



Guidelines to Display Local Government Election Signs

These Guidelines have been developed to provide local government candidates with information on the appropriate display of election signs in the public realm.

Illegal signs

Section 226(2a) of the *Local Government Act 1999* prohibits the display of an **electoral advertising poster** on a public road. An **electoral advertising poster** means a poster displaying electoral advertising made of—

- (a) corflute; or
- (b) plastic; or
- (c) any other material, or kind of material, prescribed by the regulations.

A **local government election sign** is not defined in the Local Government Act. For the purpose of this Guideline, local government election sign means a moveable election advertisement, notice, or election sign (not made of corflute or plastic, i.e. not an electoral advertising poster) which is intended to affect the result of an election, and which can be moved or removed without causing any damage to the infrastructure or land upon which it is placed or attached. All local government election signs are a type of moveable sign.

Local government election signs (not being an electoral advertising poster) must:

1. only be displayed during the period commencing 4 weeks immediately before the date that has been set for polling day and ending at the close of voting on polling day. Should the local government election sign not be removed within two days (48 hours) of the close of voting they will be considered illegal signs and penalties may apply.
2. be fastened securely so that they cannot become detached in high winds and endanger Council, SAPN or DIT property or equipment or pose a danger to the public.
3. be maintained in a good state of repair and no more than 1 square metre in area.
4. comply with all legislative requirements relating to the publication of 'electoral material' as defined in relevant legislation.
5. be installed, maintained, and removed in a safe manner without endangering personal and community safety.

Local government election signs (not being an electoral advertising poster) must not:

1. be illuminated (internally or indirectly), move, flash, rotate, or reflect so as to be an undue distraction to drivers.
2. be self-adhesive or affixed under any circumstances to trees, shrubs, or other plants or at any location that may cause physical damage to Council, SAPN or DIT property.

3. be placed on a carriageway, dividing strip (median), traffic island, roundabout, or within 50 metres of a signalised intersection, level crossing, roundabout or pedestrian activated crossing.
4. be placed within 6 metres of an intersection or junction, or in any other location that may pose a hazard to pedestrians or road users.
5. be attached to any traffic control device, street name, traffic direction or parking sign or to the associated pole.
6. be placed so as to cover any Council, SAPN or DIT numbering, signs, or other markings, or compete with or reduce the effectiveness of other signs and traffic control devices.
7. be placed so as to restrict the sight distance for road users and pedestrians crossing the road.
8. where signs are fixed or posted on poles adjacent to footpaths or roadways, they are to be no lower than 2 metres and no higher than 3 metres from the ground. They are to have a minimum clearance of 3 metres from any overhead mains.

These Guidelines **do not** extend to infrastructure that is owned by SAPN or DIT on a road. The **SA Power Networks and Department for Infrastructure and Transport General Approval for placement or affixation of local government election signs** sets out the requirements for placement of local government election signs on this infrastructure. Furthermore, Adelaide Metro or the Australian Rail Track Corporation are the relevant authorities to gain permission to display signs on their infrastructure.

Installation, maintenance, removal and disposal of local government election signs

1. installing, maintaining, and removing signs should not occur between 7.00am - 10.00am or between 3.00pm - 7.00pm Monday to Friday on a peak flow traffic lane.
2. whilst there are prescriptive rules relating to the permitted materials for electoral advertising posters, there is no prohibition on fixings made of plastic (such as a cable tie). Fixings made of metal or other conductive material are not permitted.
3. the person responsible for the sign must maintain the sign and ensure that safety is maintained (and the Australian Road Rules complied with) whilst the sign is being installed, maintained, or removed and no traffic disruption is to occur during the installation, maintenance, or removal process.
4. all election signs must be removed within 48 hours from the close of voting.
5. an authorised officer of the Council may remove and dispose of any election material (including electoral advertising posters and election signs) that does not comply with the legislative requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Private land

These Guidelines do not authorise the placement of local government election material on private land or infrastructure without the permission of the private landowner, and dependent on the size¹ of the sign, relevant development approval under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act.

¹ See Clause 1(f) of Schedule 4 to the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017*.