

Election signage

Council regulates the display of certain advertising devices on public and private land via its Local Laws. This includes election signage.

This document provides important information if you wish to display an election sign within the Moreton Bay Region. You may be:

- a candidate for a local, state or federal election;
- a property owner who wishes to display these signs on your land; or
- a volunteer who wants to supervise these signs on public land.

What is an election sign?

For the purpose of this factsheet, an election sign is generally a temporary corflute sign or poster that is able, or is intended, to:

- influence a person about voting at a government election or referendum; or
- affect the result of any government election or referendum.

When can election signs be displayed?

- You can display an election sign for up to **6 weeks** prior to the polling day for the election; and
- You can display an election sign for up to **1 week** after the polling day for the election.

How many election signs can be displayed?

The maximum number of election signs that may be displayed at any one time is set out in the following table:

Who does the election sign promote?	Max. signs
A division 1-10 local government candidate	60
A division 11-12 local government candidate	120
A state government candidate	120
A federal government candidate	200
A mayoral candidate	300

What size can election signs be?

Election signs displayed on public land must be 600mm x 900mm.

Election signs displayed on private land must either be 600mm x 900 high **or** 900mm x 1200mm.

Where can't election signs be displayed?

Election signs must **not** be displayed within:

- 3 metres of a road with a speed limit of 80km/h or less; or
- 6 metres of a road with a speed limit of more than 80km/h.

Election signs must not be displayed within 20 metres of:

- roundabouts;
- school zones;
- cross-intersections and T-intersections;
- railway level crossings;
- pedestrian crossings;
- traffic signs requiring a driver to stop, give way, change speed, change direction or change lane; and
- bus stops.

For information on how to calculate this 20-metre distance, see Appendix 1.

How must election signs be displayed?

An election sign may only be displayed if it is:

- made of corrugated plastic;
- at least 3mm thick;
- not illuminated or reflective;
- not made up of electronic or moving parts;
- maintained in a good state of repair always;
- covered by a public liability insurance policy for at least \$20million per occurrence; and
- rectangular, with the lowest edge of the sign being parallel to the ground.

On private land, election signs may only be displayed if:

- it's no more than 2.5 metres above ground-level;
- no more than 2 election signs will be displayed on that land (unless the election sign is double-sided, in which case only 1 is allowed);
- it's at least 2 metres away from any other election sign; and
- the owner or occupier consents to the display.

On public land, an election sign may only be displayed if:

- it's displayed in an A-frame;
- it's at least 3 metres away from any other election sign;
- no more than 3 election signs are within a 9m radius;
- it's perpendicular to any adjacent road;
- it's not obstructing pedestrian traffic; and
- a person aged 17+ is supervising the sign (note: a person must be within 10 metres of the signs and can only supervise up to 3 signs).

What exceptions apply to polling booths?

For polling booths on private land:

- there is no minimum separation distance between election signs;
- more than 2 signs promoting a candidate can be displayed on that land;
- BUT signs cannot be placed to obstruct a sign that has already been placed at the booth; and
- all other rules still apply.

For polling booths on public land:

- there is no minimum separation distance between election signs;
- more than 3 signs promoting a candidate can be displayed on that land (or within a 9m radius);
- election signs do not need to be displayed in A-frames;
- BUT signs cannot be placed to obstruct a sign that has already been placed at the booth; and
- all other rules apply.

For nature strips adjacent to polling booths:

- there is no minimum separation distance between election signs;
- up to 3 election signs promoting a candidate can be displayed per frontage/entrance of the polling booth;
- BUT signs cannot be placed to obstruct a sign that has already been placed at the booth;
- all other rules apply.

What if you want to display election signs in a way that doesn't comply with the rules?

You can make an 'exceptional circumstances' application (www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au for details).

However, these applications will only be approved if you can demonstrate that an exceptional circumstance exists justifying the display.

What would constitute an offence?

It is an offence to:

- display an election sign in a manner which does not comply with the rules;
- wave an election sign at vehicles or to distract motorists;
- threaten, insult, mislead or abuse an authorised person;
- fail to give your name and address to an authorised person when properly requested; and/or
- fail to comply with the conditions of an exceptional circumstances approval (if you have one).

