

FACT SHEET

Election Signs

Election signs are prohibited on motorways, freeways or roads of similar standard. Election signs are limited to non-rotating, non-illuminated formats and are permitted within the boundaries of other state-controlled roads. Local governments may impose additional requirements on election signs through local laws or town planning provisions.

Where a local law or town planning provision specifically excludes state-controlled roads, the intention is for the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) to adopt similar conditions as local government to ensure consistency across the electoral region. However, where local government election sign provisions are considered to raise safety or efficiency problems on a state-controlled road, more stringent requirements may be applied.

Mareeba Shire Council regulates election signs to **ensure they are safe and compliment the locality**. It is the signage owners' responsibility to comply with Council's requirements.

Election signs must not:

- distract road users
- obstruct a vehicle driver's clear line of vision or obstruct pedestrian or vehicle movement
- block existing official traffic and road signs
- otherwise cause a hazard to road users.

Candidates are not permitted to construct temporary shelters, marquees, umbrellas or any other structures on state or local government-controlled roads.

Display period

The sign must:

- not be erected or displayed until the election has been officially announced
- be removed within 14 days of the election polling day



Too close to the road.



Affixed to a road sign.



Non-compliant signs may be removed.

Construction

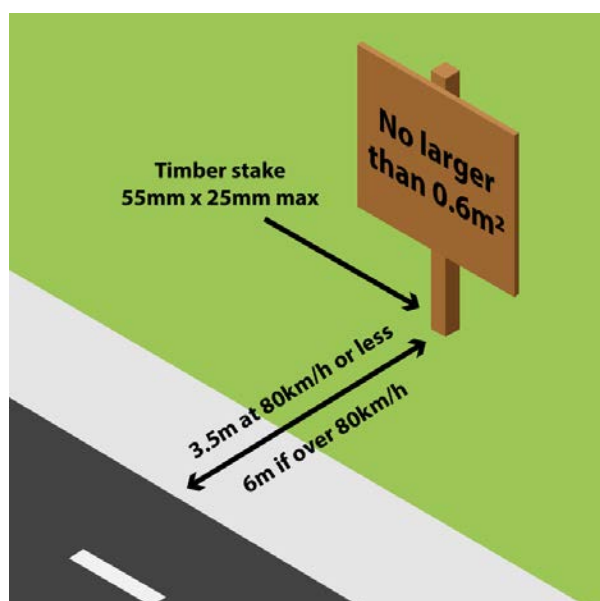
The sign must:

- be no larger than 0.6m²
- be easily broken
- have a timber stake or frame that is easily broken with a maximum cross-section measurement of 55mm x 25mm
- be securely attached
- not rotate, be illuminated, or contain moving images
- not use reflective or fluorescent materials
- not resemble a traffic control device.
- be **structurally sound and safe**;
- be **maintained in good order** and repair

Location

The sign must:

- be located at least 3.5m away from the edge of the nearest traffic lane on roads where the speed limit is 80km/h or less
- be located at least 6m away from the edge of the nearest traffic lane on roads where the speed limit is more than 80km/h
- not distract motorists, restrict driver sight or distances on intersection approaches, or obscure road traffic signs or otherwise affect safety
- not be located on centre medians or roundabouts
- not be attached to trailers or vehicles parked for the purpose of displaying election signs.
- not be located on a motorway, freeway or similar road.



Placement

The sign must:

- be located as close as possible to the property boundary
- not be attached to trees, vegetation, or local government or state government infrastructure such as road and traffic signs, guardrails, light or power poles
- not hold up the flow of traffic,

- not hang over the road or interfere with road operation (this includes a person holding or waving an election sign)
- not obstruct pedestrians and cyclists
- not exist in prolific number along a property boundary.
- Election signs shall be located next to, and parallel to, the property alignment.
- No portion of an election sign shall project over the carriageway or any surface used by motor vehicles.
- not be located to form a background to a road or road-related area when viewed from any direction

Compliance actions

The DTMR can take compliance action if an election sign creates road safety or traffic efficiency problems on a state-controlled road.

Where election signs do not meet the above criteria, DTMR and/or Mareeba Shire Council may:

- remove the sign without notice
- contact the candidate and request that the sign is removed and relocated to a compliant location

DTMR and Council do not permit election signs mounted upon vehicles and trailers for the sole purpose of election advertising as it may present a road safety risk.

The electoral candidate holds liability for any claims arising from the placement of election signs.

References

- *Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2018*
- *Roadside Advertising Manual, Transport and Main Roads, September 2019*
- <https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/safety/signs/election-signs>