



# General Approval

## Election Signs: Local, State and Federal Government Elections

### GENERAL APPROVAL TO PLACE ELECTION SIGNS ON DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

An election sign cannot lawfully be placed on, or affixed to, infrastructure on a road without the permission of the owner of that infrastructure.

#### **The general approval for the display of signs on road infrastructure**

Persons posting, affixing or erecting election signs should be aware of and comply with the requirements of relevant legislation such as the *Electoral Act 1985* and the *Local Government Act 1999* and associated regulations. Such requirements are not covered in the below conditions.

Subject to other legislative requirements, this General Approval is given for election signs to be posted, affixed to, or erected on infrastructure that is owned by or under the care, control or management of the Commissioner of Highways or the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Relevant Road Authority), subject to compliance with the following conditions:

#### ***Election signs must:***

1. be securely fixed or posted and maintained in good repair and condition at all times.
2. be designed, made, and presented in a quality manner (the intent is that signs must not tear apart and become a danger to road users and end up as litter).
3. contain clear and legible writing or symbols. An Authorised Officer will determine whether a sign is clear and legible for these purposes.
4. contain on the face of the sign the name and address of both the person authorising the promotional material (the publisher) and the printer of it.
5. be fastened securely so that they cannot become detached in high winds and endanger the Relevant Road Authority's property or equipment, or pose a danger to the public.
6. be installed, maintained, and removed in a safe manner without endangering personal and community safety.

#### ***Election Signs must not:***

1. be illuminated (internally or indirectly), move, flash, rotate, or reflect so as to be an undue distraction to drivers.
2. be self-adhesive. All individual promotional material affixed under the terms of this General Approval may only be affixed by non-invasive means that do not cause

damage of any type to the structure to which the material is affixed. If a paste is to be used, it must be of a water-based/wallpaper type (or similar).

3. be affixed under any circumstances to trees, shrubs, or other plants or at any location that may cause physical damage to the Relevant Road Authority's property.
4. be placed on a carriageway, dividing strip (median), traffic island, roundabout, or within 50 metres of a signalised intersection, level crossing, roundabout or pedestrian activated crossing, or on the South Eastern Freeway, the Southern Expressway, the Port River Expressway, the North-South Motorway (Superway), the Northern Expressway, or a controlled access road within the meaning of the *Highways Act 1926*.
5. be placed within six metres of an intersection or junction, or in any other location that may pose a hazard to pedestrians or road users.
6. be attached to any traffic control device, street name, traffic direction or parking sign or to the associated pole.
7. be placed so as to cover any of the Relevant Road Authority's numbering, signs, or other markings.
8. be placed on the Relevant Road Authority's structures with the exception of 'gooseneck' light poles belonging to the Relevant Road Authority. Structures that belong to the Relevant Road Authority, including road bridges on arterial roads, traffic control boxes, traffic signal poles, signal boxes, traffic signs, directional and information signs, and other traffic control devices, guideposts, traffic barriers and pedestrian fences located within the road reserve.
9. be placed in a location on a pole or fence so as to aid the climbing of the pole or fence.
10. be placed so as to restrict the sight distance for road users and pedestrians crossing the road.
11. compete with or reduce the effectiveness of other signs and traffic control devices.
12. resemble a traffic control device, or reasonably be capable of being mistaken as a traffic control device (e.g., must not be affixed on the diagonal).
13. advertise any organisation other than a registered political party or candidate.

Where signs are fixed or posted on poles adjacent to footpaths or roadways such signs:

- must not be lower than two metres; and
- must be a maximum height of three metres from the ground.

With nothing above the sign to affix it or anything else to the pole. Signs must have a minimum clearance of three metres from any overhead mains.

There is a total prohibition on any part of the sign being higher than three metres from the ground.

The person (including as necessary, the relevant political party) responsible for the sign must maintain the sign. The person or political party is also responsible for ensuring that safety is maintained (and the Australian Road Rules complied with) whilst the sign is being installed, maintained, or removed and no traffic disruption is to occur during the installation, maintenance, or removal process.

This General Approval **does not** extend to railway or tramline structures such as level or pedestrian crossings, bridges, stations, signalling equipment or fences adjacent to railway and tram lines. In this regard, information on the various rules and if appropriate, permission

to enter or erect signs in these areas must be obtained from the relevant rail authority. In metropolitan Adelaide, this is (*in most instances*) either Adelaide Metro or the Australian Rail Track Corporation.

The person(s) responsible for the sign and/or any persons acting on their behalf, including by way of causing the sign to be displayed:

- accepts(s) that the display of the election sign must be in accordance with this General Approval and by displaying the sign, agrees to comply with the terms of this General Approval; and
- accept(s) full responsibility for any personal injury, property damage or other loss in any way arising out of or consequent upon the erection, removal, or display of signs; and
- acknowledge(s) that the Relevant Road Authority has no liability or responsibility in relation to such matters whatsoever; and
- such person(s) agree(s) to indemnify the Relevant Road Authority against any such personal injury or property damage or other loss incurred by the Relevant Road Authority and against any third-party claims arising out of or consequent upon the erection, removal, or display of signs.

The Relevant Road Authority may direct the immediate removal of any signs or remove or cause to be removed any signs without notice from any poles or structures owned by or under the care, control or management of the Relevant Road Authority.

If the Relevant Road Authority removes any signs under the General Approval it may dispose of the sign as it sees fit.

The person or party responsible for the sign must remove all parts of the sign and fixtures from the site within 48 hours from the close of voting in the relevant election.

Installing, maintaining, and removing signs must not be carried out between 7.00 am and 10.00 am or between 3.00 pm and 7.00 pm Monday to Friday on a peak flow traffic lane.

A breach of, or non-compliance with, any of the conditions of the General Approval will invalidate the General Approval and may result in the removal of the sign.

The Relevant Road Authority may remove and dispose of any sign that constitutes a hazard or does not comply with legislative requirements<sup>1</sup>.

  
Jon Whelan  
Chief Executive

16 September 2022

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<sup>1</sup> For example, see section 31(2) of the *Road Traffic Act 1961* and section 227 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.