

《新西兰公投：银蕨星旗落败 将沿用米字国旗》

New Zealanders have voted to keep the same flag they've had for the past 114 years, rejecting the chance for a new design.

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Preliminary results from voting in a referendum to decide if the flag would be changed were in favour of keeping the old design, which is similar to the Australian flag and incorporates the Union Jack.

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The New Zealand Herald reported 2.1 million people voting with the result as 56.6 percent in favour of the same flag and 43.2 percent in favour of a new flag.

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The 18-month process, driven by Prime Minister John Key, cost \$NZ26 million (£11.9million).

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Mr Key said he was disappointed with the outcome, but called for the country to 'rally behind the flag that's been chosen, to go out and use, to wave it and to be proud of it and to celebrate the fact that we've got an amazing country'.

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His government would not return to the issue, the New Zealand Herald reported.

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He also defended the expensive cost of the referendum, saying it had caused healthy debate about nationhood.

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The voter turnout was about 67 percent, with just over 1.2 million voting for the existing flag and more than 915,000 voting for change, Stuff.co.nz reported.

?????Stuff.co.nz????????????????67%????????????????????120????????????????????91.5??

A final result will be announced in about a week's time.

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Last year, a competition was held to design options for a new flag for the country, which New Zealanders voted for.

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A selection committee chose four flags from a vast number of entries, and voting in an earlier referendum selected a black, white, blue and red fern and stars design by Kyle Lockwood.

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It was that flag that was outvoted in the latest referendum.

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The result has brought the end to the first-ever public vote by a country on its national flag.

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