If you commit an offence, council may:

- verbally warn you;
- seize and impound your signs;
- issue you with a fine; and/or
- prosecute you in the Magistrates Court.

If your signs are impounded you will have 15 business days to pay the prescribed fee to get your signs back, otherwise those signs may be disposed of by council.

Who will be prosecuted or fined for an offence?

Council may prosecute and/or fine the following persons for the offence of failing to display a sign in accordance with the rules:

- a person supervising the sign;
- the owner or occupier of the property on which the sign is being displayed; or
- the person being promoted on the sign.

For other offences (e.g. waving election signs at vehicles) council may prosecute and/or fine the person committing the offence.

What if you need more information?

Visit council's website

www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/Services/Reports-Policies/Local-Laws

Alternatively, contact at

mbrc@moretonbay.qld.gov.au or call 3205 0555

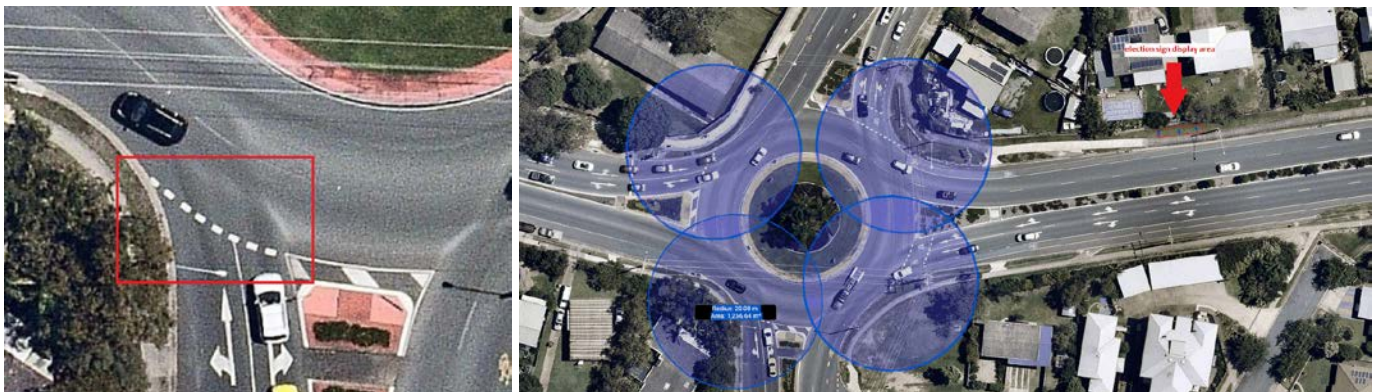
Appendix 1 - How to calculate the 'device restriction area'

Election signs must **not** be displayed within 20 metres of roundabouts; school zones; cross-intersections; railway level crossings; T-intersections; pedestrian crossings; traffic signs requiring a driver to stop, give way, change speed, change direction or change lane; and bus stops. This 20-metre buffer zone is called the 'device restriction area'.

Roundabouts

The device restriction area for roundabouts should be measured from the point where one road ends and the other road begins. This is often a dotted-line where cars stop before entering a roundabout (see inside the red rectangle below).

The device restriction area should be measured from that part of the line which is the closest to the side of the road on which the sign will be displayed (so that people can safely access that point to carry out their measuring). In this case, election signage would not be able to be displayed within the areas highlighted by the blue circles. Election signage could be lawfully displayed in the area identified by the red arrow.



School Zones

A 'school zone' generally refers to a length of road between a school zone sign and an end school zone sign (or a speed limit sign with a different number on the sign) but only during the times when a lower speed limit applies to a driver in that school zone. By way of example, the length of road between the signs depicted in the two images below constitute a "school zone" between 7-9am and 2-4pm on school days. The 20-metre device restriction area around a school zone should be measured from any part of the roadside which is adjacent to the school zone. For example, in this case, the device restriction area around the school zone is identified by the blue rectangle.

