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1. PREAMBLE

This policy establishes the Council's position in relation to election signs for Federal, State and Local Government Elections.

From time to time Commonwealth, State and Local Government elections are held, and candidates may choose to exercise their option to place signs across the City.

The City of Holdfast Bay recognises the need to balance its support for the election processes, while at the same time providing oversight to ensure the ongoing safety and public amenity of the City.

1.1 Background

An election sign is considered to be a candidate corflute sign, usually affixed to a structure on a road such as a stobie pole with wire or cable ties. This sign is a 'moveable sign' under the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act).

Sections 226 and 227 of the Act set out the legislative framework for the control of moveable signs, including election signs.

The Act contains an exemption for election signs displayed during election periods. Specifically, the Act provides at Section 226(3) that a person may place and maintain a moveable sign on a road without a permit or authorisation from the council if the sign is related to a State or Commonwealth election and is displayed during the period commencing on the issue of the writ or writs for the election and ending at the close of polls on polling day.

There is a similar provision in the case of local government elections.

The City of Holdfast Bay does not have the power to regulate election signs in the same way it can regulate other moveable signs. Specifically, it cannot require a person to obtain permission from the council before erecting and maintaining an election sign on a road during the periods specified above.

1.2 Purpose

This policy sets out the approach that the City of Holdfast Bay will take in regard to candidate election signs during an election period.

1.3 Scope

This policy applies to all candidate signs which are posted during an election period. It does not apply to any signs which are posted outside of this period.

1.4   Definitions

Election Period – for the purposes of this policy, this is the period commencing from the time the writ(s) are issued for a Commonwealth or State election until the close of polls on election day. This period for a local government election refers to the period four weeks from the day the election is set until the end of voting on polling day.

Election Sign – a candidate corflute (or similar) sign, usually attached to a pole or similar by plastic or metal ties.

1.5   Strategic Reference

Culture: Supporting excellent, efficient operations

2.   PRINCIPLES

2.1   The City of Holdfast Bay will provide all candidates with a copy of the LGA Guidelines and General Approval for the Placement or Affixation of Election Signs and endeavour to ensure that all candidates are aware of their responsibilities.

2.2   Should complaints be received that individual signs breach these guidelines, the person authorising the sign will be contacted and advised.

2.3   If a sign is considered to unreasonably endanger the safety of members of the public, or restrict the use of a road, Council's authorised officer's will instruct the owner of the sign to remove the sign from the road.

2.4   If the owner of the sign fails to comply immediately (within 24 hours), the authorised officer will remove and dispose of the sign.

2.5   Any direct costs incurred by Council in relation to the removal of the sign will be charged to the owner of the sign.

2.6   Any person wishing to make application for the consent of Council to allow electoral signs to be posted, affixed or erected on property under the care and control of Council, not including a public road, should request an application form from the Council.

3.   REFERENCES

3.1   Legislation

Local Government Act 1999

3.2   Other References

LGA Guidelines and General Approval for the Placement or Affixation of Election Signs - Guidelines