

ELECTION SIGNS

What is an Election sign?

An Election sign is a temporary advertising device that advertises a candidate and/or political party at a local, state or federal government election.

An advertising device that is an Election sign can also be considered another type of advertising device. For example, where an Election sign is attached to a fence, it will also be considered a Fence sign and it will need to comply with the requirements in Part 4 of *Local Law No. 4 (Advertising Devices) 2019* for each type of device.



How are Election signs regulated?

Council regulates Election signs on private property, Council roadsides, and State Controlled Roads with a speed limit of less than 80km/h.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads regulates election advertising on State Controlled Roads with a speed limit of 80km or greater. Visit the department's website for more information.

Can Election signs be installed without a permit?

For Election signs that are regulated by Cairns Regional Council, Part 4 of *Local Law No. 4* contains the requirements for where an Election sign can be installed without a permit. The advertising device will also have to comply with all of the

requirements for any other type of sign, where it is considered to be multiple types of advertising devices (e.g. an Election sign that is also a Billboard sign). If the Election sign does not comply with the requirements in Part 4 of *Local Law No. 4 (Advertising Devices) 2019*, the Election sign will require a permit from Council.

Where the advertising device is only considered an Election sign, it can be displayed without a permit in the following circumstances:

- The sign is not fixed to any tree, lighting standard, power pole or other infrastructure on any local government-controlled area;
- The sign does not obscure an official traffic sign;
- The sign can only be erected once an election has been announced;
- Up until the date of the election, the sign must be separated from other Election signs by a minimum of 5 metres. On election day, there is no minimum separation provided the Election sign does not obstruct pedestrian or other traffic;
- The sign will be removed within 7 days of the election being held;
- The sign is not located on a Place of significance;
- The sign is located on the verge of a local government road only and is not within a carriage way or easement, on a footpath, driveway, roundabout or median strip;
- The sign must be temporarily removed and securely stored for the duration of a cyclone watch or warning for the district the device is located within;

- The sign does not exceed a total size of 0.6m²;
- The sign is constructed from non-reflective, durable and waterproof material;
- The sign is not externally illuminated; and
- The sign is maintained to its installed standard at all times.

Is a permit required to display my Election sign?

If the advertising device does not comply with the requirements in Part 4 of *Local Law No. 4 (Advertising Devices) 2019*, you will need to make an application for a permit to display the sign.

Election signs are not prohibited; however certain types of advertising devices are prohibited. The Election sign cannot be displayed on another type of advertising device that is prohibited. Prohibited advertising devices are identified in Part 3 of *Local Law No. 4 (Advertising Devices) 2019*.

How do I apply for a permit?

If your Election sign requires a permit, this will need to be obtained before you erect, display or install the device. Timeframe for assessing the application can take a minimum of 30 days for a fully completed application.

To apply for an Advertising Device permit under Council's Local Laws, you must:

- Complete the [Advertising Device permit application form](#) and return to one of Council's Customer Service Centres or emailed to regadmin@cairns.qld.gov.au;
- If the advertising device is located on or over a Local Government footpath or road, provide a copy of current Public Liability Insurance to the value of \$20 million noting Cairns Regional Council as an interested party;

- Provide all additional supporting documentation as per the directions on the application form related to your specific type of advertising device/s; and
- Pay the application fee.

Permit conditions

If an application for an advertising device is approved, the permit will be given subject to conditions. Conditions will determine how and when the advertising device can be used. Conditions for an election sign may include, but are not limited to:

- Being securely fixed so as not to endanger public safety.
- Being placed so as not to create visual clutter.
- Being removed not later than the day after the day that the permit lapses.

Conditions that must be or may imposed on a permit are identified in Part 2 of *Local Law No. 4*.

Council will remove an Election sign that is not displayed in accordance with permit conditions, does not comply with the requirements in Part 4, or is considered to pose a risk to safety.

What are the permit application fees?

A permit application fee is required for the assessment, inspection and approval of Council issued permits. Please refer to the *Application Fees* section within the Advertising Device permit application form.

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