

Flags and Emblems on Statehood

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- Some people have asked the Statehood Steering Committee if the Northern Territory flag would have to change if we became a State.
- The Northern Territory flag came into existence with Northern Territory Self Government and was first raised on 1 July 1978, the day the Northern Territory received limited self government from the Commonwealth.
- Territorians are proud of our flag and there is no reason to change the Northern Territory flag.
- Self government was a step toward Statehood. If the Northern Territory becomes a State it will cement our flag rather than create any need to replace it. It will also make our flag unique in the Australian States as the only State flag not including an image of the British union flag in its design.
- The Northern Territory flag contains the famous image of Sturt's Desert Rose. Where this flower occurs naturally, it comprises five petals. On our flag, it was given seven petals to show our coming of age as a self governing territory, and one day, a State, along with the six existing Australian States.
- You can find more information about the Northern Territory flag and our floral emblem, Sturt's Desert Rose, on the web at www.nt.gov.au/ntg/symbols/ntflag.html
- The Australian coat of arms contains images of each of the six State badges on its shield. What would happen if the Northern Territory becomes Australia's seventh State?
- The shield is a symbol for the federation of the States, which took place in 1901; it remains open to discussion as to whether the shield should be updated to include new States added since federation or whether it should remain as a symbol of that important date in Australian history.
- More information about the Australian coat of arms is available on the web at www.dfat.gov.au/facts/coat_of_arms.html

