

GUIDELINES FOR THE PLACEMENT OF SIGNS - ELECTORAL

GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL – COUNCIL ELECTION, 26 OCTOBER 2024

The following guidelines are provided for the placement of electoral signs within the Greater Shepparton City Council.

WHERE SIGNS CAN BE PLACED

PRIVATE LAND

Electoral signs can be placed on or affixed to private property provided the property owner's permission is obtained and the following requirements are observed:

- A sign with an advertisement area not exceeding 5 square metres publicising a local educational, cultural, political, religious, social or recreational event not held for commercial purposes.
- Only one sign per candidate may be displayed on the land, it must not be an animated or internally-illuminated sign.
- The electoral sign must not be displayed longer than 3 months or more than 14 days after the election (9 November 2024), whichever is sooner.
- A sign publicising a local political event may include information about a candidate for an election.

Where an existing sign is in place. An existing promotion sign such as an electronic major promotion sign could be used to display the signage.

This is on the basis the signage has a planning permit and/or existing use rights. It is recommended you check with the Building, Planning and Compliance Department prior to displaying the signage to confirm.

Signs not compliant with these requirements are subject to a planning permit.

MOBILE SIGNAGE

Signage on vehicles, trailers and/or caravans are allowed subject to compliance with the Road Management Act 2004, road safety rules and regulations. The parking of vehicles with political signage must comply with all road rules and regulations including any applicable time limit for the area.

WHERE SIGNS CANNOT BE PLACED

COUNCIL LAND/RESERVES/ROADS/PROPERTY

Electoral signs are not permitted on roads, on municipal buildings, bushland or recreation reserves or Council land, including trees and any structures such as bus shelters, and light poles within road reserves.

No electoral signs, apart from simple directional signage, is able to be displayed in the common public areas of a Council facility being hired.

Definitions are overleaf, however in general terms no electoral advertising is permitted on roads, footpaths, parkland (reserves) or Council property (buildings).

The following conditions apply to the placing of electoral signage and distribution of electoral material in accordance with Greater Shepparton City Council's Local Law No.1 – Community Living 2018 (Clauses 3.6, 4.3, 4.5, 11.2 and 11.3) and Election Period Policy, the Environment Protection Act 2017 (Litter Section), the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme and Council's General Signage (including Electoral Advertising) On Council Road Reserves and Land Policy.

The Environment Protection Act 2017 (Litter section) prohibits the placing of any form of advertising on the windscreens of vehicles anywhere (public or private land) Banners, flags are also prohibited and are not to be attached to any fixtures located on any of the roads or reserves as in (1).

No distribution of handbills is permitted without a permit.

A person must not, without a permit, give out or distribute to by-standers to passers-by on any road or Council land, any handbills, placards, notices, advertisements, books, papers or pamphlets.

AUTHORISATION OF ELECTORAL MATERIAL

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) provides guidance on authorisation requirements for electoral communications that relate to a council election. Refer to the Electoral Advertising and Campaign Material guide issued by the VEC for further information.

REMOVAL OF SIGNS

Candidates are encouraged to comply with the above guidelines, as any electoral sign placed in a manner contrary to legislation or Council's local law will be impounded by Council Authorised Officers without reference to the candidate.

Release fees and infringement notices may also be applied.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Local Laws on 5832 9730.

GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL'S LOCAL LAW NO.1 – COMMUNITY LIVING 2018

DEFINITIONS:

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| any Council Land | “Council Land” means any land, owned or vested in, or under the control or management of the Council excluding a Road, but including a municipal reserve or other reservation, watercourse, foreshore reserve, jetty, pontoon or boat ramp, and includes any structures, artworks, public decorations or other public displays erected upon or situated at these places including any waterway. |
| any Road | “Road” means, a street, road, highway, lane, bridge, thoroughfare or other place open to or used by the public for passage with vehicles, and includes every public car-park, bus shelter, carriageway, footpath, traffic island, street, gutter, drain and nature strip, and includes a mall but does not include a private road, right of way, passage or driveway which is not open to the public. |
| any Reserve | “Reserve” means any land, water, waterway or water course either owned by or vested in, or under the control and management of the Council, and used or set aside as a reserve, whether for outdoor cultural, environmental, recreational or other purposes, including any artworks, public decorations, other public displays and any structures other than a building, erected upon or situated at these places including any waterway, but excludes a Road. |
| any Council Asset | “Council Asset” means any building, structure, fixture, road, channel, drain, vehicle crossing or infrastructure or other physical asset owned, leased, managed or controlled by Council and includes any Council asset described in clause 3.7. |

RELEVANT CLAUSES TO COMMUNITY LIVING 2018 LOCAL LAW

3.6 Storage of Private Property on Roads

A person must not, without a permit, store or abandon any chattels, plant, equipment, wood or vehicles on any part of a road or public place (2 penalty units).

3.7 Damage to Council Land

A person must not, without a permit, or otherwise in accordance with this Local Law, deface, damage, remove or interfere with any Council asset, including

- (a) trees, shrubs or other vegetation;
- (b) waste and recycling receptacles;
- (c) signs and their supporting structures;
- (d) drains and culverts;
- (e) road guide posts;
- (f) parking meters or similar devices;
- (g) fences and gates;
- (h) buildings;
- (i) monuments;
- (j) garden beds;
- (k) water or power supply systems;
- (l) security devices;
- (m) footpaths, kerbing and channels;
- (n) water features;
- (o) public art or art works on public display; or
- (p) Council property not belonging to any defined class.

4.3 Display on Council Land

A person must not, without a permit, place or cause to be placed on a road or Council land any structure, sign, table, chair or goods for display (2 penalty units).

4.5 Distribution of Handbills

A person must not, without a permit, give out or distribute to by-standers or passers-by on any road or Council land, any handbills, placards, notices, advertisements, books, papers or pamphlets (2 penalty units).

11.2 Powers of Authorised Officers

An authorised officer, on becoming aware of a situation or activity which breaches this Local Law or may be reasonably suspected to breach this Local Law, may:

- (a) give a verbal or written direction to do such things as are necessary to remedy that situation and/or cease the activity;
- (b) issue a Notice to Comply;
- (c) issue an infringement notice; and/or
- (d) commence a prosecution.

11.3 Directive powers

A person who fails to comply with a verbal or written direction by an authorised officer to remedy a situation or cease an activity which is contrary to this Local Law is guilty of an offence (2 penalty units).