

Authorisation of MLA Signage

Legislative Assembly

Disclaimer: This factsheet is a general overview provided by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC) and should not substitute legal advice. Unless specified otherwise, all references are to the Electoral Act 2004, effective from 1 July 2021. Please consult the legislation and seek independent legal advice as necessary.

Overview

Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) signage, such as corflutes, is considered to be campaign material when it is:

1. displayed during an election period, and
2. used with the intention of promoting the prospects of the MLA as a candidate for re-election.

All campaign material must include an authorisation statement.¹

When is the election period?

The election period starts on the date the writ for the election is issued and ends on the date the writ is returned. The scheduled dates for the 2024 Territory Election:

- writ to be issued on 1 August 2024
- writ returned on 30 September 2024.

How is intention determined?

When determining whether signage is used with the intention of promoting the prospects of the MLA as a candidate for re-election the following factors are considered:

1. the location of the sign and whether this is historically associated with electoral activity,
2. the nature of other material around the MLA corflute,
3. the nature of activities being conducted around the corflute.

Whether MLA signage is determined to be campaign material will be considered on a case-by-case basis, it is advisable to authorise all MLA signage apart from electoral office signage provided by the Department of the Legislative Assembly.

What is required to authorise campaign materials?

MLA signage must have an authorisation statement in a sufficient font size to be read by the intended audience containing:²

1. the **name** and **address** of the person authorising the publication or distribution (a post office box is not permitted), and
2. if printed, the name and address of the printing company, and
3. if the material is double sided, the above authorisations must appear on both sides, and
4. the source of the funding for that material (candidate, party, associated entity, third-party campaigner or otherwise).

¹ See section 270
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² See section 270

Financial Disclosure

MLA signage is produced to inform constituents that they are local sitting members, and it is displayed throughout the parliamentary term consistent with this purpose. The short period for which it may be displayed as campaign material does not deem the production of signage an electoral expenditure.

Version	Date	Author	Changes made
1.0	17 July 2024	Chris Brack, Financial Disclosure and Compliance Manager	Created ahead of the 2024 Territory Election