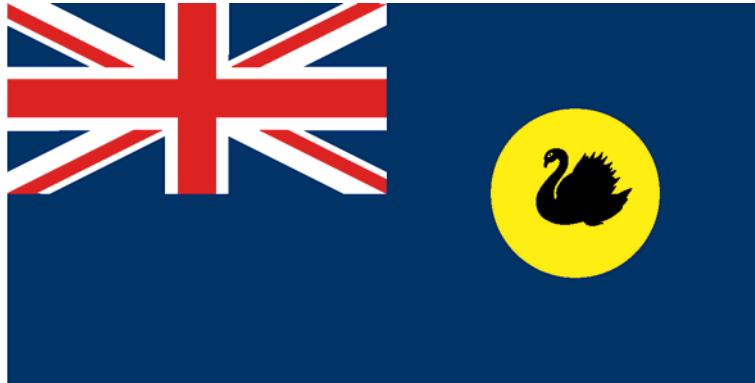


STATE FLAG BILL 2006

Assembly's Message

Message from the Assembly notifying that it had agreed that the reproduction of the flag in part 2 of the schedule to the State Flag Bill 2006 be replaced by the correct reproduction of the flag and inviting the Council to pass a similar resolution now considered.

The correct reproduction of the flag is as follows -



Motion

HON BARRY HOUSE (South West) [9.38 pm] - without notice: I move -

That the Legislative Council, in accordance with joint standing order 12, agrees that the reproduction of the flag in part 2 of the schedule to the State Flag Bill 2006 be replaced by the correct reproduction of the flag as contained in Legislative Assembly message 161.

Very briefly, I will explain why we are doing this tonight. Members will recall that on Foundation Day we passed the State Flag Bill 2006. It turns out that the schedule attached to that bill containing a diagrammatic representation of the state flag was incorrect. This was pointed out to the promoter of the bill, Hon Colin Barnett, and me by the Australian National Flag Association. The depiction of the flag in that schedule was not precise enough. The major error was that it showed a black circle around the gold circle containing the black swan. There is no black circle in the official depiction of the state flag. Members will notice in the leadlight windows in this chamber that the black swan is set against a gold circle.

The depiction of the flag in the original bill as passed by this chamber was incorrect. It was downloaded from the government's web site by Hon Colin Barnett when he set up the private member's bill. It appears that the government's web site and the protocol unit of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet have consequently corrected their version of the state flag. Something good has come out of it all. We have an accurate depiction of the state flag. I did not realise how important it is to flag manufacturers to ensure that it is right. However, the depiction of the flag is correct in the schedule attached to the Assembly's message. What the Parliament set out to do a couple of months ago is now complete. The state flag of Western Australia, which has been around since the 1870s, now has formal parliamentary recognition. That is something that the Parliament should be very pleased with. The last remaining act is the Governor's signature. In moving the motion, I thank the Australian National Flag Association for pointing out that small error. It has now been corrected. The WA state flag now has parliamentary protection.

Question put and passed.