

31 May 2016

Dear Candidate

New Zealand Transport Agency Local Government Candidate Election Sign Requirements

As part of its State highway network responsibilities the New Zealand Transport Agency (Transport Agency) would like to advise election candidates of the requirements for electioneering signs near or adjacent to State highways. Please find below the Transport Agency's criteria and guidelines for election sign placement.

Signs located on State highway road reserve

The placement of a sign within the road reserve on a motorway or State highway must be approved by the Transport Agency prior to being erected. Signs must meet the criteria below in accordance with the Electoral Act 1993, the Transport Agency Signs on State Highways Bylaw 2010, The Transport Agency Advertising signs and road safety: design and location guidelines and the Transport Agency Traffic Control Devices Manual Part 3 Advertising Signs.

The criteria are as follows:

- In speed environments of 70kph or above, signs located on a motorway or State highway road reserve are not permitted;
- Vehicle mounted signs situated on motorways or State highways with any speed limit are not permitted;
- The placement of a sign within the State highway road reserve in a speed environment less than 70kph, must:
 1. Not exceed 1 square metre in area, or 2 metres for any edge dimension;
 2. Not use reflective material, have internal or external illumination nor any moving parts or dynamic display;
 3. Not be more than 2.5 metres above road or ground (measured from the bottom edge of the sign);
 4. Not be closer than 5 metres from the edge of the carriageway;
 5. Not be located within 100m of an intersection or pedestrian crossing;
 6. Not imitate or be of a form similar to any traffic signs;
 7. Be positioned at a right angle to the State highway;
 8. Have lettering and symbols at least 120 millimetres in height;
 9. Be located generally giving consideration to visibility and other traffic safety aspects;
 10. Have no more than 6 to 8 words or 40 characters;

11. Not be erected for longer than 8 weeks prior to the election day
12. If required, have the approval of the relevant local authority.

The Transport Agency reserves the right to approve or decline the erection of any sign.

Signs erected on the motorway or State highway road reserve in a location or a manner likely to cause distraction or danger to road users may be removed by the Transport Agency without prior notice. Where a sign is removed by the Transport Agency the candidate will be advised of the action taken and that the sign may be redeemed for a fee of \$50.

Signs located on private property adjacent to a motorway or State highway

Signs located on private property adjacent to a motorway or State highway are administered by the relevant local authority. If the sign requires resource consent, approval will be required from the Transport Agency as an affected party under Section 95 of the Resource Management Act.

Signs located on private property adjacent to a motorway or State highway that do not require resource consent from the relevant local authority, do not require approval from the Transport Agency. However, the Transport Agency kindly requests your cooperation in controlling the appearance and location of electioneering signs in accordance with the criteria above. In addition, in speed environments over 70km/h it is recommended that signs should not be located within 200m of an intersection or pedestrian crossing.

The Transport Agency continues to be concerned with the potential for driver distraction arising from signs, particularly those near or adjacent to intersections, and would like to ensure that electioneering signs do not contribute to New Zealand's road crash statistics.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

If you have any further queries please contact the Wellington Regional Office Planning team on WROPlanning@nzta.govt.nz.