

Electoral Signage Requirements

Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Glenorchy

Election signs are subject to the provisions of C1.0 Signs Code of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Glenorchy. Council planning schemes outline any restrictions on the size of signs, the earliest signs can be displayed without a permit, and when they must come down. As planning schemes are currently variable between council areas, please check with your Council as to what applies.

The definition of an election sign under C1.3 of the Code is as follows:

Election Sign - means an impermanent sign identifying candidates or promoting a political party for local, state, or federal government elections.

A sign listed in Table C1.4 is exempted from requiring a planning permit provided it complies with the relevant requirements. To meet the exemption an election sign must:

- (a) not encroach on any road or other public land;
- (b) have a maximum area of 1.5m²;
- (c) not be erected more than 8 weeks before the polling date; and
- (d) be removed within 7 days after the polling date.

The Code does not provide an assessment pathway for election signs that do not meet this exemption. Therefore, all election signs must meet the terms of the exemption, or are prohibited from being placed, displayed, or erected within the municipality.

The number of election signs placed, displayed, or erected at any given location should not detract from the amenity of the streetscape by creating visual clutter or repetition of message.

Signs should also not have an unreasonable effect on the safety, appearance, or efficiency of a road by creating driver distraction. It is recommended that fewer more effective signs are placed, displayed, or erected at each location with careful consideration given to the site and surrounds, and the size and scale of the building or fence(s) in proximity to or upon which the election signs would be placed, displayed or erected.

Further requirements regarding the placement of electoral campaign materials can be found in the “Information for Candidates” handbook which is published by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission:

https://www.tec.tas.gov.au/local-government/assets/LG_Candidate_Information_Booklet.pdf

Candidates are also reminded that any remaining signs are removed within 7 days from polling close.

Authorisation

A person must not publicly display a poster or sign relating to the election of a candidate without the written authority of that candidate.

Placement of electoral posters must be authorised. Permission to display posters on private property must always be obtained from the owner of the land concerned.

It is not permitted to place signs or posters on public land or infrastructure.

Electoral roadside signs

The Tasmanian Roadside Signs Manual 1, produced by the Department of State Growth contains the following information in relation to electoral signs:

The erection or display of electoral advertising signs within State and Local Government Roads is prohibited. The provisions of Local Authority Planning Schemes and Bylaws make adequate provision for such advertising. Queries regarding roadside signs should be directed to the Department of State Growth.

Placing electoral matter on electricity poles

It is an offence under section 109(1)(a) of the Electricity Supply Industry Act 1995 to attach anything to a power pole without proper authority. The penalty for an offence under this section is a fine of up to 50 penalty units for an individual or 100 penalty units for a body corporate.

Queries or complaints related to material being attached to electricity power poles should be directed to TasNetworks.

Electronic billboards

It is an offence under section 78(1) of the Traffic Act 1925 for a person to:

- (a) place or leave an electronic billboard on a public street, or
- (b) place or leave an electronic billboard in a public place if any occupant of any motor vehicle on any public street can, with the naked eye, read any words or make out any images being displayed by the electronic billboard.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 20 penalty units.

Section 78(2)(a) provides that subsection 1(a) does not apply to electronic billboards that are:

- (a) used for traffic management or road safety purposes by a road authority, or
- (b) used for the purposes of a civil or other emergency by a statutory service within the meaning of the Emergency Management Act 2006, or
- (c) placed or left on a public street with and in accordance with the written approval of the Transport Commission. Further, section 78(2)(b) provides subsection 1(b) does not apply to an electronic billboard that is placed or left in a public place by, or with the approval of, the owner or occupier of that public place.

Queries or complaints related to electronic billboards should be directed to the State Roads Division of the Department of State Growth.