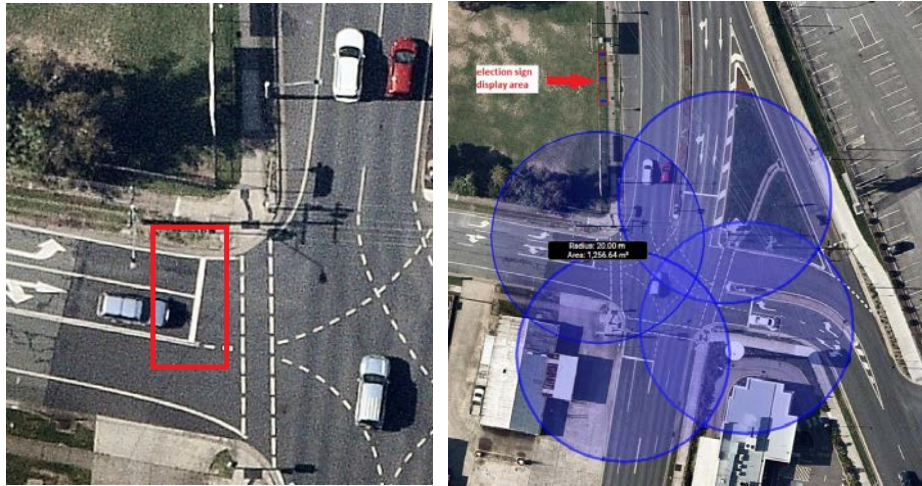


Pedestrian Crossings

A pedestrian crossing refers to an area of road marked or signed in a way which indicates that pedestrians may cross there. The device restriction area around a pedestrian crossing should be measured from any part of the roadside which is adjacent to the pedestrian crossing (in the same way the device restriction area is measured for school zones).

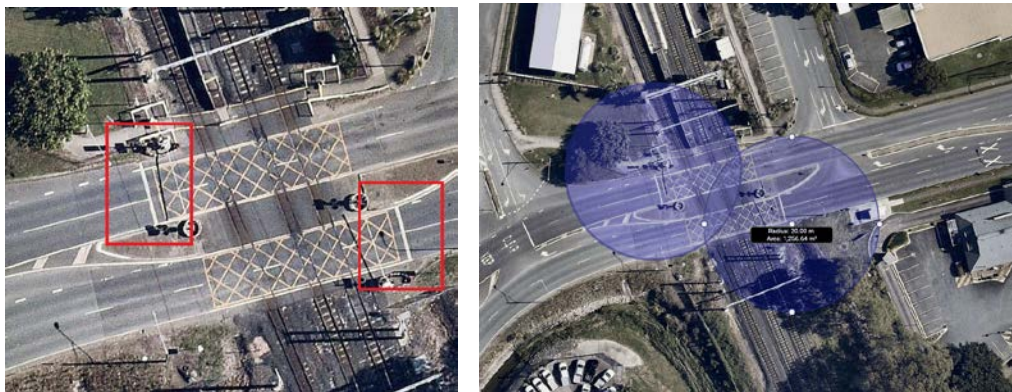
Cross & T-intersections

The device restriction area for cross-intersections and t-intersections should be measured from the point where cars must stop at the intersection (see inside the red rectangle below). The device restriction area should be measured from that part of the line which is the closest to the side of the road on which the sign will be displayed (so that candidates can safely carry out their measuring). For example, the device restriction area around the intersection has been outlined below in the blue circles. Election signage could be lawfully displayed in the area identified by the red arrow.



Railway Level Crossings

The device restriction area for railway level crossings should be measured from the point where cars are required to stop (see inside the red rectangle below). The device restriction area should be measured from that part of the line which is the closest to the side of the road on which the sign will be displayed (so that candidates can safely carry out their measuring). For example, the device restriction area around this railway level crossing is outlined in the blue circles.



Bus stops and traffic signs which require a driver to stop; give way; or change speed, direction or lane

The following image contains an example of a sign requiring a driver to give way. The device restriction area for these signs should be measured from the sign location. For example, the device restriction area around the give way sign would be the area outlined in blue. Similarly, bus stops are indicated by signs on a nature strip. The device restriction area for bus stops should be measured from these signs

