



IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL

# Election Signage

## WHAT IS AN ELECTION SIGN?

An Election Sign is defined in Schedule 2 Part 2 of Ipswich City Council Local Law No. 3 (Commercial Licensing) 2013 as:

- a) a device advertising a political candidate or candidates, or a purported political candidate or candidates, a registered political party, or a campaign for a Commonwealth, State or Local Government election; or
- b) a device advertising a case for or against a question or bill that is to be submitted to electors at a referendum or other poll that is administered by the State or Commonwealth electoral commission.

## WHERE CAN AN ELECTION SIGN BE PLACED?

### Council Controlled Areas

Election signage is not permitted in Council controlled areas such as parks or reserves unless it is on an approved advertising device.

### Private Property

Election signs are most commonly displayed on the private property of supporters and volunteers (with their consent). This also requires a permit from Council. Standard conditions of a permit to erect or display election signage include:

- a) the sign must –
  - i) be structurally sound;
  - ii) not obstruct or distract traffic in an unsafe manner;
  - iii) not unreasonably obstruct views;
  - iv) not have a detrimental effect on amenity;
- v) not be erected on any road, park or reserve or land under the control of the local government except on an approved advertising device;
- vi) not detract from the streetscape of the locality where it is erected;
- vii) not flash, revolve or involve the production of sound or smell;
- viii) not distract motorist's or pedestrian's view of traffic;
- ix) not protrude in a manner that could interfere with the access of pedestrians or that could damage vehicles;
- x) be constructed of quality materials which are able to be maintained in a neat, clean and tidy manner at all times;
- xi) in the case of an election, not be erected until an election has been called and the writ has been issued (in the case of State or Commonwealth elections), or a notice of election has been published (in the case of local government elections);
- xii) in the case of a referendum or poll, not be erected before the writ for the referendum is issued or, in the case of a poll, before a date determined by the local government.

For further information contact

Ipswich City Council

Phone: (07) 3810 6666

[www.ipswich.qld.gov.au](http://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au)

## Peaceful Assembly

*The Peaceful Assembly Act 1992* effectively provides an exception to Councils Local Law 3 by allowing display of a device for the purposes of advertising as part of a peaceful assembly that is visible from a road or other public place and is constructed in a manner which would allow the device to be readily removed or relocated; however a person must be in attendance with such a device whilst it is being displayed. This applies at all times, not just election periods. A sign displayed under this exception should not represent a distraction to drivers, impede visibility, or pose a risk to public safety.

## Election Signage on Vehicles

Council does not generally regulate election signs on vehicles. However, regulation exists in the event a vehicle is illegally parked, has unlawfully entered a Council controlled area or road, or represents a hazard to motorists or pedestrians.

## HOW DO I OBTAIN A PERMIT TO DISPLAY ELECTION SIGNS?

To obtain a permit complete the application form which is available on Council's website:

[www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/about\\_council/elections](http://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/about_council/elections)

and pay a refundable bond.

The bond will be refunded upon notification by the applicant that all election signs were removed within 14 days of the date of the election and following confirmation by Council's authorised persons. For each election sign that is not removed by a candidate, the sum of \$50.00 will be forfeited to Council from the bond amount deposited.

## ARE THERE PENALTIES FOR NOT COMPLYING WITH COUNCIL'S REQUIREMENTS?

Penalty Infringement Notices may be issued for offences against Council's Local Laws. In addition, Council may remove any election signage which is not covered by a permit or where it poses a risk to health, safety or property, a loss of amenity, or harm or nuisance to the environment.