

Election Signs Policy

Meeting Held: 13/12/2000

Meeting Type: Ordinary

POLICY NO: 1.51

1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to provide for an efficient and equitable system to manage election signage in the Shire in relation to local, state and federal government elections.

2.0 Definitions

- 2.1 “**Election Sign**” – means any temporary structure, panel or device upon which any advertisement is placed for a political party or an electoral candidate. Election signs shall not exceed 0.6 square metres in area.
- 2.2 “**Responsible Person**” – means a person who is responsible and accountable for the displaying of election advertising material, whether this be the candidate, a campaign officer or another person.

3.0 General

3.1 Election Signs

- 3.1.1 This policy applies throughout the Shire of Esk.
- 3.1.2 An election sign must not be displayed prior to the announcement of an election date and not later than 8 days following an election.
- 3.1.3 The maximum number of election signs that may be displayed by or on behalf of a candidate in the Shire of Esk is fifty (50)

4.0 Implementation

- 4.1 A responsible person must, before erecting any election signs apply to Council for permission to display election signage and pay an administration fee of fifty dollars (\$50).
- 4.2 A responsible person must, before erecting any election signs, lodge with Council a security deposit in cash or by way of a bond or bank guarantee in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1000) to ensure the removal of all election signs displayed by his or her authority for each election.
- 4.3 The responsible person must provide a Statutory Declaration that all signage has been removed. Council will then refund the security deposit 42 calendar days after the election.
- 4.4 If a responsible person does not remove the election material within 8 days after the election, Council may remove the signs. The responsible person will forfeit the security deposit lodged with Council, or Council will charge the actual cost of removal, with a minimum charge of fifty dollars (\$50).
- 4.5 Any election sign not collected from the Council within 14 days after the day of the election will be destroyed.

5.0 Location

- 5.1 The display of election signs in Esk Shire will be limited to one sign per road frontage of each allotment.
- 5.2 An election sign is to be displayed in a manner so as to be readily removable.
- 5.3 An election sign may only be placed on private property, with the consent of the owner or occupier. Private property includes all areas in and on the property boundaries. The boundary of a property includes on top of and on the outside of a boundary fence.
- 5.4 No election sign may be erected on or over any part of a road or road reserve. Council may remove election signs breaching this provision without advising the responsible person, and charge the actual cost of removal, with a minimum charge of fifty dollars (\$50).

- 5.5** An election sign is to have clearly displayed the name and address of the responsible person. The display of an election sign will remain at the discretion of the owner or occupier of the property on which the sign is located.
- 5.6** An election sign should not detract from the existing road environment. Election signage should be displayed in a manner that ensures an adequate level of safety and amenity for local communities.
- 5.7** On polling day only, there will be greater freedom to display electoral signs at polling locations. This includes State government land where written permission from the State agency is obtained and produced on request.

6.0 Liability

- 6.1** The responsible person is to accept all liability for the election signs. The responsible person is to sign a statement accepting all liability for the signs including responsibility for death and injury.