

1.14 Placement of Temporary Election Signage

Objective

To establish the conditions within which Election Signage is permitted.

Definitions

Candidate means a person declared as a candidate in an election for a position representing any part of the District of East Pilbara for the Council of the Shire of East Pilbara, or the State or Commonwealth Parliament, their agents, authorised representatives or endorsing political party.

Election Day means the day on which the polls close.

Election Signage means any temporary static sign properly authorised as election material under the relevant electoral law promoting a candidate for election, or other political message.

Road Authority means the agency, organisation, or person in control of a road and its Road Reserve.

Road Reserve means the land on either side of a road, reserved for road purposes and defined by the Shire of East Pilbara Local Planning Scheme No. 4.

Policy

The Shire of East Pilbara recognises the right of all Australians to the freedom of political expression and notes the limits set by this policy on the use of Election Signage are determined to be in the public interest to protect public safety, minimise disruption to the public, and prevent impacts on the natural and built environment, and do not seek to fetter political expression.

1. Approval Requirements

Election Signage may only be displayed during the officially declared election period – from the day the writs for the election are issued through until the close of the polls on election day. Election Signage must be removed within the following ten (10) days after Election Day.

Election Signage may be placed within the Road Reserve under the control of the Shire provided it meets the conditions listed in Section 2 of this policy.

Election Signage placed within the Road Reserve under the control of Main Roads WA or other Road Authority must meet the requirements of the policy of Main Roads WA or other Road Authority and is not subject to this policy. Interested parties should seek further details from Main Roads WA or the responsible Road Authority.

Election Signage may not be placed on private property without the consent of the owner.

There is no requirement to obtain approval from the Shire for the use of Election Signage provided it meets the conditions set out in this policy.

2. Placement Conditions

Election Signage must not obstruct pedestrian pathways, roadways, or impair the visibility of traffic signs, signals, or intersections.

Election Signage may not be placed:

- on a carriageway, dividing strip, traffic island, or roundabout.
- on verges adjacent to private property without the consent of the owner of the property.
- on buildings, trees, poles, or infrastructure, including any street signs, traffic direction signs, or parking signs.

Election Signage must be placed at least 1.5 metres from the edge of a road or pathway and not within road reserves with speed limits exceeding 80 km/h.

Election Signage is not permitted on buildings, facilities, or structures under the control of the Shire.

Election Signage must not be placed in environmentally sensitive areas or adversely impact upon the natural or built environment. Damage to vegetation in public places for the purpose of erecting temporary election signage is prohibited. This includes affixing election signage to trees.

Election Signage that cannot meet these conditions requires development approval.

This policy does not apply in the case of the use of a billboard for which development approval is in place.

3. Sign Specifications

The maximum size for Election Signage is 1.5 square metres in area, with a maximum height of 1.2 metres above natural ground level, and a maximum vertical or horizontal dimension of 1.2 metres.

Election Signage must be:

- Freestanding and securely installed without the use of star pickets.
- Made of durable, weather-resistant materials capable of withstanding storms intact.
- Non-illuminated, static displays without reflective, fluorescent, or adhesive properties.
- Not obstruct road users' views of carriageways, pathways, or access points.
- Be constructed to minimise risks if struck by a vehicle.

Signs must clearly display the name and address of the person authorising the electoral material in accordance with the relevant electoral law.

4. Maintenance and Removal

Candidates are responsible for maintaining their signage in good condition. Damaged or fallen signs must be promptly repaired or removed.

All Election Signage must be removed within the ten (10) days following Election Day.

The Shire reserves the right to remove and dispose of any Election Signage that poses a risk to public safety, breaches this policy, or remains after the removal deadline.

Costs incurred by the Shire for removing non-compliant Election Signage may be recovered from the responsible Candidate.

6. Enforcement and Penalties

The Shire may issue infringement notices for breaches of this policy in accordance with the *Public Places*

and Local Government Property Local Law 2011.

7. Complaints

Objections to the placement of election material may be made to the Shire, which will be assessed against the conditions of this policy.

Complaints by Candidates and reports of suspected breaches of this policy may be made in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, who is authorised to assess such reports and determine where a breach of the policy has occurred, and the appropriate remedy.

Authorisation Details

References:	<i>Local Government Act 1995 (WA)</i> <i>Electoral Act 1907 (WA)</i> <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (Cth)</i> <i>Public Places and Local Government Property Local Law 2011</i> <i>Shire of East Pilbara Local Planning Scheme No. 4</i>		
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