

Summary of requirements for placement of election signs

In summary signs should not:

- compromise public/road safety including in, around or on intersections, roundabouts and traffic islands
- be affixed to trees in the public space or Council facilities such as picnic shelters or traffic signs or signals; or
- impede pedestrian access.

Signage removal after election day

Council requires that election signage not the subject of a current permit or licence be removed within seven (7) days after the election is held.

Vehicle parking

There is a common misconception that parking laws do not apply to election vehicles however there are no vehicle parking relaxations for election related activities. This means for example that all vehicles must be legally parked.

Please note that the display of election signage on vehicles is regulated under state legislation and by Queensland Police Service.

Enforcement

Should an officer determine that election signage or parked vehicles do not comply with the applicable laws then enforcement action may be implemented. Enforcement action can include the removal of signs that are potentially dangerous and such signs may be subject to storage and release fees.

Examples of public health and safety risks on roads and footpaths

Examples (not exhaustive) where an election sign exhibited on a road may be considered to be a safety risk are when it is:

- exhibited on street furniture, guard rail, traffic sign, road sign, parking sign.
- exhibited on machinery, tree, plant or landscaped area or hanging or attached to Council assets within a park or reserve.
- exhibited unsecured on the carriageway of a road. (A carriageway is a sealed section of road between kerbs or unsealed road shoulders).
- exhibited so that it obstructs, or is likely to obstruct pedestrian or bicycle movement on a paved footpath, walkway, bikeway or nature strip.
- positioned in a way that obstructs or hinders access to private premises when exiting a road, or obstructs or hinders access to a road when exiting private premises.
- positioned in a way that does not provide clear sight lines for drivers of vehicles or pedestrians at road junctions, vehicle access ways or pedestrian crossings.
- exhibited in a way that creates a traffic problem or projects over the carriageway or any surface used by motor vehicles.
- not weighted, anchored or affixed so as to ensure stability and avoid falling or blowing into the path of a pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- exhibited in a way that obstructs a pedestrian crossing or a school crossing.

-
- exhibited on a traffic island, median strip or the centre of a roundabout.
 - exhibited at a bus stop or in a school zone in a way that interferes with passengers entering or exiting a bus or another vehicle.
 - rotating, audible, illuminated, or incorporates reflective or fluorescent materials and is likely to cause a distraction to a driver.
 - exhibited within an intersection controlled by traffic lights or within the intersections with one or more major roads which is likely to hinder or obstruct a driver from seeing, reading or understanding official traffic signs.
 - exhibited in a way that the election sign is in close proximity to an official traffic sign which is likely to hinder or obstruct a driver from seeing, reading or understanding the official traffic sign. (Close proximity to an official traffic sign would be considered within 20 metres).
 - any other situation an authorised City of Gold Coast Council officer determines is a risk to road safety or a risk to public health and safety

Other Legislation

Please note that in addition to the above listed Council requirements, candidates have responsibilities under the provisions of other legislation. For example the fixing of election signage to the assets of Energex, which includes power poles, is prohibited under the *Electricity Act 1994*. An excerpt from a letter addressed to Council from Energex, dated 14 January 2016, offers a reminder to candidates as follows:

“Placing signage on power assets without a permit is in breach of the Queensland Electricity Act 1994 and anyone responsible for doing so may receive a fine of up to \$4,400 for each instance.

As well as being illegal, attaching signage to power assets poses a risk to the community and Energex staff. For example someone attaching a signage to a pole may inadvertently make contact with the live assets creating the risk of electric shock or worse.

Furthermore, nails left protruding from power poles are a major hazard for Energex staff who risk suffering serious cuts or becoming “hooked up” while climbing them during daily operations and storms.”

Additionally, as detailed in their Roadside Advertising Guidelines the Department of Transport and Main Roads have requirements applicable to election signage on state controlled roads.