



Minister for Local Government,
Minister for Racing and
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Our ref: MC19/935

Your ref: A417108

13 MAR 2019

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
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Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

Thank you for your letter of 14 February 2019 about petition number 3083-19 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 13 February 2019 regarding the request for the Queensland Government to formally recognise the 'Yellow Flag' (also known as the Co Vang flag) as representation of the heritage of the Vietnamese community in Queensland.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet administers all National Flag protocols and advises the States and Territories of any guidelines which are to be followed. The Australian Government's policy is to fly only the official flags of nations recognised by Australia alongside the Australian flag. The Queensland Government is guided by the Australian National Flag Protocols.

While appreciating the Vietnamese diaspora in Australia has strong connections to the Co Vang flag, the Australian Government does not recognise it as an official flag.

In the State of Queensland, we also understand the symbolism and history the Yellow/Co Vang flag represents to some members of the Vietnamese community, particularly those who left their home country at the end of the Vietnam war. While the Queensland Government will continue to follow the Australian National Flag Protocols, there is no jurisdiction to enforce the Flag Protocol in the community. Therefore, we will continue to respect the right of the Vietnamese community to display the Yellow Flag at their cultural and community events.

In Queensland we openly demonstrate respect for the diversity in our State. There is no greater demonstration of the Queensland Government's commitment to fully embracing the cultural make-up of Queensland than the *Multicultural Recognition Act 2016*. This legislation acknowledges that a diverse, dynamic and cohesive society will deliver benefits for all Queenslanders—community, Government and business sectors alike.

If you require any further information, please contact Mr Ben Marczyk, Acting Chief of Staff in my office on 3719 7560.

Yours sincerely



STIRLING HINCHLIFFE MP
Minister for Local Government,
Minister for Racing and
Minister for Multicultural Affairs