



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

**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG DAY 2024**

In my National Flag Day message last year, I wrote about the then forthcoming Voice referendum stating that I hoped our national flag – a symbol of one country and one people – was on the minds of Australians when they went to vote.

On 14 October 2023, millions of Australians rejected the divisive Voice referendum in what was a resounding result. Australians sent a clear message to the Prime Minister: they do not want our country to be divided by ancestry and race.

On this National Flag Day, let us look to our one flag to revive our national unity and rediscover our national confidence in testing times. Let us dismiss those voices that are determined to define and divide us on the basis of our differences: our race, sex, religion, class and more besides. Instead, let us renew our focus on the far more meaningful things that we have in common: our love of family, our appreciation for friends and colleagues, our attachment to community, our aspiration, compassion and optimism, our respect for law and liberty, our devotion to our country, and our desire to protect our great democracy and its values.

On this 123<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of our national flag, may we celebrate it as proud Australians. Patriotism is about much more than a love for- and loyalty to- our country. It is about gratitude to our forebears for forging the achievement of modern Australia. It is about custodianship of their legacy and seeking to build upon it. It is about bequeathing to future generations of Australians a country better than the one we inherited. Today, may we remember the time-transcending meaning of our flag and the duty and unity it inspires.

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

**Hon Peter Dutton MP**  
Leader of the Opposition

3 September 2024