

ELECTION CAMPAIGN SIGNAGE

Policy Owner: Executive Manager Corporate Governance & Risk (Public Officer)	
Date Last Adopted: 4 June 2024	Review Date: 4 June 2027

1. Policy Statement/Objective(s)

Shellharbour City Council (Council) is committed to ensuring that candidates and political parties are aware of the requirements in respect of the placement of election campaign signage within the Shellharbour Local Government Area during Federal, State and Local Government elections.

Election campaign signage is generally considered temporary in nature and duration.

Political advertising on Council owned, controlled or managed land or infrastructure is prohibited. This allows Council to remain impartial during election campaigns and ensures that candidates and political parties have equal opportunities to display election campaign signage.

The objectives of this policy are to ensure that candidates and political parties understand and comply with the requirements in relation to election campaign signage including:

- where signage must not be placed.
- obtaining relevant consent.
- the appropriate display of signage.
- enforcement and compliance action.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Federal, State or Local Government election candidates and political parties campaigning within the Shellharbour Local Government Area.

3. References

Electoral Act 2017

State Environment Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008

Local Government Act 1993

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918

Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912

Elections and Election Material within the Shellharbour Civic Centre Policy

4. External/Internal Consultations

Public Exhibition

5. Definitions

Candidate	means a person who has nominated for an election.
Early Voting Centre	means a voting centre designated by the Electoral Commissioner to be an early voting centre/pre-poll voting office for the purpose of an election.
Election	means an election of representatives to Federal, State and Local Government.
Election Day	means a day specified in the writ for the election as the day for the taking of the poll for the election.
Election Campaign Signage	means an advertising device including posters, banners, placards and other similar material identifying candidates promoting themselves and/or a political party at Federal, State and Local Government elections.
Voting Centre	means a place appointed by the Electoral Commissioner to be a voting centre/polling place for the purposes of taking the poll at an election.

6. Variation and Review

Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this policy OR as amended by the (CODE SEPP)

Review History

Date Policy first adopted – version 1	4 June 2024
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7. Policy

7.1 Placement of Election Campaign Signage

7.1.1 Election Campaign Signage cannot be displayed on or within land, buildings or infrastructure occupied, used by, or under the control or management of the Crown, NSW Government Agencies or Council.

7.1.2 Election Campaign Signage must not be erected on:

- Fencing inclosing sportsfields, parks and nature reserves
- Fencing around Council land, buildings or infrastructure
- Sportsfields, parks and nature reserves
- Telephone/power poles
- Trees, shrubs or plants
- Street signs, traffic control signs or parking signs
- Footpath areas
- Any structures within a road reserve

COLLABORATION

ACCOUNTABILITY

INTEGRITY

RESPECT

SUSTAINABILITY

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- Median strips, traffic islands or roundabouts
- Any place that causes a sight obstruction or hazard/danger to the public
- Or any area classified as public land.

7.2 Election Campaign Signage on Private Land or Buildings

7.2.1 The placing of Election Campaign Signage on private land or buildings can only be undertaken with the written consent of the landowner, or if the property is owned or jointly owned by the Candidate.

7.2.2 Election Campaign Signage placed on private land or buildings in accordance with clause 7.2.1 must:

- Not be more than 0.8m² in area.
- Not be attached to a building if on the site of a heritage item or draft heritage item.
- Be displayed by or on behalf of a Candidate or the party (if any) of any such Candidate.
- Be displayed in accordance with any relevant requirements of the Act under which the Election is held.
- Be displayed only during the following periods:
 - 5 weeks immediately preceding the Election Day.
 - Election Day.
 - 1 week immediately following Election Day.
- Be fastened securely to ensure there is no risk to safety.
- Be in good repair and condition at all times.

7.3 Display of Election Campaign Signage During Early Voting

7.3.1 Election Campaign Signage must not be displayed:

- Within an Early Voting Centre,
- Within 6 metres of an entrance to an Early Voting Centre, and
- On the exterior of a building used as an Early Voting Centre

on any day on which early voting is conducted at the Early Voting Centre.

7.3.2 Election Campaign Signage at an Early Voting Centre will be regulated by the Electoral Commissioner, the Voting Centre Manager or any Election official authorised by the Electoral Commission.

7.4 Display of Election Campaign Signage on Election Day

7.4.1 Election Campaign Signage must not be displayed:

- Within a Voting Centre,
- Within 6 metres of an entrance to a Voting Centre, and
- On the exterior of a building used as a Voting Centre

7.4.2 Election Campaign Signage at Election Day Voting Centres will be regulated by the Electoral Commissioner, the Voting Centre Manager or any Election official authorised by the Electoral Commissioner.

7.5 Enforcement and Compliance

7.5.1 Council will request the immediate removal of any Election Campaign Signage that has been placed on Council owned, controlled or managed land or infrastructure. Failure to comply with any such request may result in removal and permanent disposal by Council Officers.

7.5.2 Council may undertake enforcement and compliance action, including the issue of penalty infringement notices, should the display of Election Campaign Signage not meet the requirements of this policy or the request of clause 7.5.1 not be adhered to.

7.5.3 Any required action will be carried out in accordance with Council's Compliance & Enforcement Policy.

8. Related Forms/Documents

Nil

9. Attachments

Nil

Policy Authorised by:

Name: Executive Leadership Team

Date: 4 June 2024