

Wednesday 4 November 2015





Why change flags?

COUNTRIES or places change their flags for different reasons. Hong Kong changed its flag on 1 July 1997, when the city stopped being a colony of Britain and reunited with China.

New Zealand wants to change its flag because it looks too much like the Australian national emblem. That, at least, is what Prime Minister John Key said when he called for the change in May.



A sensitive subject

FLAGS do not affect everyday life, but they can still be controversial. Most people would want their flag to be representative of their country or city and capture its spirit. But what exactly is 'representative' or 'the spirit' can be difficult to agree on.

Many people could also be emotionally attached to the current flag and be unwilling to change it.

Such modern looking









TO begin with, not many New Zealanders want to change the national flag. There are huge costs involved in the flag picking process – NZ\$26m (HK\$126 million), to be exact.

People are asking whether the money should be put to better use.

Many of the designs submitted cannot be taken seriously either.

"A kiwi shooting a green laser beam from its eyes" or "a stick drawing of a deranged cat raking its garden" simply is not national flag material.

People are not even happy with the four finalists. Some said the fern designs were too similar to each other; others found the arrangement of the leaves on the fern not "botanically correct".





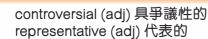


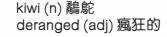




In Hong Kong, we do not call our flag a 'national' flag as that is the People's Republic of China flag. We call ours a 'regional flag' and is "a red flag with a bauhinia highlighted by five star-tipped stamens", as described in the Basic Law.







botanically (adj) 園藝的 bauhinia (n) 洋紫荊

