



VANDALISM: No Rodeo Independent Troy Walker has lost more than 20 of 80 posters, with some being defaced. 72724

Poster theft cost hurts

By GREG BARILA

THIEVES and vandals have defaced or stolen more than 100 campaign posters in the northeast seat of Newland, frustrating local candidates.

Retiring member **Dorothy Kotz**, who has held the seat for 17 years, said the level of thefts in this campaign was "the worst" she had seen.

Mrs Kotz said at least 40 posters promoting the Liberal candidate **Mark Osterstock** had been stolen since the election was called on February 20.

"Every other street they've put them in, they've pretty well nicked all we've got," Mrs Kotz said. "When it gets to the point it's almost en masse, it's a very difficult thing for all of us." She said each poster cost about \$20 to replace.

ALP candidate **Tom Kenyon** said he had also lost about 40 posters, most from Golden Grove and Grenfell roads. Others had been defaced, he said.

"I got a real good one I took down last night," he said.

"(It) was a picture of me, they'd drawn square glasses, a little goatee beard, gave me a nose ring."

He said the party did not condone the vandalism but it was "part and parcel" of election campaigns.

No Rodeo Independent **Troy Walker** said he had lost more than 20 of his 80 posters, which carry the slogan "No Rodeo".

Some of the posters had been

“They’re somebody else’s property aren’t they?”

Superintendent Linda Williams

defaced to read "There's no cruelty in rodeos".

"I don't believe it's people from other parties, I think it's more people who are involved with rodeos," Mr Walker said.

"There's some people around the place that obviously have different opinions to us. Fair enough, everyone has the right to their own opinion, I think your opinion should be reflected in your vote."

Mr Walker, who was funding his campaign out of his own pocket, said the thefts were hurting him financially.

"We're running ourselves into the ground. We're not doing it for our own benefit anyway, we're doing it for the benefit of the animals."

Holden Hill Superintendent **Linda Williams** confirmed she had received a complaint from one candidate, but could not disclose which.

Supt Williams said people tampering with posters could be charged with property damage or unlawful possession.

"They're somebody else's property aren't they?" she said. She said her officers would be questioning people seen removing posters.