

City of Greater Geraldton Council Policy

4.23 ELECTION SIGNS

SUSTAINABILITY THEME

Leadership

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this policy is to establish controls for electoral signs and public electoral material on local government property, during Federal, State and Local Government ordinary and extraordinary elections of Council.

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the *City of Greater Geraldton Public Places and Local Government Property Local Law 2020*. This policy precludes the placement of electoral signage or material, on or within local government property.

POLICY DETAILS

1. Signs - General
 - 1.1. City of Greater Geraldton Public Places and Local Government Property Local Law 2020:
 - 3.1. Activities requiring a permit

A person must not without a permit—

 - (b) Advertise anything by any means on local government property;
 - 4.2 Advertising signs and portable direction signs
 - (1) A person shall not, without a permit—
 - (a) erect or place an advertising sign on a thoroughfare; or
 - (b) post any bill or paint, place or affix any advertisement on a thoroughfare.
 2. Election Signs on Facilities or Land Owned or Controlled by the City
 - 2.1. There is a risk that election signs, or election material, placed on, or in City of Greater Geraldton (the City), local government property, may be interpreted as being endorsed by the City.
 - 2.2. The City considers that the proliferation of election signs during election campaigns may cause an unacceptable level of visual pollution.
 - 2.3. Development and implementation of a formal system for administering election advertising, on City property, would place an additional burden on City resources.

- 2.4. The City will therefore not approve a permit to erect or display election signs, or display electoral material, on, or in City property, including property belonging to, or under the care, control and management of the City, including a thoroughfare.
- 2.5. Electoral signs or electoral material placed on, or in, City property will be removed by the City.
- 2.6. The City will confiscate and retain signs until payment is made to the City for the retrieval of the sign as per the City's current year Fees and Charges.
- 2.7. This provision will not apply to City property that is used as a polling place on the day of an election. A sign may be displayed on City property that is used as a polling place on the day of an election.
 - 2.7.1. Signs Erected on Polling Day
An election sign may be erected or displayed on polling day on local government property, which is used as a polling place on that day, but:
 - may not be placed in garden beds
 - must not be greater than 2m² in area
 - must be at least 6 metres from the entrance to the main doors of the polling place.

3. Election Advertising on Private Property

- 3.1 Once an election is called, there is an exemption for temporary election signage to not require development approval on private property, as prescribed in the *Planning and Development Act 2005* and the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* ('Regulations').
- 3.2 This exemption only applies for the period from when the election is called to 48 hours after the closing of the polls; refer to Regulations Schedule 2 cl. 61(1).
- 3.3 No permit is required to place signage on private property/verge with the owner's permission.

KEY TERM DEFINITION

Electoral material means any advertisement, handbill, pamphlet, notice, letter, or article intended or calculated to affect the result of an election but does not include an advertisement in a newspaper announcing the holding of a meeting.

Local Government Property means anything –

- (a) which belongs to or leased by the local government;
- (b) of which the local government is the management body under the *Land Administration Act 1997*; or
- (c) which is an otherwise unvested facility within section 3.53 of the Act.

Sign includes a notice, flag, mark, structure, or device approved by the local government on which may be shown words, numbers, expressions or symbols.

Thoroughfare has the meaning given to it by the Act.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Manager Corporate Compliance is responsible for implementing this policy.

WORKPLACE INFORMATION

Local Government Act 1995

City of Greater Geraldton Public Places and Local Government Property Local Law 2020.

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate		Officer	Review Cycle	Next Due
Corporate Services		Manager Corporate Compliance	Biennial	2027
Version	Decision Reference		Synopsis	
5.	CS204	29/04/2025	Policy Review	