

**From:** Lithgow City Council  
**Sent:** Wed, 27 Mar 2019 13:48:45 +1100  
**To:** Technology One Connect  
**Subject:** FW: Bridge-ing the Gap - Campaign to have the Indigenous Australian flag placed on the Harbour Bridge  
**Attachments:** SHB\_-\_Aboriginal\_Flag\_Petition.pdf, IR OLM2018 005353 TOKA.pdf

#ECMBODY

**Erin Jolliffe** | Trainee Records Officer  
Records | [Lithgow City Council](#)  
Phone: (02) 6354 9999 | Fax: (02) 6351 4259

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**From:** Cheree [<mailto:cheree.toka@osgi.com.au>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 27 March 2019 1:40 PM  
**To:** [reconcilewithourflag@gmail.com](mailto:reconcilewithourflag@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** Cheree; [council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)  
**Subject:** FW: Bridge-ing the Gap - Campaign to have the Indigenous Australian flag placed on the Harbour Bridge

Dear Council Office

In reference to the correspondence I sent August 2018, I would like to reach out again and follow this up.

As mentioned below, my name is Cheree Toka, a proud Kamilaroi woman with family ties to North Western NSW, Gunnedah and Moree and an Inner West resident.

I initiated the [campaign](#) to fly the Aboriginal flag on top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge 365 days a year, rather than 15 days a year on certain occasions such as Australia Day, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC week. As you are aware, in order for the campaign to be recognised within NSW Parliament, 10,000 signatures are required to lodge into parliament. We currently have 5,000 and would like your help in obtaining the remaining 5,000.

So far the following NSW Council Offices have the petition on display at their Chambers;

- Inner West Council
- Shell Harbour Council.
- Bogan Shire Council.
- Blue Mountains City Council.
- City of Sydney Council (I have attached Lord Mayor of Sydney – Clover Moore’s letter of support).

We would appreciate if your Council could do the same in promoting and celebrating the world’s most continuous ancient Culture.

I have attached a copy of the petition for your circulation.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards



**Cheree Toka**  
Director, O.S Group Indigenous  
0409 461 026

[www.osgi.com.au](http://www.osgi.com.au) | [www.change.org/bridgeflag](http://www.change.org/bridgeflag)

*We acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners' of the land in which we conduct business; the Aboriginal and Torres Strait nations of Australia - it is upon their ancestral land that we stand. We pay respects to Elders past and present, and acknowledge our people as the traditional custodians of the land.*



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**From:** Cheree

**Sent:** Monday, August 27, 2018 11:44 AM

**To:** Cheree <cheree.toka@osgi.com.au>

**Cc:** reconcilewithourflag@gmail.com; OSGI <info@osgi.com.au>

**Subject:** Bridge-ing the Gap - Campaign to have the Indigenous Australian flag placed on the Harbour Bridge

Dear Council Office

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself and to inform you about the popular [campaign](#) I initiated back in January 2017.

My name is Cheree Toka, a Kamilaroi woman with family ties to North Western NSW, Gunnedah and Moree. An Inner West resident, I progressed and excelled a career within the private and government sectors. Recently, establishing a wholly-indigenous and female owned Facilities Maintenance Services company.

I initiated the campaign to fly the Aboriginal flag on top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge 365 days a year, rather than 15 days a year on certain occasions such as Australia Day, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC week. As you are aware, in order for the campaign to be recognised within NSW Parliament, 10,000 signatures are required to lodge into parliament and the last sitting days of the parliament this year is November 13-29, so that is the target dates for us to get the campaign over the 10,000 signature line.

We a little over 3,000 hand-written signatures and 90,000 digital signatures on [change.org](http://change.org). Independent MP's and other Council offices' have committed to providing hard copies of the petition at their major events and service centers as well.

In February 2018, we had the NSW Labour Leader, Luke Foley announce his commitment to supporting the campaign and if elected he would fly the Aboriginal flag permanently from the Sydney Harbour bridge. In March we had the Mayor, Councilor Darcy Byrne issue a Mayoral Minute in support of the campaign and their motion commitment is to support in a number of ways too. We also had the likes of Local Independent MP Alex Greenwich, Shadow Minister for Human Services, Linda Burney and Sydney Lord Mayor, Clover Moore all show their support towards the campaign.

Not long after the campaign grew momentum, many companies started to fly the Aboriginal flag in their shop fronts, offices and public areas. Here are a few places who have decided to raise the flag since this campaign –

- The Governor Generals Office.
- Bondi Icebergs.
- Anzac Hill in Alice Springs.
- Quay Bar.

The campaign was also acknowledged by a number of different news networks, broadcasting services, radio including printed publication.

We have come a long way and we still have a long way to go. I believe council supporting this campaign is a great initiative to be a part of, given that it is likely that the initiative will be implemented in time. If your office is happy to assist in obtaining 10,000 before November, I would appreciate any assistance and to raise as much awareness to the campaign as possible.

I hope this is something your office would interested in.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

**Cheree Toka**

Director

PO BOX 156 Petersham NSW 2049

M 0423 903 361



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[www.osgi.com.au](http://www.osgi.com.au) | [www.change.org/bridgeflag](http://www.change.org/bridgeflag)



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## PETITION

### **To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales.**

The Petition of Citizens of Australia.

Brings to the attention of the House that as Australians, we are proud of our Aboriginal heritage and we want to recognise and celebrate this heritage every day.

The flags flying from the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge are wonderful symbols of our heritage and identity. However, the Aboriginal flag does not fly permanently atop of the Sydney Harbour Bridge

The undersigned petitioners therefore ask the Legislative Assembly for a third flag to fly alongside the Australian and the NSW flags – one that acknowledges and celebrates our ancient and authentic Aboriginal culture; the red, black and yellow Aboriginal flag.





THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY  
**CLOVER MOORE**

18 October 2018

Cheree Toka  
By email [cheree.toka@osgi.com.au](mailto:cheree.toka@osgi.com.au)

Dear Cheree

### **Bridge-ing the Gap campaign**

I refer to your email about your petition in support of your Bridge-ing the Gap campaign.

I appreciate your efforts in support of this cause. I have asked City of Sydney staff to contact you directly to discuss ways the City may be able to help. You should hear from them soon.

In the meantime, I wish you all the best with your campaign.

Yours sincerely

Clover Moore  
**Lord Mayor of Sydney**

Sydney Town Hall  
483 George Street Sydney NSW 2000  
Phone 02 9265 9229 Fax 02 9265 9328  
[cmoore@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cmoore@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

**Sustainable  
Sydney 2030**

70% carbon emissions  
reduction by 2030