MEDIA RELEASE

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HISTORIC HARBOUR BRIDGE FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Victor Dominello will attend a ceremony today to celebrate the first time the Aboriginal and Australian flags have flown together atop the Sydney Harbour Bridge on Australia Day.

The Australia Day Council of NSW asked that the flags be raised on the Bridge during the WugulOra ceremony, held on the northern forecourt of the Sydney Opera House to commemorate the historic event.

“For both flags to fly together on the Bridge for Australia Day is a significant occasion for the entire community,” Mr Dominello said.

“Congratulations to the Australia Day Council for working with the NSW Government to make this symbolic, but very important ceremony happen.

“This event sends a message to all Australians, and internationally, that the NSW Government recognises the original custodians of this land.

“The Aboriginal flag is a powerful symbol of identity and pride in the Aboriginal culture and it is fitting that it flies alongside the national flag on a day when all people come together to celebrate what it means to be Australian.”

The WugulOra ceremony also symbolises an acknowledgement of country to start Australia Day celebrations across the state.

“The words WugulOra means ‘one mob’ in the Eora language,” Mr Dominello said.

“This ceremony is also a symbol of reconciliation as well as an opportunity for people to reflect on the importance of the Aboriginal culture to all Australians.

“The Aboriginal culture is something uniquely Australian that all Australians should be proud of and, together, celebrate on days like today.”

The Aboriginal flag has flown on the Bridge before – each year during National Reconciliation Week in May and NAIDOC Week in July.

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