

# Election signs Fact Sheet



## Purpose

This fact sheet is issued by the State Planning Office to provide information to election candidates on rules for election signs.

## What are election signs?

Election signs are temporary signs identifying candidates or political parties for local, state or federal government elections.

## Do election signs require planning permits?

All planning schemes include exemptions from a planning permit for election signs. Candidates should check these requirements prior to erecting and displaying any signage.

## Election signs under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme (TPS)

In the local government areas where the TPS is working, election signs can be exempt from a planning permit if the election signage:

- does not intrude on any road or other public land
- has a maximum area of 1.5m<sup>2</sup>
- is not in place more than 8 weeks before the polling date, and
- is removed within 7 days after election.

Election signs that cannot meet these rules are generally prohibited. However, election advertisements can be displayed on an existing, approved sign like a billboard if:

- the sign has not changed in dimension, proportion or location; and
- if lit, the method of lighting has not changed.

Candidates should seek confirmation from the relevant local council before erecting or displaying election signage.

## Election signs in the Kingborough Municipality

Kingborough Council continues to operate under an interim planning scheme and provides the following information regarding exemptions:

<https://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/development/planning-forms/electoral-signs/>

Candidates should contact Kingborough council for the details.

## What about mobile election signs?

Mobile election signs like signs on parked trailers or stickers/signs on parked cars are generally not regulated by the planning system. The Department of State Growth does not allow election campaign advertising or political signs on roads that are part of the State Road Network. This includes trailer-mounted signs left in the State road reservation. Transport Services provides the following information about election signs:

[https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/road\\_permits/election-and-political-advertising-on-state-roads](https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/road_permits/election-and-political-advertising-on-state-roads)

There may also be Council by-laws that apply. Candidates should contact the local councils for the requirements for mobile election signage on council owned roads.

## Where can election signs be displayed?

Election signs can generally be displayed on private land, but may be prohibited on public land. Most council by-laws prohibit election signs on council owned or managed land (including streets and footpaths), unless authorised. Penalties apply. Candidates should contact local council for advice.

The Department of State Growth does not allow election signs on roads that are part of the State Road Network. Transport Services provides the following information about election signs:

[https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/road\\_permits/election-and-political-advertising-on-state-roads](https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/road_permits/election-and-political-advertising-on-state-roads)

Table 1 provides a summary of other regulations that may apply restrictions for signs on public land or infrastructure.

### Summary of other regulations for signs on public land or infrastructure

Location	Status	Source
Crown Land	must have authority or consent of the Minister	Section 46 (2) of <a href="#">Crown Lands Act 1976</a>
Power poles	must have authority consent	Section 109(1) of <a href="#">Electricity Supply Industry Act 1995</a>
Electronic billboards on public streets or places	prohibited except in limited circumstances	Section 78 of <a href="#">Traffic Act 1925</a>
State and local government roads	prohibited	<a href="#">Tasmanian Roadside Signs Manual</a> (Part G.3)

The [Australian Electoral Commission](#) and the [Tasmanian Electoral Commission](#) also produce information for candidates with advice regarding election signs.

## **Election signs at places listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register (THR)**

Election signs at places listed on the THR may require approvals. Candidates should contact Heritage Tasmania at [enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au) or 1300 850 332 for advice.

### **Other things to consider**

When placing an election sign, make sure that:

- you have property owner permission before placing the sign,
- it will not project over footpaths or property boundaries,
- the sign will not obstruct any road safety signage, and
- the sign is securely installed and will not create a safety hazard.

### **Where can I get more information?**

Any enquiries on the specific placement of your election sign please contact your local [council](#).

For general enquiries regarding the Signs Code in the TPS, contact:

State Planning Office

[spo@stateplanning.tas.gov.au](mailto:spo@stateplanning.tas.gov.au)

1300 703 977

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