

Election Signage

Council Policy



Owner	Elected Members		
Responsible Officer	Director Community Development		
Decision Number	22348		
Document Number	CD-004CP	Approval Date	27/09/2022
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1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to waive the requirement to obtain certain permits from the Alice Springs Town Council relating to the placement and removal of election signage on ASTC-controlled areas. This policy also serves to advise candidates as to the requirements for such signage.

2 Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions apply:

Term	Definition
ASTC	Alice Springs Town Council
ASTC-controlled area	Areas within the municipality of Alice Springs that are under the care and control of the Alice Springs Town Council
Authorised Person	A person authorised pursuant to section 183 of the Local Government Act 2019
Election	Federal, Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, and Alice Springs Town Council Elections/By-elections

3 Policy Statement

The ASTC dispenses with the requirement to obtain permits for activities specified in by-laws 23 and 24 of the Alice Springs (Management of Public Places) By-laws 2009 where such activities directly relate to the advertisement of a candidate contesting an election. This dispensation is subject to the following conditions:

3.1 Sign Display Board

Signs may be displayed:

- Six weeks prior to a fixed election date (Northern Territory Legislative Assembly and Alice Springs Town Council Elections/By-elections).
- From the date of public notice by the Australian Electoral Commissioner of receipt of writ to conduct an election (Federal Elections/By-elections)

Signs must be removed no later than seven days after the election.

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3.2 Sign Details

Signs are to be 1.5m² or less in area and be displayed on corflute or a similar material. Electronic signage of any kind is not permitted.

3.3 Sign Placement and Accountability

3.3.1 Sign Placement

Signs should be positioned regarding the following:

- Signs should be at least 1 metre clear of:
 - Power poles
 - Irrigation systems or sprinklers and positioned to not interfere with the system
 - Street Lights
 - Trees, shrubs, or garden beds
 - Roads, footpaths and cycling paths
- Signs must be at least 5m away from any road sign, speed display sign, or any other traffic control device.
- Signs must not be positioned in a way that obstructs the view or flow of traffic or pedestrians. For example: obstructing visibility of driveways, pathways and turns or corners in the road.
- Signs must not be placed at bus stops or on roundabouts.
- Signs must not be placed in a way that damages ASTC infrastructure.
- Signs must not be placed on ASTC assets, including playground equipment, sporting fields, pools, buildings or fences.

3.3.2 Candidate Accountability

Candidates are responsible for the timely removal of any damaged or unsecured signage. Candidates must ensure that any rubbish generated as a result of their election signage (zip ties, broken posts etc) is removed as soon as possible.

It is the responsibility of each candidate to maintain a record of the location of all election signage displayed on ASTC-controlled areas (this does not include signs displayed on private property). This record must be provided upon request to an Authorised Person.

No election signage is to be applied or affixed to private property without the consent of the owner or occupier of that property.

The use of star pickets, large wooden stakes or similar items to display election signage on ASTC-controlled areas is prohibited. When displaying election signage, low strength or frangible stakes must be used, such as lightweight fence droppers.

3.4 Breaches of this Policy

Candidates will be afforded a reasonable amount of time (24 hours) to rectify issues of noncompliance with this policy. Failure to rectify such issues within the time allocation allowed, will result in the offending signage being removed.

The return of removed signage will be subject to confirmation, in writing, that a candidate understands this policy and will comply with all requirements of the policy. Further breaches may result in compliance action, pursuant to the *Alice Springs (Management of Public Places) By-laws 2009*.

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Any sign that presents a road or pedestrian safety issue, will be immediately removed by an Authorised Person.

Signs that are not collected within the required time following an election may be removed. The ASTC may also take further action, pursuant to the Alice Springs (Management of Public Places) By-laws 2009.

3.5 Sign Content

The content of election signage is dictated by the various relevant acts and regulations and is not managed or enforced by the ASTC. This policy in no way removes any requirement to adhere to relevant legislation. Further information regarding the content of election signage can be found here: <https://ntec.nt.gov.au/publicationsand-reports/Information-sheets>.

3.6 Areas Controlled by Other Authorities

The Following roads are under the control of the Northern Territory Government:

- Stuart Highway – Telegraph Terrace
- Larapinta Drive
- Undoolya Road
- Sadadeen Road
- Ross Highway
- Stott Terrace
- Stephens Road – From South Terrace to The Links, including Casino Causeway
- South Terrace – From Gap Road to Stephens Road
- Gap Road – From Stuart Highway (Telegraph Terrace) to Acacia Street

Any complaints regarding election signage adjacent to these roads should be directed to the Northern Territory Department of Infrastructure, Planning, and Logistics. More information, including their election signage policy and contact details, can be found here: <https://dli.nt.gov.au/about-us/policies/election-signage-and-mobile-roadside-booths-policies>.

4 Responsibilities

Director Community and Development and Manager Rangers are responsible for the oversight and implementation of this policy.

5 Related Legislation and Documents

- *Local Government Act 2019*
- *Alice Springs (Management of Public Places) By-Laws 2009*

6 Communication and Training

Will this policy be communicated through consultation to teams?	Yes
Where will this policy be available?	Council Website
Will training needs arise from this policy? If yes, who will be responsible.	Manager Rangers