

## PURPOSE OF THIS PROTOCOL

- To advise registered political parties, groups, candidates and others they may display posters and the like relating to their election campaign from the start of the official opening of the election until 7 days after polling day at which time they must be removed.
- The Returning Officer of the New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC) has the authority to remove or cause to be removed any poster exhibited or posted in contravention of the Electoral Act 2017 during the election period.

**Always read this protocol in conjunction with the Related Procedures identified below.**

<b>Protocol Statement</b>	To provide clarity on Wollondilly Shire Council's role in the control of signs, posters and other related campaigning materials during Local Government Elections.
<b>Scope</b>	Registered political parties, groups, candidates, their workers, individuals, organisations or community groups associated with candidates.
<b>Related Procedures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Nil</i></li> </ul>
<b>Related Documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>NSW Electoral Commission</i></li> <li>• <i>Australian Electoral Commission</i></li> </ul>
<b>Compliance Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Local Government Act 1993</i></li> <li>• <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – S 356E</i></li> <li>• <i>Electoral Act 2017 - S 184</i></li> <li>• <i>State Environmental Planning Policy – Exempt &amp; Complying Development Codes 2008</i></li> </ul>
<b>Protocol Owner</b>	<i>Corporate Governance &amp; Risk Coordinator</i>
<b>Endorsement Date</b>	<i>16 June 2021</i>
<b>Next Review Date</b>	<i>16 June 2024</i> <i>Every 4 years in line with term of Council</i>

## 1. PRINCIPLES

### 1.1 Definition of Election Signs

Election signs are any freestanding advertising device identifying candidates and/or promoting a political party at local government elections.

### 1.2 Definition of Election Period

For the purpose of this protocol the election period refers to the issuing of the Writs by the Governor General until the declaration of the poll.

### 1.3 Enquiries and Complaints in relation to Electoral signage during the Election Period

During the election period all enquiries including public safety issues in relation to election signage will be directed to the Returning Officer.

### 1.4 Enquiries and Complaints in relation to Electoral signage after the Election Period

Council will respond to any public safety or compliance issues in relation to election signage after the election period. Council officers will remove or arrange for the removal of the offending sign and Council will recover the cost of removal in accordance with Council's adopted fees and charges from the candidate responsible.

## 2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role	Responsibility
MANAGER HEALTH & REGULATORY SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To respond to any election signage issues after the election period.</li></ul>
RETURNING OFFICER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To answer all enquiries in relation to election signage.</li></ul>