

Election Information Fact Sheet

18 July 2024

Election signage

This document provides important information if you wish to display an election sign within the City of Moreton Bay. You may be:

- a candidate for a local, state or federal election;
- a property owner who wishes to display these signs on your land; or
- a volunteer who wants to supervise these signs on public land.

Council regulates the display of elections signs on public land, private land and council and state roads via its Local Laws.

What is an election sign?

An election sign is a sign or poster that is able, or is intended, to:

- influence a person about voting at a government election or referendum; or
- affect the result of any government election or referendum.

Requirements for all election signs

When can election signs be displayed?

An election sign may only be displayed:

- up to 6 weeks prior to the polling day for the election; and
- up to 1 week after the polling day for the election.

How many election signs can be displayed?

The maximum number of election signs that may be displayed within the city at any one time is set out in the following table:

Who does the election sign promote?	Max signs
A division 1-10 local government candidate	60
A division 11-12 local government candidate	120
A state government candidate	120
A federal government candidate	200
A mayoral candidate	300
Promoting a referendum outcome	300

Other requirements for display

An election sign may only be displayed if it is:

- made of corrugated plastic;
- at least 3mm thick;
- not illuminated or reflective;
- not made up of any electronic or moving parts;
- maintained in a good state of repair at all times;
- covered by a public liability insurance policy for an amount not less than \$20,000,000 per occurrence; and
- rectangular, with its lowest-edge parallel to the ground.

Election signage on public land

What size?

Election signs on public land must be 600mm x 900mm.

How must election signs be displayed?

An election sign may only be displayed if:

- the sign is displayed in an A-frame;
- the sign is placed at least 3-metres from any other election sign;
- no more than 3 election signs will be displayed within a 9-metre radius;
- the sign is perpendicular to any adjacent road;
- the sign is not obstructing pedestrian traffic; and
- a person aged 17 or over is supervising the sign (a person can only supervise a maximum of 3 elections signs).

Election Signage on Private Land

What size?

Election signs displayed on private land must either be

- 600mm x 900mm or
- 900mm x 1200mm.

How must election signs be displayed?

An election sign may only be displayed if:

- the sign is no higher than 2.5 metres above ground level;
- no more than 2 election signs will be displayed on the land (a double-sided sign which is not an A-frame will constitute 2 election signs)
- the sign will be displayed at least 2-metres from any other election sign; and
- the owner or occupier of the land consents to the display.

Display location

Election signs must be displayed outside of:

- a clear zone
- a device restriction area.

Clear zones

Where an election sign is displayed on a footpath or nature strip, the clear zone is the setback area from the road edge:

- If the adjacent road has a speed limit of 80km/h or less - 3 meters; and
- If the adjacent road has a speed limit of more than 80km/h - 6 meters.

Device restriction areas

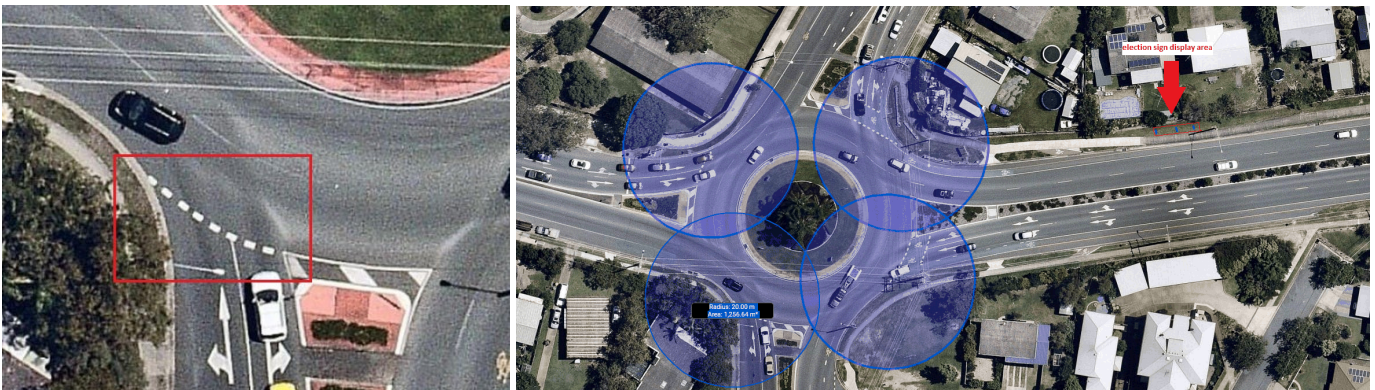
Election signs must not be displayed within 20 metres of a device restriction area, being:

