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1. PREAMBLE

The Council 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 Council area.

1.1 Background

Election signs are 'moveable signs' 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.

1.2 Purpose

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

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 means 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 means a candidate sign relating to an election.

Electoral advertising posters are signs made of corflute, plastic or other materials as prescribed by relevant Regulations.

LGA means South Australian Local Government Association.

1.5 Strategic Reference

Our Holdfast 2050+ includes objectives to encourage civic participation and inclusion for all.

COUNCIL ELECTION SIGNS POLICY

2. PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 Signs relating to State or Commonwealth elections are guided by the LGA's *Election Signs: State and Federal Government Elections Guidelines and General Approval for placement or affixation of election signs*.
- 2.2 Electoral advertising posters are prohibited for use by candidates during Local Government Election periods. Other local government election signs are guided by Council's *Approval to display local government election signs* (General Approval).
- 2.3 Council will provide all candidates upon request with a copy of the LGA's *Election Signs: State and Federal Government Elections Guidelines and General Approval for placement or affixation of election signs*, or the Council's General Approval, and endeavour to ensure that all candidates are aware of their responsibilities.
- 2.3 Any person wishing to make application for the consent of Council to allow electoral signs to be posted, affixed or erected on land under the care and control of Council (e.g. reserves), should request an application form from the Council.
- 2.2 Should complaints be received that a sign owner has breached relevant guidelines, the owner will be contacted and advised.
- 2.3 If an election sign is considered to unreasonably endanger the safety of members of the public, or restrict the use of a road, or has been vandalised (including offensive language) Council's authorised officers' will instruct the sign owner to remove it from the road.
- 2.4 If the owner of the election sign fails to comply immediately (within 24 hours), the authorised officer will remove and dispose of the sign. Any direct costs incurred by Council in relation to the removal of the sign will be charged to the owner of the sign.
- 2.5 Any inconsistency between this Policy and the LGA's *Election Signs: State and Federal Government Elections Guidelines and General Approval for placement or affixation of election signs* or Council's General Approval, the Guidelines and General Approval will prevail.

3. REFERENCES

- 3.1 **Legislation**
Local Government Act 1999
- 3.2 **Other References**
LGA's Election Signs: State and Federal Government Elections Guidelines (February 2022)
City of Holdfast Bay Approval to display local government election signs (General Approval)