

A golden sun is centred in the hoist, its sixteen rays symbolising the official regions of New Zealand proper. A wreath of outward-pointing silver fern fronds surrounds the sun, one frond for each ray. The overall effect is that of a large sunburst, attractive for close viewing as well as easily identifiable from a distance. Adding to the ease with which this flag will be recognised are the sixteen red-and-blue stripes of its fly, a first amongst national flags. The traditional New Zealand-style Southern Cross appears atop the stripes, in high-contrast white. Every element will mark this flag as that of New Zealand, near, far, and in any wind.