

Election Activities and Signage

Fact Sheet for displaying Political signs in Yarra Ranges Council

Yarra Ranges Council supports election campaign activities and acknowledges the rights to freedom of expression, as set out in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*. All candidates are entitled to a fair opportunity to conduct their election campaign within the Municipal district. However, these rights must be balanced against the need for Council to ensure that election signs do not unduly compromise public amenity or safety.

The following conditions apply to the placing of electoral signage in accordance with Council's *Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2020* (clauses 4.9 (a) and *Council's Election Period Policy*, the *Environment Protection Act 2017* and the *Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme* (clause 52.05).

Election activities allowed without a permit

Signs on Private Property

Election signs erected on a private property **do not** require a planning permit under the following conditions:

- You have consent from the owner/occupier
- One sign only
- No bigger than 5 square meters
- Not to be animated or internally lit
- Signs must not be displayed for more than 3 months
- Must not be displayed longer than 14 days after the election date
- Can include information about the candidate

Signs permitted **ONLY** on the day of election

A permit does not apply to any authorised sign which is placed out on the day of the election for the sole purpose of advertising the location of a voting centre providing they are;

- Limited to 1.8m in height and 1.4m in width
- Must not be attached to a tree, power pole, Council fixture, road signs, or anything under the management of Council

Advertising boards placed on vehicles and trailers in transit

- Is allowed if the sign does not unreasonably restrict the use of the road, or endanger the safety of members of the public

Pamphlet or flyer distribution

- A permit does not apply to placing electoral material in resident's letterboxes

Door knocking

- A permit does not apply if visiting residents and business premises

Election activities requiring a council permit

Promotional Stalls

- A person must not, without a permit, exhibit, allow to be exhibited or place out for exhibition: an A-Frame sign, merchandise or furniture on any road or in any public place.

Signs on Public Land

- A person must not, without a permit, in or on any road or public place, place out electoral signage

Permit requirements

- A permit is required for all A-Frame signs or furniture on Council land - Local Laws will only approve a permit for an A-Frame sign or furniture on a footpath outside a premise
- Public place does NOT include Vic Roads land
- A-Frame signs must not exceed 1.2 metres in height or 0.75 metres in width
- A roadside electoral advertising board must not exceed 1.8M x 1.4M
- Promotional equipment, signage and furniture must be positioned so that it complies with the *Disability and Discrimination Act* and Council's *Streets and Roadside Trading Policy*
- Public liability insurance is required for any activity on Council land whereby Council is covered with principal's indemnity for a minimum of \$10 million.
- Have a photo of the location ready to attach.

When selecting roadside sign locations, please consider the following:

- The sign is to be located a minimum of 9 metres (rural type roads, high speed) or 3 metres (urban roads) from the edge of the road.
- Signs should not create obstructions for motorists. This includes obstructions to existing traffic signs.
- The sign posts must adequately support the sign and be collapsible if hit by an errant vehicle.
- Signs will not be permitted to be erected within or at the intersections of a roundabout. School zones are also not recommended and may not be supported.

Applying for a Council Permit?

- Any application for a Local Law permit to place signage or furniture on a road or Council land will be considered using the same criteria outlined in the Streets and Roadside Trading Policy.
- An application fee of \$205 will be charged per sign
- [Apply online for an Electoral Signage Permit Yarra Ranges Council](#)
- [Apply online for a footpath trading permit Yarra Ranges Council](#)

Election activities not allowed (penalties may apply)

Bill Posting

- No signs can be affixed to any fixed structure without the consent from the owner, occupier, or manager of the structure. Fixed structures can include: light posts, traffic posts, bus stops etc
- Placing loose flyers under car windscreen wipers

Signs placed on Council structures

- Approval will NOT be given to place signs on a Council fixture, assets, trees, or anything under the management of Council.

Advertising Signs placed on vehicles and/or trailers on Council controlled land

- Advertising on a vehicle and/or trailer in a park, garden, reserve, nature strip or road-related area

Elections signs on arterial roads and freeways

Signs placed on Vic Roads land and/or assets

All electoral signage that is placed within the road reserve of an arterial road or freeway requires the prior written consent from the Head of Transport for Victoria.

Non-compliance with regulations

Both the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme and the *Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law* provide for penalties for any breaches detected by Authorised Officers

Impounding signs/furniture

Local Laws Officers can impound any sign displayed in a public place without a permit or not complying with the conditions of a permit.

Retrieving Impounded signs/furniture

Cost of retrieval of a confiscated sign or furniture is \$60 per sign, payment and collection can be arranged at Lilydale Civic Centre – 15 Anderson Street, Lilydale 3140. Please contact customer service on 1300 368 333 to discuss your requirements.

Reporting electoral activities

How do I report signs on Council land and/or Council assets?

- Please contact Yarra Ranges Council on 1300 368 333 or via email at mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Where do I report signs on Arterial Road and Freeways?

- For concerns with signage placement on Arterial roads and road reserve land contact the Department of Transport enquiry line on 13 11 70 or online www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/traffic-and-road-use/report-a-road-issue

Complaints about elections?

Yarra Ranges Council can respond to issues regarding signage placement but issues of compliance with the Electoral Act relating to electoral signage or communications should be raised with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC).

The AEC's website enquiry/complaint facility has information and provides an online form where suspected breaches may be submitted for investigation.

Online Information:

www.aec.gov.au/About_AEC/complaints.htm

Online Form:

formupload.aec.gov.au/Form?FormId=breach

Mail: Enquiry Facility, Legal Services Branch
AEC National Office
Locked Bag 4007
Canberra ACT 2601