

Election Signs Fact Sheet

15 February 2024

Council regulates the display of elections signs on local government controlled public land (including Council roads) and private land via its Local Laws.

Election signs displayed on state-controlled roads must meet the specific criteria set by the State Department of Transport and Main Roads. Refer to www.qld.gov.au/transport/safety/signs/election-signs for further information relating the display of election signs on state-controlled roads.

This document provides important information if you wish to display an election sign on local government controlled public land (including Council roads) and private land within the City of Moreton Bay. 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?

An election sign is a 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.

Requirements for all election signs

When can election signs be displayed?

An election sign may only be displayed:

- up to 6 weeks prior to the polling day for the election; and
- 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
Promoting a referendum outcome	300

General requirements for display

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 any electronic or moving parts;
- maintained in a good state of repair at all times;
- covered by a public liability insurance policy for an amount not less than \$20,000,000 per occurrence; and
- rectangular, with its lowest-edge parallel to the ground.

Device Restriction Areas

Election signs must not be displayed within 20 metres of a device restriction area, being:

- 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.

Election Signage on Public Land

What size?

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

Where can't election signs be displayed?

Election signs must not be displayed on a nature strip within a clear zone. A clear zone is the area 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.

How must election signs be displayed?

An election sign may only be displayed if:

- the sign is displayed in an A-frame;
- the sign is placed at least 3-metres from any other election sign;
- no more than 3 election signs will be displayed within a 9-metre radius;
- the sign is perpendicular to any adjacent road;
- the sign is not obstructing pedestrian traffic; and
- a person aged 17 or over is supervising the sign (a person can only supervise a maximum of 3 elections signs).

Election Signage on Private Land

What size?

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

How must election signs be displayed?

An election sign may only be displayed if it is:

- the sign is no higher than 2.5 metres above ground level;
- no more than 2 election signs will be displayed on that land (a double-sided sign which is not an A-frame will constitute 2 election signs)
- the sign will be displayed at least 2-metres from any other election sign; and
- the owner or occupier of the land consents to the display.

Polling Booths

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 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 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.

Council Enforcement

What would constitute an offence?

It is an offence to:

- display an election sign in a manner which does not comply with the Local Law;
- 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 private land 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 want to display election signs in a way that doesn't comply with the rules?

Contact council for an: Exceptional circumstances for election signs - Installation of advertising devices under the Local Law application

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

What if you need more information?

Visit council's website www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/Services/Reports-Policies/Local-Laws

Alternatively, contact at council@moretonbay.qld.gov.au or call 3205 0555

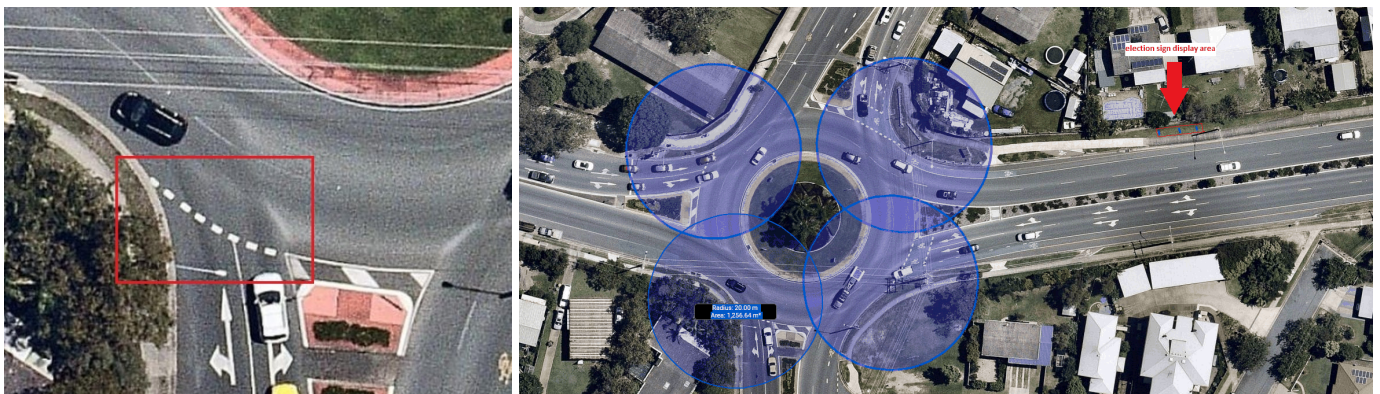
Appendix 1 - How to calculate the 'device restriction area'

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.

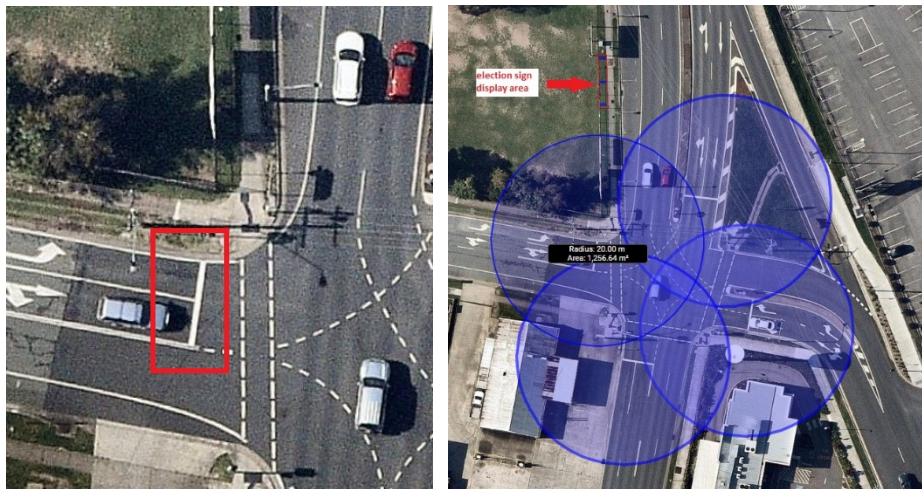


Pedestrian Crossings

A pedestrian crossing refers to an area of road marked or signed in a way which indicates that pedestrians may cross there. 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 pedestrian crossing (in the same way the device restriction area is measured for school zones).

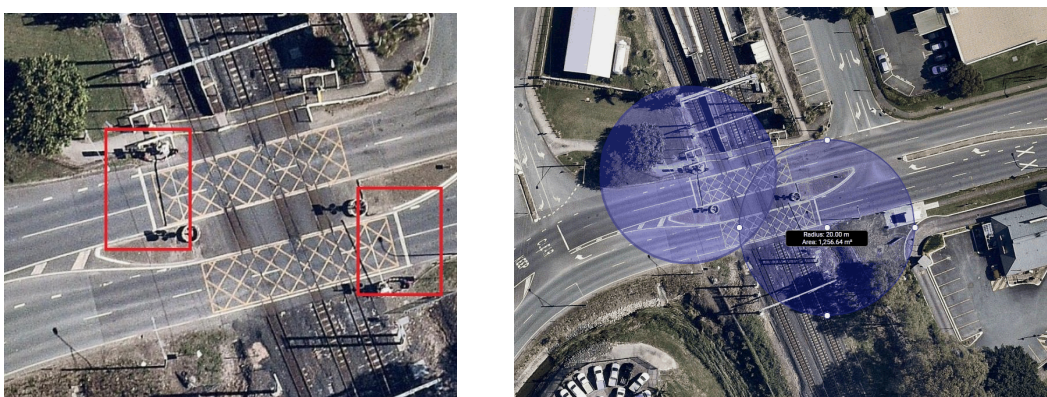
Cross & T-intersections

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.



For more information

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