



Election Signage Policy

Policy Owner Risk and Governance Unit

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Please check Council's Intranet to ensure this is the latest Revision

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PURPOSE

This policy outlines Mitchell Shire Council's position on election signage in the Shire and how it will respond to election signage erected on Council owned land and in places that may cause a risk to the community.

The policy statements can also be used to guide prospective election candidates on promotional signage.

OVERVIEW

This policy has been developed to inform election candidates and Mitchell Shire Council's staff that as landowner, Council does not allow any form of election advertising on any land owned and/or managed by Council.

This position has been taken to ensure there is no perception of bias or of providing an unfair competitive advantage to individuals or political parties.

It is the intent of this policy for Council to remain impartial during the conduct of any election that affects residents within the Mitchell Shire.

SCOPE

Candidates and political parties contesting State, Federal or Local Government elections that fall within the municipality boundaries of the Mitchell Shire Council Local Government Area.

POLICY

1. Council wishes to remain impartial during the conduct of any election that affects residents within the Mitchell Shire.
2. Council prohibits election signage being erected on Council land that promotes individual candidates or parties in any election that affects residents within Mitchell Shire.
3. Signage shall not be permitted to be erected within:
 - Council's owned and managed parks, reserves and facilities;
 - Council owned and leased buildings;
 - dividing strip (median strips traffic islands, roundabouts);
 - within 10 metres of an intersection or junction, or in any other location that may pose a hazard to pedestrians or road users;

- on trees, shrubs or plants;
 - on street signs, traffic control signs, parking signs;
 - any place that causes sight obstructions.
4. Council reserves the right to request the immediate removal of any election signage that are considered unacceptable or in an unsuitable location.
 5. Any election signage promoting individual candidates or parties erected on Council owned and managed land will be removed without notification to the owner of the sign.
 6. Breaches of this policy will result in an infringement notice and fine being issued to individual candidates and/or parties.
 7. This policy position does not stop individual candidates or parties from erecting electioneering signage on other private land not owned or managed by Council.
 8. All electioneering signage must be removed within 14 days of the election being held. Failure to do so will result in removal by Council at a cost to the individual candidates and/or parties.

DEFINITIONS

The “election period” for the 2016 Council general elections commences on Wednesday 21 September 2016 and ceases at 6.00pm on Election Day, Saturday 22 October 2016.

The “election period” also known as the caretaker period for the 2016 Federal Government elections, begins at the time the House of Representatives is dissolved and continues until the election result is clear or, if there is a change of government, until the new government is appointed.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Risk and Governance Unit
- Community Compliance

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- *Community and Environment 2013 Local Law – Local Law No.1*
- *Local Government Act 1989*

REVIEW

This policy is reviewed every four years or within six months of a Local Government General Election.