

MLA newsletters

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) newsletters are considered to be campaign material when they are:

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

If an MLA newsletter is deemed to be campaign material, the costs incurred are electoral expenditure, and it must include an authorisation statement.

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?

Newsletter content is considered to be campaign material when distributed during the election period and contains:

1. direct or indirect references to the performance of the MLA or their party, and/or
2. references to policies the MLA or party intend to take to the election.

Whether MLA newsletters are determined to be campaign material will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

What is required to authorise campaign materials?

All campaign material must have an authorisation statement in a sufficient font size to be read by the intended audience containing:¹

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
Published 30 July 2024
Page 1 of 2

Financial Disclosure

If an MLA newsletter is deemed campaign material, incurred costs must be declared as electoral expenditure.

Version	Date	Author	Changes made
1.0	30 July 2024	Chris Brack, Financial Disclosure and Compliance Manager	Created ahead of the 2024 Territory Election