

Sydney, let's put out more flags

**Paul
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There is something every business in Sydney can do to join the majority of people who want to celebrate Australia Day in appropriate style on January 26. They can look out of their windows and on top of their buildings to find the best spots to fly our national flag.

And if they are already flying the flag, they can check to see if the flags are in colourful pristine condition.

I'm sorry to say that in too many cases around the city you will see tired looking Australian flags that are faded or tatty. Memo to CBD property owners, there is still time to take stock and replace the flags with pristine new ones before January 26.

No flagpole or mast should be without a bright new flag to help celebrate and express pride in our national day.

We know that nearly 70 per cent of Australians want to celebrate Australia Day on January 26. Importantly, support for celebrating Australia Day is growing among our young people.

Business Sydney feels a special connection to Australia's national day. Our heritage as a chamber of commerce can be traced to the earliest days of our city. It was one of the first commercial organisations established in the infant colony of Sydney.

Celebrating Australia Day in style is good for our modern city's commercial life as well. It's another good reason to bring thousands of people into the city to enjoy the spectacle out on the harbour and other attractions around the city.

It's also important for our international visitors to see our

city at its glowing best. Many would be puzzled as they move around the city if they see buildings adorned with flags that are well past their use-by date.

So, it's vital that businesses get ready to fly the Aussie flag.

Unfortunately, there are too many cases where flags on display are limp, faded, tattered or nonexistent.

We are not about to "name-and-shame" buildings that could and should be looking much better.

But time is running out for them to be freshened up with new flags flying from masts and flagpoles for Australia Day.

Sydneysiders and visitors to our wonderful city will appreciate this important contribution to celebrating our national day.

Paul Nicolaou is executive director of Business Sydney