



# HERALDRY AUSTRALIA INC.

Celebrating 2007 as the Year of Academic Heraldry  
[www.heraldryaustralia.org](http://www.heraldryaustralia.org)

PO Box 107  
LAWSON NSW 2783

President: Richard d'Apice AM LLB FSAG  
Hon Secretary: Stephen M Szabo JP BA(Syd) FSA Scot

Dear Madam or Sir

In 2002, a State Arms Bill was introduced into the NSW Legislative Council. The Bill was referred to the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Law and Justice. The Committee called for submissions and also held public hearings. The Committee's Report on the Proposed State Arms Bill was published in December 2002 and, *inter alia*, included sixteen recommendations. Recommendations 1 to 12 related directly to the State Arms Bill, which after further discussion, debate, and amendment passed through both Houses of Parliament and came into effect as the *State Arms Symbols and Emblems Act* on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2004.

Since then, the various aspects of the Act have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented by Government departments. The Executive of Heraldry Australia feels that consideration of these recommendations is overdue and that it is time that all political parties and Parliamentarians in NSW give serious consideration to carrying out Recommendations 13 and 14 of the Report. These recommendations are:

## **Recommendation 13**

The Committee recommends that the Premier consult with the Commonwealth Government with a view to promoting favourable consideration of the establishment of a Commonwealth heraldic authority to grant and register arms and to regulate heraldic usage in states and territories in Australia.

## **Recommendation 14**

The Committee recommends that the Premier favourably consider the establishment of a New South Wales heraldic authority to grant and register arms and to regulate heraldic usage in New South Wales, until such a time as any Commonwealth heraldic authority is established.

Australia lacks an heraldic Authority of its own and its sovereign independent status is diminished every  
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time the Government refers enquirers to the College of Arms in London which makes grants of arms in the name of the Queen of Australia without the slightest authority from either the sovereign or the government of Australia.

The implementation of these recommendations is especially important following the recent publication of Anne Twomey's *Chameleon Crown* which leads to the conclusion that, since the Australia Acts 1986, in addition to the sovereign of the Commonwealth of Australia, each of the States has a separate sovereign. Although the style has not been adopted, it seems that our State sovereign is Queen of New South Wales with all of the royal prerogative powers including the power to create a NSW honours system (as has happened in Canada's provinces) and a NSW Heraldic Authority.

Attached is a questionnaire regarding the implementation of Recommendations 13 and 14. It would be appreciated if you could take the time to complete this questionnaire and return it to us so that your position on this matter can be made known to our members. We will convey these views (noting any recipients from whom a response has not been received) to our members, as well as updating our web-site to reflect the views of all parties. Responses can be faxed to 9233 9111, e-mailed to [secretary@heraldryaustralia.org](mailto:secretary@heraldryaustralia.org) or returned to the Honorary Secretary at the above address.

If you are interested in receiving further information, or a briefing, from Heraldry Australia Inc, on this important issue of corporate and personal identity, please contact Stephen Michael Szabo, Honorary Secretary, on 0431 701 055.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Michael Szabo  
Hon. Secretary  
13 March 2007