
Subject **Summary: Release of Flag Consideration Panel meeting documents 4 November 2015**

Summary

1. It is important to the New Zealand Flag Consideration Panel (“the Panel”) that its process is transparent and legitimate. To help achieve this, the Panel has released the documentation from all its meetings to 4 November 2015.
2. This document contains:
 - 2.1. an explanation of the redactions to the Panel’s documents made in line with the Official Information Act (1982) (“OIA”);
 - 2.2. a summary of the Panel’s design selection process; and
 - 2.3. a table of the documents released, which includes links to publicly available material where applicable.

Redactions

3. Redactions have been made to the documents for the following reasons, in line with the OIA:
 - 3.1. **section 9(2)(a)**, to protect the privacy of natural persons;
 - 3.2. **section 9(2)(ba)(i)**, to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied;
 - 3.3. **section 9(2)(g)(i)**, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions between employees of a department in the course of their duty; and
 - 3.4. **section 9(2)(h)**, to maintain legal professional privilege.

Summary of design selection process

4. The Panel took an agile approach to the design selection process by agreeing a robust framework and process which retained the flexibility to make changes if required. A summary of the design selection process is attached as Appendix 1 of this document.
5. In reviewing flag designs, first and foremost, the Panel were guided by the results of the ten-week engagement programme across a range of communities where thousands of New Zealanders shared what was special to them about New Zealand. This provided the Panel, and flag designers, with invaluable direction as to how New Zealanders see themselves and their country and how those values might best be expressed in a new flag. The Panel agreed a flag should:

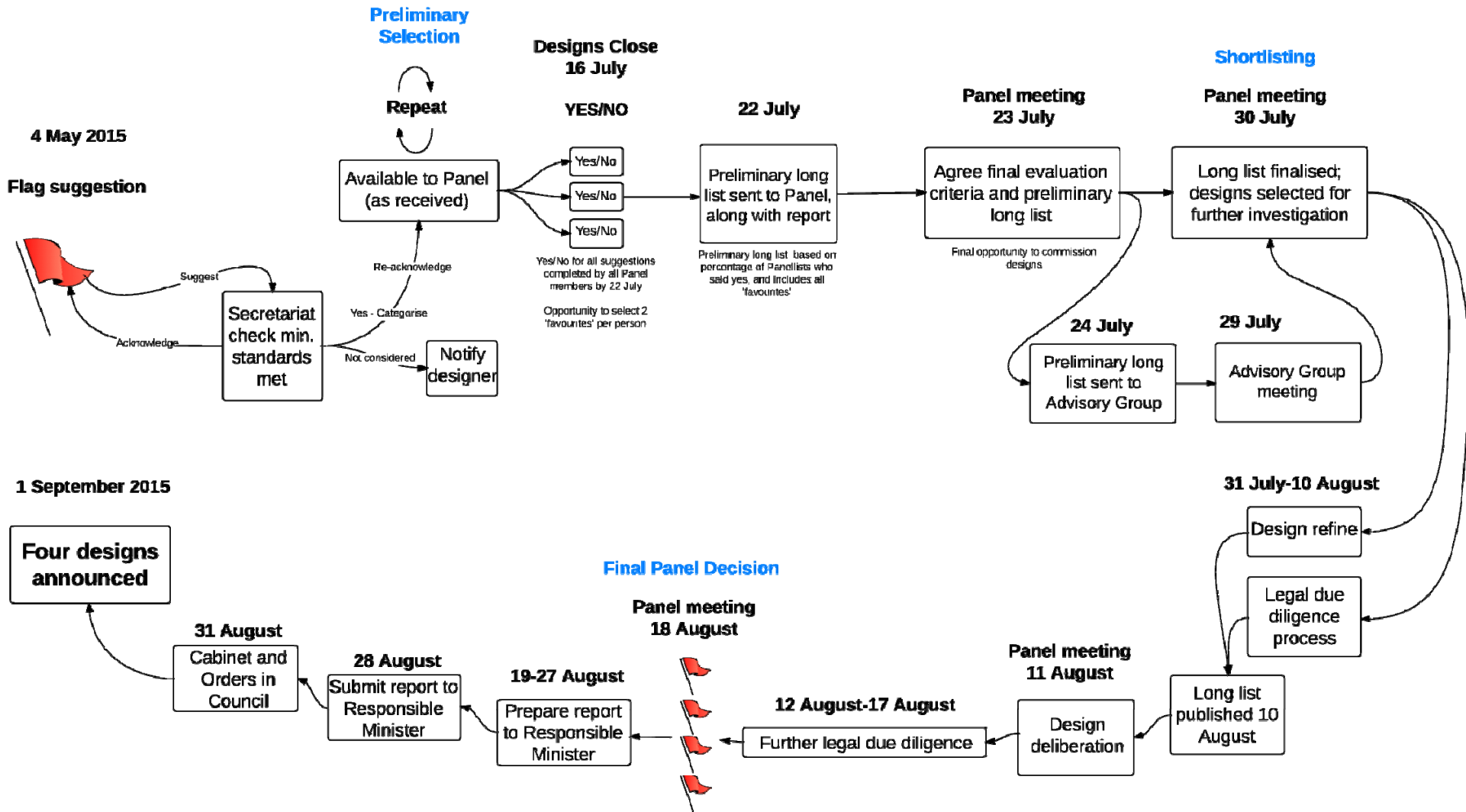
- 5.1. unmistakably be from New Zealand and celebrate us as a progressive, inclusive nation that is connected to its environment and has a sense of its past and a vision of its future;
 - 5.2. be a 'great' flag, which means that: it adheres to the principles of good flag design, has an enduring quality which will not become outdated, and will work well in all situations from celebration to commemoration;
 - 5.3. be inclusive, in that all New Zealanders should be able to see themselves within it; and
 - 5.4. not have any impediments to its use as a potential New Zealand flag.
6. The Panel was focussed on selecting designs that met the criteria outlined above. In so doing, the Panel did not score, record faults or merits, or rank, designs. The Panel did not reach its decisions on the alternative designs by voting or by any analogous process. Rather, the Panel worked through the process detailed in Appendix 1 and ultimately made a unanimous decision.
 7. The Panel invited a number of cultural (including tikanga), vexillology (the study of flags), art and design advisors to provide confidential, technical feedback on the preliminary long list of designs under consideration. These advisors focused on ensuring that the designs were workable and that there were no impediments to a design's use. The Advisory Group received designs for review on 24 July 2015 and met on 29 July 2015 to review the preliminary long list with four members of the Panel. The Advisory Group was not asked to review all 10,292 suggested designs. Final decisions were the responsibility of the Panel.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Summary of Design Selection Process

