

Election Sign Policy



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Version:	Version 1
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Service Unit	Community Health and Safety
Directorate:	Community Planning & Development
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1. Purpose

During a federal, state or local election it is commonplace for candidates to seek to erect elections signs throughout their proposed electorate to highlight themselves, their policies and their party.

To reduce the possibility of indiscriminate erection or placement of signs on Council owned or controlled land, the Election Sign Policy (Policy) strives to provide the ability for all candidates to utilise Council owned or controlled land in a fair, equitable and controlled manner through a permit-based system.

2. Definitions

Council owned or controlled land	Means all land: a) owned, leased, managed or occupied by Council; or b) vested in, or under the control and management of Council.
A-frame	A free-standing sign usually dual facing contained within a manufactured frame.
Corflute sign	A single-sided sign often made of corflute material that can be attached to fences or structures.

3. Scope

This Policy is directed towards all candidates irrespective of political party or beliefs and provides the ability for all candidates to utilise Council owned and controlled land in the same manner.

This Policy does not in any way impede the electoral process or the freedom of political communication.

This Policy details the size, number, location, minimum fixing requirements and types of signs permitted on Council owned and controlled land, and details when a sign can be placed and removed in relation to the election date.

4. Types of Electoral Signage

There are several types of common temporary electoral signage available, however, only two types of election signage will be allowed to be placed upon Council owned or controlled land or assets:

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- A-frames
- Corflute type signs

The maximum allowable sizes for these signs are:

- A-frame signs - maximum dimension of 1,200mm x 900 mm
- Corflute type signs - maximum size of 1,200mm x 900mm

All other forms of election signage are prohibited on Council owned or controlled land.

5. Sign Locations

Signs will only be approved on naturestrips on roads where the posted speed limit is 60 kmph or less.

Signs will not be approved on the following roads:

- The Avenue of Honour, Bacchus Marsh
- Main Street in Bacchus Marsh adjacent to any retail premises
- Grant Street in Bacchus Marsh adjacent to any retail premises
- Gisborne Road in Bacchus Marsh adjacent to any retail premises
- Inglis Street in Ballan adjacent to any retail premises

Signs will not be approved:

- Within 200m of a school
- Within 200m of a sign from the same candidate
- Where they impede pedestrian or vehicle access

Election signage:

- Will generally not be approved on footpaths
- Must be placed at least 400mm in from any kerb
- Must be at least 1,800mm away from the property boundary
- Must not be placed on boundary fences of Council owned or controlled recreation reserves or parks
- Must not be placed within Council owned or controlled recreation reserves or parks

6. Sign Fixing

Signs must be placed in a way that they are secured and do not become a hazard due to wind or vehicle accident. An A-frame sign cannot be affixed to a Council asset (including fences and poles) by padlock chain or any other physical means.

An A-frame sign must be suitably weighted to ensure that they do not become a hazard in windy conditions. For example, an A-frame sign can be secured by utilising a sand bag attached to the sign. A corflute-type sign can only be attached to approved fences using a method that ensures

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that the sign does not become a hazard during windy conditions. For example, a corflute signs can be attached using zip ties at each corner.

A corflute sign must not be:

- Attached to any poles or other Council asset or any asset within a road reserve
- Attached to a stake and place within the ground

7. Number of Signs

Within in the whole of Moorabool Shire each candidate or political party can only erect a maximum of 10 corflute signs and 10 A-frame signs. Of these signs, a maximum of five corflute and five A-frame signs can be erected in the Bacchus Marsh urban area or the Ballan urban area.

8. When can Signs be Erected/Installed

Signs will only be permitted to be installed or erected within the period of four weeks prior to the date of the election day and must be removed within 24 hours of the completion of the election day.

9. Permit Process

Prior to installing or placing any election signs, a permit to install the signs must be sought and approved. To apply for a permit, full details of the location, size and fixing method for all signs must be provided to Council.

Council will process the application in 10 business days if all information is provided. Applying for a permit does not mean that a permit will be issued.

There are no fees attached to the permit process.

10. Non-Compliance

If signs are installed or placed contrary to a permit condition or without a permit, the signs will be removed. If after the initial removal further signs are placed or installed without a permit, signs will also be removed and any sign permit issued will be withdrawn immediately and all signs removed.

Signs that are removed will be available for collection from Council once any applicable impounding and storage fees are paid.

Signs that are not collected within one month after the date of the election may be disposed of by Council.

11. Areas Where This Policy Does Not Apply

This Policy does not apply on:

- Privately owned and controlled land

- Victorian Government owned land including parks and reserves (outside of Council control)
- Federal Government owned land (outside of Council control)
- Land under the control of Victorian state agencies and/or authorities e.g. land used by Victoria rail authorities
- Land owned or controlled by water authorities
- Victorian Government roads where Council does not have a maintenance responsibility

12. Related Legislation

There are several legislative controls that allow Council to control the placement of items upon land either owned or under its control, being:

- Property rights
- *Moorabool Community Local Law 2019*
- *Environmental Protection Act 2017*
- *Road Management Act 2004*

13. Council Plan Reference

This Policy is not specifically detailed within the Council Plan.

14. Review

As a minimum this policy will be reviewed every four years.

15. Approval

This Policy will come in effect once signed by the CEO.



Derek Madden
Chief Executive Officer

27 September 2022