



**THE HON PETER DUTTON MP  
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG DAY**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> of September this year marks the 121<sup>st</sup> anniversary of when our national flag was first flown over the dome of the Exhibition Building in Melbourne – the site of our first Commonwealth Parliament.

After that historic moment in 1901, *The Brisbane Courier* reported on its importance the following day:

*Nationhood is better for the concrete expression; and nothing will stir up enthusiasm or rouse the sense of regard for the country in which we live like a constant sight of the flag of Australia.*

Since that time, our national flag has been a source of pride and unity. It has inspired great deeds and even greater sacrifices which have improved our nation and kept it safe and secure.

Under our national flag, ordinary Australians have done the extraordinary. They have served, fought and died in defence of our country and our national interests. They have helped each other during bushfires, floods, droughts and pandemics. They have gone to the aid of our neighbours when natural disasters or crises have struck their shores. They have represented our nation with honour and achieved great success in sports of every kind. They have excelled in all fields of endeavour, making our country better for successive generations. And they have helped their communities, neighbours, friends, family and strangers in the darkest of days and when others have been down and out.

We live in uncertain and dangerous times where authoritarianism is trying to reassert itself through force and coercion. As we look at our national flag today, wherever it flies, it carries even greater symbolic weight. It reinforces the things we hold dear: sovereignty, democracy and liberty. It reminds us of our history; that we are the beneficiaries of a great inheritance which must always be defended. And it provides us with national confidence and unity that will help us to prevail no matter the challenge.

On this National Flag Day, our flag inspires love of country, gratitude to our forebears, loyalty to nation, and dedication to its future when it matters most.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Peter Dutton'.

Hon Peter Dutton MP  
Federal Member for Dickson  
Leader of the Opposition

3 September 2022