- roundabouts;
- school zones;
- cross-intersections and T-intersections;
- railway level crossings;
- pedestrian crossings;
- traffic signs requiring a driver to stop, give way, change speed, change direction or change lane; and
- bus stops.

Roundabouts

The device restriction area for roundabouts should be measured from the point where one road ends and the other road begins.

This is often a dotted-line where cars stop before entering a roundabout (see inside the red rectangle below).



The device restriction area should be measured from that part of the line which is the closest to the side of the road on which the sign will be displayed (so that people can safely access that point to carry out their measuring).

In this case, election signage would not be able to be displayed within the areas highlighted by the blue circles. Election signage could be lawfully displayed in the area identified by the red arrow.

School zones

A 'school zone' generally refers to a length of road between a school zone sign and an end school zone sign (or a speed limit sign with a different number on the sign) but only during the times when a lower speed limit applies to a driver in that school zone.

By way of example, the length of road between the signs depicted in the two images below constitute a "school zone" between 7-9am and 2-4pm on school days.



The 20-metre device restriction area around a school zone should be measured from any part of the roadside which is adjacent to the school zone.

For example, in this case, the device restriction area around the school zone is identified by the blue rectangle.

Pedestrian crossings

A pedestrian crossing refers to an area of road marked or signed in a way which indicates that pedestrians may cross there.

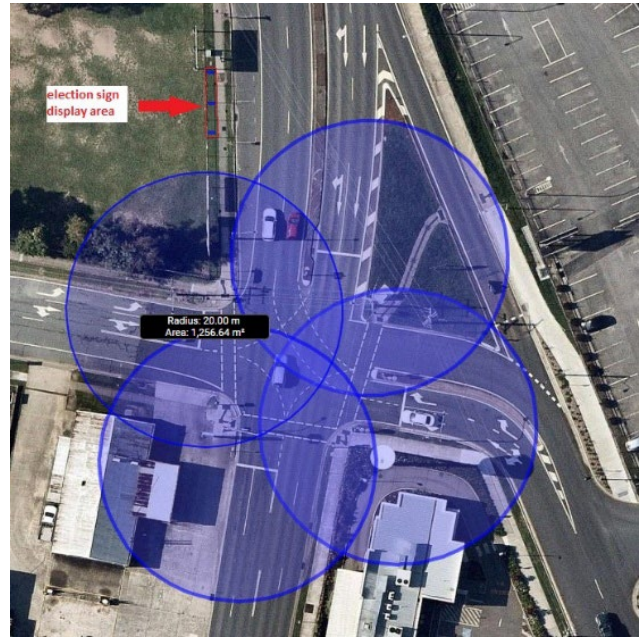
The device restriction area around a pedestrian crossing should be measured from any part of the pedestrian crossing (in the same way the device restriction area is measured for school zones).

Cross and T-intersections

The device restriction area for cross-intersections and t-intersections should be measured from the point where cars must stop at the intersection (see inside the red rectangle below).

The device restriction area should be measured from that part of the line which is the closest to the side of the road on which the sign will be displayed (so that candidates can safely carry out their measuring).

For example, the device restriction area around the intersection has been outlined below in the blue circles. Election signage could be lawfully displayed in the area identified by the red arrow.

