



Symbols of Queensland Parliament

The Mace

When parliament is sitting, the mace is placed on the centre table, with the head pointing towards the government side of the Chamber. The mace is a symbol of the authority of the Speaker and of the House.

The Sergeant-at-Arms carries the mace into the Chamber before the Speaker at the commencement of a sitting, and carries it out before the Speaker after the adjournment.



Red and Green

The principal colour of Queensland's Legislative Assembly is green. Green is the distinguishing colour of the House of Commons in England and lower houses in Westminster parliaments around Australia and the world.

The colour red has long been used by kings and queens of Britain as a royal colour, especially in the rooms where they met with their court and nobles. Red is the colour of the House of Lords in England, and the upper houses of other Westminster parliaments such as the Australian Senate in Canberra.



The red chamber in Queensland's Parliament House has not been used as an upper house since the abolition of the Legislative Council in 1922. Some remnants of its official use, including the president's red chair and desk, the red carpet and the British royal coat of arms, still decorate the red chamber today.



Coat of Arms

Queensland's coat of arms was granted to the colony by Queen Victoria in 1893, making it the oldest state arms in Australia.

The shield features Queensland's primary industries: a sheaf of wheat, the heads of a bull and a ram, and mining which is represented by a column of gold rising from a heap of quartz. On the crest, the state badge is framed by two stalks of sugar cane.

Queensland's state motto is represented in the Latin words 'audax at fidelis', which means 'bold but faithful'.

In 1977, Queen Elizabeth II granted the inclusion of supporting animals, the brolga and the red deer.

The brolga is one of Queensland's most distinctive native birds, while the red deer was introduced to Queensland from the royal herds near London.



Close the Bars!

When the House is sitting, only members and select staff (such as clerks at the table and parliamentary attendants) can go beyond the bars.

When a division is called and the bells cease ringing, the bars are closed and no member can enter or leave until they are reopened.



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State Badge

Queensland's state badge comprises an azure Maltese cross with a royal crown superimposed, all on a white background. It was designed in 1876 by William Hemmant, Queensland's colonial secretary and treasurer.



Aboriginal Flag

Harold Thomas, a Luritja man from central Australia, designed and created the Australian Aboriginal flag.

The colours of the flag represent the Aboriginal peoples of Australia and their spiritual connection to the land.

The top half of the flag is black, to symbolise Aboriginal peoples. The red in the lower half stands for the earth and the colour of ochre, which has ceremonial significance. The circle of yellow in the centre of the flag represents the sun.

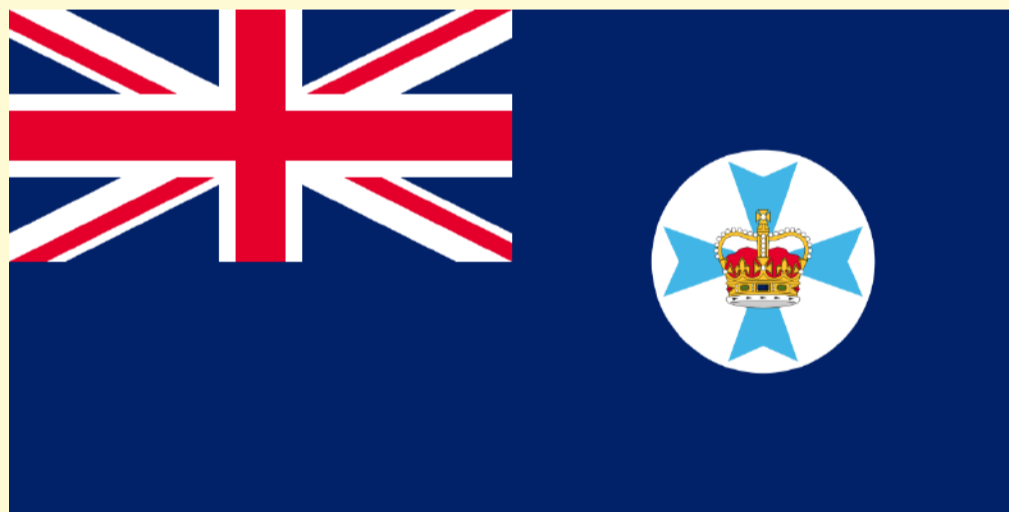


Queensland State Flag

The state flag features the British Union Jack and Queensland's state badge. This design has been in use since 1876, when Queensland was a self-governing British colony with its own navy.

Originally, the flag displayed an image of Queen Victoria's head, but it was decided that reproducing a portrait on a flag was too difficult, so the design was altered to show the royal crown and Maltese cross.

Did you know? You can request a **free Queensland state flag** from your state member of parliament!



Torres Strait Islander Flag

The Torres Strait Islander flag was created as a symbol of unity and identity for Torres Strait Islander peoples. The cultures and traditions of Torres Strait Islanders are connected to the land, sea and sky, which are all represented in the flag.



The green panels represent the land and the central blue panel represents the sea. The black lines dividing the panels represent the Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The centre of the flag shows a white dhari (dancer's headdress) which symbolises Torres Strait Islander culture. Underneath the dhari is a white five-pointed star. The star is an important symbol for Torres Strait Islander peoples, as navigators of the sea. The points of the star represent the five island groups in the Torres Strait and the white symbolises peace.