



Electoral Signage Policy

POLICY OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the requirements in relation to the placement of election signage within the Goulburn Mulwaree Local Government Area (LGA) during Federal, State and Local Government elections.

Political advertising on Council owned, controlled or managed land or infrastructure is prohibited. This allows Council to remain impartial during election campaigns and ensures that all candidates and political parties have equal opportunity to display election signage.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

Electoral Act 2017

Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (Cth)

Local Government Act 1993

Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912

Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021

State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008

State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021

POLICY STATEMENT

This Policy applies to the placement, erection and display of election and/or referenda signs and signage erected in the LGA for any Federal, State or Local Government election or referenda.

This Policy outlines Council's intention to implement the requirements of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 (SEPP)*, *State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021* and other relevant legislative provisions.

The specifications regarding placement and display of election signage which are stated in the SEPP are not replicated in this Policy. Details of the specifications for election signage should be obtained directly from the SEPP.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy:

- Candidate - a person who has nominated for election
- Registered political party – a body or organisation that promotes endorsed candidate/s for election and is registered with the respective electoral commission
- Public land/space – Council owned, controlled or managed land or infrastructure including:
 - telephone/power poles
 - trees, shrubs or plants
 - street signs, traffic control signs or parking signs
 - footpath areas
 - parks and nature reserves
 - any structures within a road reserve
 - median strips, traffic islands or roundabouts
 - any place that causes a sight obstruction or hazard/danger to the public.

Enforcement and Compliance

In addition to the requirements of the SEPP and in accordance with Council's Enforcement Policy, the following are points of clarification and interpretation:

- Election signage must not be attached to a heritage item.
- Election signage must only be displayed for eight weeks preceding election day.
- Election signage must only be displayed for one week following election day.
- Election signage must not be displayed on a trailer parked on a road or road-related area.
- Election signage must not be displayed on a trailer parked on land other than a road or road related area, but visible from a road or road-related area, without development consent.
- Development consent is required to be sought for signage on private property in excess of 0.8m² in area.
- Where signage is to be placed on a corner block or lots with multiple frontages, Council will allow one sign per candidate/political party per frontage, not more than 0.8m² in area.
- No signage is permitted on public land/space, property and or infrastructure.
- Signage will be immediately removed in circumstances where sight obstruction or hazard/danger to the public exists.
- Where Council can validate a non-compliance with the SEPP and/or this Policy, Council will issue a single warning to the candidate and their associated political party, if applicable.
- Following the single warning, Council will require that the sign be removed within an appropriate timeframe as determined by the Business Manager Environment & Health. Decision as to the appropriate timeframe will be subject to:
 - Risk to public or property
 - Traffic obstruction/impediment
 - Repeated non-compliances

Regardless of the above, a maximum of 24 hours will be given to facilitate compliance.

- If an election sign/s is impounded the candidate or an authorised representative of the associated political party must retrieve the sign/s within 7 days. Candidates and/or political parties that fail to retrieve the sign/s within this timeframe may be subject to a penalty infringement notice for development without consent in accordance with the EPA Act 1979 and associated disposal costs to the Goulburn Waste Management Centre.
- Where Council determines that the proliferation of a number and/or density of signage may cause a safety risk to the public, Council will use its discretion to remove the signage.

Related Documents

Council's Enforcement Policy

NSW Transport Corridor Outdoor Advertising and Signage Guidelines

Version	Council Meeting Date	Resolution	Adoption Date	Effective From
1	31 January 2023	2023/8	31 January 2023	31 January 2023
All policies can be reviewed or revoked by resolution of Council at anytime.				

DIRECTORATE: Planning & Environment

BUSINESS UNIT: Environment & Health