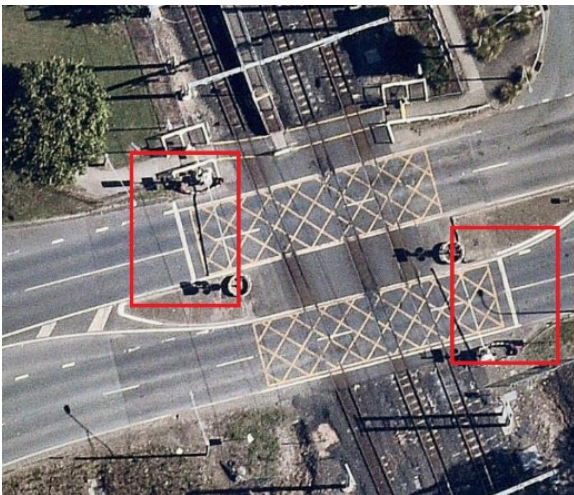


Railway level crossings

The device restriction area for railway level crossings should be measured from the point where cars are required to stop (see inside the red rectangle below).

The device restriction area should be measured from that part of the line which is the closest to the side of the road on which the sign will be displayed (so that candidates can safely carry out their measuring).

For example, the device restriction area around this railway level crossing is outlined in the blue circles.



Bus stops and traffic signs which require a driver to stop; give way; or change speed, direction or lane

The following image contains an example of a sign requiring a driver to give way. The device restriction area for these signs should be measured from the sign location.

For example, the device restriction area around the give way sign would be the area outlined in blue. Similarly, bus stops are indicated by signs on a nature strip. The device restriction area for bus stops should be measured from these signs.



Signs at Polling Booths

Public land

- there is no minimum separation distance between election signs;
- more than 3 signs promoting a candidate can be displayed;
- signs do not need to be displayed in A-frames;
- signs cannot be placed to obstruct a sign that has already been placed at the booth;
- the sign is no higher than 2.5-metres above ground level; and
- all general requirements for display apply.

Private land

- there is no minimum separation distance between election signs;
- more than 2 signs promoting a candidate can be displayed;
- signs do not need to be displayed in A-frames;
- signs cannot be placed to obstruct a sign that has already been placed at the booth;
- the sign is no higher than 2.5-metres above ground level; and
- all general requirements for display apply.

Footpaths and nature strips adjacent to polling booths

- there is no minimum separation distance between election signs;
- no more than 3 election signs promoting a candidate can be displayed per frontage/entrance of the polling booth;
- the sign must be displayed in an A-frame;
- signs cannot be placed to obstruct a sign that has already been placed at the booth;
- all general requirements for display apply.

Listening Posts and Small Gatherings

Listening posts and small gatherings on local government controlled public land are permitted providing the following criteria can be met:

- does not incorporate any commercial purpose.
- has no more than 50 attendees at any given time.
- up to 2 marquees where each marquee does not exceed 3 meters x 6 meters in size.
- does not require vehicle access to public land, other than public car parks.
- does not require access to Council's electricity or water supply.
- Any election sign must comply with the Election Signs Local Law 2019.
- Does not pose a risk to public health or safety.

Where the activity on Council controlled public land exceeds this criteria, an approval is required.

What would constitute an offence under Council's local laws?

It is an offence to:

- Display an election sign in a manner which does not comply with the local law;
- Conduct a listening post or small gathering which does not comply with the local law.
- wave an election sign at vehicles or to distract motorists;
- threaten, insult, mislead or abuse an authorised person;
- fail to give your name and address to an authorised person when properly requested; and/or
- fail to comply with the conditions of an exceptional circumstances' approval (if you have one);
- mislead, give false or misleading information to an authorised person.

Council Enforcement

If you commit an offence, Council may:

- provide a verbal warning and/or direction:
 - generally, this is where an officer will request that you take a remedial action immediately or in an advised timeframe;
- seize and impound election signs:
 - if your signs are impounded you will have 15 business days to pay the prescribed fee to recover your signs, otherwise those signs will be disposed of by council;
- issue you with a fine or prosecute persons:
 - In relation to the display of signs, Council may fine or prosecute:
 - a person supervising the sign;
 - the owner or occupier of the private land on which the sign is being displayed; or
 - the person being promoted on the sign.

For more information

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