

# Vandalism a sign of the times?



A police sign on Main North road at Evanston South which has been targeted by election pranksters.

**REPORT:** Sarah Thomas

**They only went up last week but already many election posters have been reported missing in action or even gone up in flames.**

Independent No Rodeos candidate Craig Allan is especially outraged after witnessing two men attempting to remove one of his posters on the Mallala-Gawler road on Sunday night.

"When they saw me watching them they stopped what they were doing and ran back to their truck which still had the engine running and drove off in the wrong gear, kangaroo hopping," Mr. Allan said.

Mr. Allan took down the numberplate and is pursuing the matter with the police, but said as the only independent vying for Light, he cannot afford these hassles.

"I am the only one who has paid for posters, the nomination fee of \$450 and the cost of flyers out of my own pocket," Mr. Allan said. "I don't have employees to erect the signs or letterbox people. I cannot afford to lose signs.

"If you don't like what election

candidates are doing, you don't vote for them. You don't vandalise their signs."

While Mr. Allan is still busy erecting his posters, candidates from the larger parties are able to take the matter a little less seriously.

Labor candidate Tony Piccolo said he had seen several of his posters defaced.

"You have to expect these kinds of things, I'm not losing any sleep over it," he said. "We've just replaced them."

Liberal candidate Malcolm Buckby said the problem was worse than in previous campaigns, but was not a big issue.

"We've had about a dozen damaged over the weekend," he said. "We've had a few tampered with, a few with moustaches drawn on.

"It's a bit of a nuisance, but it's only a four-week period people have to look at our dials on the posters."

Police are able to lay charges relating to arson, graffiti or theft of the posters, which have a legal right to be erected during election campaign periods and remain the property of the party/independent.

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- Craig Allan,  
Independent candidate