

Electoral advertising and the Public Unleased Land (Movable Signs) Code of Practice 2013



What are electoral advertising signs?

Electoral advertising signs are movable signs containing any printed electoral material.

It is an offence to place or keep a movable sign in a public place other than in accordance with the Public Unleased Land (Movable Signs) Code of Practice 2013.

What is the Public Unleased Land (Movable Signs) Code of Practice 2013?

The Public Unleased Land (Movable Signs) Code of Practice 2013 outlines requirements for moveable signs such as design, placement, duration, safety and insurance. This fact sheet summarises the Code but is not a substitute for law. Candidates and interested persons are encouraged to consult the full Code and relevant legislation.

What can I put on a movable sign?

Movable signs should not display words or images likely to cause offence to a reasonable adult. Please ensure the responsible owner is identified on the sign.

How long can I display a movable sign?

Electoral advertising signs may be displayed for a period of up to six weeks immediately preceding the election date. These signs are only covered by the Code for 48 hours after the official election day and must be removed within 48 hours of the close of the polling booths. Any election signs not removed within 48 hours will be considered an illegal sign or poster and the Territory will implement provisions to remove the offending sign.

Are there design restrictions for electoral advertising signs?

All movable signs must have maximum enveloping dimensions of 900 mm x 1200 mm. They may be either 'A' frame or in the form of a non-metal board mounted to wooden stake(s). All movable signs must have smooth edges and no protrusions which could be a danger to the public. Signs must be stable in windy conditions. A self adhesive sign is not a movable sign and is not included in the Code.

Where can electoral advertising signs be placed?

Movable signs may be placed on unleased Territory Land subject to the restrictions below.

Signs may not be placed at roundabouts, median strips of roads,

within 20 metres of traffic lights, on residential nature strips, or within 20 metres of a corner of an intersection.

Movable signs must be self standing. Under no circumstances can they be attached/affixed to or obstruct government property. This includes, but is not limited to, bridges, overpasses, trees or other vegetation on public unleased land, traffic lights or street lights, traffic control boxes and poles.

Electoral advertising signs are not permitted within 100 metres of a polling place during polling for ACT Legislative Assembly elections.

Movable signs must not cause a danger or restrict pedestrians access to walkways or nature strips. The signs must not encroach on to or obstruct pedestrian or bicycle pathways.

Signs must be placed at least 1.2 metres back from the street kerb.

Movable signs must not be placed in emergency vehicle access routes or in a position that restricts access to fire hydrants, above-ground services and in-ground services.

The placement of movable signs must not impede maintenance activities, for example, the mowing of grass.

Signs cannot be placed in designated areas of the National Capital without the expressed approval from the National Capital Authority. See Section 8 of the Code for a full listing of designated areas.

Do I need insurance to place a moveable sign in a public place?

A person who places a movable sign in a public place must have a current public liability insurance policy for at least \$10,000,000 limit of liability.

What happens to signs which breach the Code?

The ACT Government's City Rangers will be removing any electoral advertising signs found on any Territory property, as well as in or adjoining a public place that breaches the Code. Seized signs may be collected from the City Rangers Depot on Elimatta Street in Reid.

If any signs breach the Code, the person who placed the sign(s) may incur a penalty for non compliance with the Code as well as a collection fee for any non compliant signs that have been seized.