

Election Signs

Purpose

This information sheet is issued by the Department of Premier and Cabinet's State Planning Office to provide information for election candidates on the planning and other requirements for election signs.

What Are Election Signs?

Election signs are impermanent signs identifying candidates or promoting a political party for local, state or federal government elections.

Do Election Signs Require Planning Permits?

There are regulations relating to the erection and display of election signs. All planning schemes include exemptions from a planning permit for election signs. Candidates should check these requirements prior to erecting and displaying any signage.

Election Signs in Areas Where the Tasmanian Planning Scheme (TPS) Has Taken Effect

Within the local government areas where the TPS has taken effect, election signs can be exempt from planning approval provided that the election signage satisfies the following requirements:

- (a) not encroach on any road or other public land;
- (b) have a maximum area of 1.5m²;
- (c) not be erected more than 8 weeks before the polling date; and
- (d) be removed within 7 days after the polling date.

Election signs beyond the exemption are generally prohibited. However, campaign materials can be displayed on an existing approved sign (e.g., existing billboard) provided that:

- (a) the sign has not changed in dimension, proportion or location; and
- (b) if an illuminated sign, the method of illumination has not changed.

Candidates should seek confirmation from the relevant local council before erecting or displaying election signage.

Election Signs in Areas Still Operating Under the Interim Planning Scheme or Older Schemes

Some local councils are in the progress of transitioning to the TPS but still operating under their Interim Planning Scheme and older planning schemes such as *the Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme 1997* and *Flinders Planning Scheme 2000*. There are options for exemption provided that the election signs meet the requirements under those planning schemes. Some local councils provide information on their websites such as:

Hobart City Council: https://www.hobartcity.com.au/files/assets/public/policies-before-09.19/election_signage.pdf

Kingborough Council: <https://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/development/planning-forms/electoral-signs>

Huon Valley Council: <https://www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/council/council-elections/information-for-candidates/electoral-signs>

Candidates should contact the local councils for the details of requirements for election signage.

What About Mobile Election Signs?

Mobile election signs (e.g., signs on parked trailers, stickers/signs on parked cars) are generally not regulated by the planning system, but may be subject to requirements under council by-laws or other requirements. Candidates should contact the local councils for the requirements of mobile election signage.

Where Can Election Signs Be Erected and Displayed?

Election signs are generally allowed to be displayed on private land but may be prohibited on public land.

- Most local council by-laws prohibit election signs on council owned or managed land (including streets and footpaths) unless authorised. Penalties apply. Candidates should contact local council for advice.

There are other regulations that may apply restrictions for signs on public land such as:

- [Section 46 \(2\) of Crown Lands Act 1976](#) – Signs are prohibited on Crown land except having authority or consent of the Minister.
- [Section 109\(1\) of Electricity Supply Industry Act 1995](#) – Signs on power poles are prohibited except with authority approval. Penalties apply.
- [Section 78 of Traffic Act 1925](#) - Electronic billboards on public street or public place are prohibited except in limited circumstances. Penalties apply.
- Department of State Growth – [Tasmanian Roadside Signs Manual](#) (Part G.3) – election signs are prohibited within State and local government roads.

The [Australian Electoral Commission](#) and the [Tasmanian Electoral Commission](#) also produce information for candidates with advice regarding election signs.

Election Signs at Places Listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register (THR)

Election signs to be erected and displayed at places listed on the THR may require approvals. Candidates should contact Heritage Tasmania on 1300 850 332 for advice.

Other Things to Consider

When placing an election sign, it is wise to make sure that:

- permission has been obtained from property owner before placing the sign;
- the sign is properly supported and maintained to not create potential safety hazards;
- the sign will not project over footpaths or property boundaries; and
- the sign will not obstruct any road safety signage.

Where can I get more information?

Any enquiries on the specific placement of your election sign please contact your local council.

[Council Maps and Contacts](#)

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