labor Government will conduct a State-wide flag competition to design a new State flag... it bears the stamp of invasion (Union Jack)”
- In every parliament during the Hawke / Keating years, the then Liberal / National Opposition introduced a ‘Private Member’s Bill’ supporting our flag but the Labor government would never bring them on to the business papers for debate.

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### Important Note

Whilst the above Parties and their Leaders are on record as changers of our flag, it must be stressed that the **rank and file** members are *not*. They, like the vast majority of Australians, support our flag – Anzac Day (in Australia and in Gallipoli) are examples.

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The vast majority of Coalition MPs are believed to support the flag. The National Party’s May 1992 brochure:”...will oppose any changes to it” Australians for Constitutional Monarchy (ACM) supports our flag.

It is of note to record that Lindsay Fox, AO RWM, of *LINFOX GROUP* Melbourne, wrote on 22 June, 1998: “It is my opinion that the flag should not be changed – it is a symbol from whence we have come... it is our history book – you can’t change history!”

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“Australia SCAN 2010 data, compiled for the [Victorian] State Government, shows 75% of Victorians want to keep the existing flag, up from 57% in 2001” – (Elissa Doherty “Proud Vics loyal monarchists” *Herald-Sun*, 14 October 2010.)