Appendix 2: Table of documents released

Appendix 1: Summary of Design Selection Process



Appendix 2: Table of documents released

Documents available at <http://www.dPMC.govt.nz/dPMC/publications/nzflag-process>

#	Title	Note
1	Summary: Release of Flag Consideration Panel meeting documents 4 November 2015	This document.
2	Panel induction pack (March 2015)	<p>The induction pack contains a number of documents already available online which have not been reproduced in this document. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet minute 'Process to consider changing the New Zealand Flag', CAB Min (14) 34/1, 28 October 2014. Location: http://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/all/files/nzflag-process-cabinet-minute-october2014-amended.pdf 2. Cabinet paper 'Process to consider changing the New Zealand Flag', CAB (14) 541, 28 October 2015. Location: http://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/all/files/publications/nzflag-process-cabinet-paper-october2014.pdf 3. Appendix 1 of CAB (14) 541 (project timeline). Location: http://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/all/files/publications/nzflag-process-cabinet-paper-october2014-appendix1.pdf 4. Appendix 4 of CAB (14) 541 (Regulatory Impact Statement). Location: http://www.justice.govt.nz/publications/global-publications/r/regulatory-impact-statement-considering-changing-the-new-zealand-flag 5. Prime Minister's media statement of 29 October 2014 'First steps taken towards flag referendum'. Location: http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/first-steps-taken-towards-flag-referendum 6. Cabinet paper 'Update on the process to consider changing the New Zealand Flag', CAB (15) 23, 2 February 2015. Location: http://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/all/files/nzflag-process-cabinet-paper-february2015.pdf 7. Cabinet minute 'Process to consider changing the New Zealand Flag', CAB Min (14) 34/1, 28 October 2014. Location: http://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/all/files/nzflag-process-cabinet-minute-october2014-amended.pdf 8. Parliament document 'How a bill becomes law'. (This is referred to as Appendix II in the 'New Zealand Flag Referendums Bill' cover note.) Location: http://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-nz/00CLOOCHowPWorksLawsHow1/259af3098bf0341709fee3b75cf840147e7f94e6

		<p>9. Appendix 3 of CAB (14) 541 (Terms of Reference for the New Zealand Flag Consideration Panel). Location: http://www.dpmc.govt.nz/sites/all/files/publications/nzflag-process-cabinet-paper-october2014.pdf</p> <p>(The 'Key Principles of Travel Policy' paper referred to in the 'Terms of Reference' cover note was not provided as a document in the induction pack. Rather, travel and accommodation was covered in the 'Meeting Guidelines' and the 'Fees Framework' circular listed below.)</p> <p>10. Cabinet office circular 'Fees Framework for members appointed to bodies in which the Crown has an interest', CO (12) 6, 19 December 2012. Location: https://www.ssc.govt.nz/sites/all/files/co(12)6-fees-framework.pdf</p>
3	Panel meeting papers (3 March 2015)	These documents refer to the Meeting Guidelines and Legislation Update (New Zealand Flag Bill Referendums Process) from the Panel's Induction Pack (document 2 above refers).
4	Panel meeting papers (19 March 2015)	
5	Panel meeting papers (26 March 2015)	In the presentation from New Zealand Story, the blank slide 'The New Zealand Story' represents the video at https://www.youtube.com/user/TheNewZealandStory
6	Panel meeting papers (15 April 2015)	
7	Panel meeting papers (29 April 2015)	
8	Panel meeting papers (5 May 2015)	
9	Panel meeting papers (17 June 2015)	
10	Panel meeting papers (23 July 2015)	
11	Panel meeting papers (30 July 2015)	
12	Panel meeting papers (11 August 2015)	
13	Panel meeting papers (18 August 2015)	The minutes from 18 August are not yet available as they are to be agreed at the Panel's next meeting of 20 November.