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Landlords caught ripping down political signs on rentals

Busybody estate agents and landlords have been nabbed ripping down election signs outside the homes of renters.

Brendan O'Malley, Westside News

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Busybody estate agents and landlords have been nabbed ripping down election signs outside the homes of renters.

Tenant Queensland, a group which protects the rights of renters, said the incidents showed some Queenslanders' right to political expression had come under attack.

TQ chief executive Penny Carr said her organisation had received several inquiries from tenants told to remove election signs in recent weeks.

In some cases, the signs (also known as corflutes) were ripped down by real estate agents and landlords without their consent.

"As far as tenants' rights go, there is an obligation on behalf of the agent or landlord to provide "quiet enjoyment" for their residents and they must not interfere with a renter's reasonable peace, comfort or privacy," Ms Carr said.

"It underlies the notion that the property is the person's home while they are renting there.

"In relation to election signage, we consider it a breach of a tenant's reasonable peace, comfort and privacy for a lessor or agent to demand the removal of political signage so long as the signs are legal, and not causing damage to the property or making the sign a fixture of the property."

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Ms Carr also said entering premises without consent to remove signs might also be an offence under the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008 (Qld) or be considered an act of trespass.

Brisbane City Council allows elections signs on private property without approval from the council during designated election periods.

But signs must not create a safety hazard for people using a footpath or public space.

Council also asks lessees of its properties to ask for permission before erecting signs and during the Mt Coot-tha zipline debacle tore down anti-zipline signs on properties it leased to the community.



 Penny Carr, CEO of Tenants Queensland Inc.

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Ms Carr also urged unit dwellers to check with their respective body corporate by-laws to make sure consent was not needed prior to displaying signage.

“Most unit complexes have by-laws that restrict you from changing the external appearance of the lot without first gaining consent of the owner or body corporate,” she said.

“It is suggested that you first check the body corporate by-laws for your building before installing any election signage outside your premises.”

Ms Carr said there was little to no protection against landlords issuing a “without grounds” termination notice, deterring many more renters from displaying election signs.



This shame file of dumped candidates continues to grow amid several scandals.



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