

GUIDELINES ON ELECTION SIGNS

Election signs are hoardings, posters, signs and other similar types that are used to display information relating to the election of candidates and/or choice of political party and/or the promotion of issues relating to a referendum. In Waipa District, election signs are controlled under the Council's Policy on Elections Advertising/Signage (which is included in the information below), the Waipa District Council – Proposed District Plan Appeals Version 14 July 2014, section 357 of the Local Government Act 1974 and the Waipa District Control of Signs and Sale of Goods Bylaw 2007 and Public Places Bylaw 2007 and any other relevant bylaw which may be applicable at the time (also see note on State Highway rules below).

Signs on State Highways

Signs on State Highways are controlled by the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) through the New Zealand Transport Agency (Signs on State Highways) Bylaw 2010. Applications should be addressed to the Regional Highways Manager, New Zealand Transport Agency, PO Box 973, Hamilton.

Signs on Council's Road Reserve

Election signs are not permitted on Council's road reserve/carrageway (including signs attached to vehicles). Signs may be fastened to boundary fences of private property provided no part of the sign or support encroaches onto or over the road reserve. Signs may not be attached to stock underpass rails or any other fencing encroaching into the road reserve.

Signs should be sited no closer than 20 metres to an intersection or in proximity to a sharp curve in the road where they may cause distraction to motorists or restrict visibility. Any signs considered to be a traffic hazard by an enforcement officer may be required to be re-sited.

Signs on Council Property

No election signs will be permitted on any Council property or Council reserve, park or public place controlled by Council.

Signs on Private Property

Any election hoarding/sign erected on a private property must comply with the Waipa District Council – Proposed District Plan Appeals Version 14 July 2014 rules for election signs, summarised in the table below. Please note that this is not a comprehensive list of all zones and all requirements. If you are unsure whether your sign complies, please refer to the District Plan on Council's website, or contact Council's Planning Department.

RULES APPLICABLE TO ALL ZONES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shall not be internally illuminated, flashing, incorporate fluorescent or moving materials. ▪ Where attached to a building, no part protrudes above the eaves or parapet, or where attached to a fence or wall, no part protrudes above the top of the fence or wall. ▪ A freestanding sign shall be placed so that no part is more than 2m above ground level. ▪ Shall be placed so that they do not block sight distances at entranceways and shall be no closer than 20m to a road intersection. ▪ Shall be removed within three days of the conclusion of the event. 		
ZONE	SIZE OF SIGN	SUMMARY OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS
Rural	Maximum area of 3m ²	One sign per site Shall be set back 15m from any strategic road.
Residential & Large Lot Residential	Total combined area of 3m ² visible in all directions.	Shall be setback at least 15m from any strategic road.
Commercial	Total combined area of 3m ² visible in all directions	Shall be setback at least 15m from any strategic road.
Industrial	-	Signs within the Hautapu Industrial Structure Plan Area must be; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oriented to face the road from which vehicle access is obtained ▪ Not visible from the SH1 Cambridge Bypass ▪ Placed so that where visible from Hautapu Road, Peake Road and Victoria Road or adjacent to the Hautapu cemetery, they are setback from the road boundary by 15m.
Airport Business	Total combined area of 3m ² visible in all directions	Shall be setback at least 15m from any strategic road.
Mystery Creek Events	Signs shall not exceed 3m ²	Shall be setback at least 15m from any strategic road. Signs shall be oriented towards the road from which the site obtains its vehicular access.

If an election sign does not comply with the District Plan rules, a Landuse Consent will be required. An application, along with the appropriate fee, must be made to Council prior to the sign being erected on site. You should allow 20 working days for the landuse consent to be processed once an application has been lodged.

The period of display for election hoardings/signs on sites is limited to **90 days** prior to an election, by-election or referendum.

Signs on Public Places

Signs in urban areas are controlled by the Waipa District Control of Signs and Sale of Goods Bylaw 2007.

The bylaw prohibits vehicles with signage from parking in public places for the purposes of displaying signage.

In all areas the Waipa District Public Places Bylaw 2007 must be complied with (i.e. no obstructions or hazards to be caused).

Recommendations / Best Practice Guidelines

For public safety reasons, the following recommendations should also be complied with:

- There must be a ground clearance of 1.4 m under the sign
- Signs must be securely braced from the ground up to carry windloads for the duration of their erection;
- Signs must not be affixed to any tree, fence, parks furniture or Council sign;
- Signs must not be placed under the drip line of protected trees;
- The grassed area damaged by the hoardings/signs i.e. support holes, must be reinstated;
- Signs must not be placed in a location where it can obstruct the visibility of motorists;
- Signs shall be sited no closer than 20 metres to an intersection or in proximity to a sharp curve in the road where they may cause distraction to motorists or restrict visibility. (Signs considered to be a traffic hazard will be required to be re-sited).
- Signs must not be placed in a location where it will be an obstacle to pedestrians;
- Signs must not be reflectorised;
- Signs must not imitate any official road sign; or interfere with the objective of official road signs.

Any non-complying signs, or signs deemed to be unsafe, may be removed by Council officers and enforcement costs may apply.

Monitoring

- Candidates should regularly (daily if possible), monitor all their election signs with the view to reinstating any vandalised or storm damaged signs.
- Any signs that have not been reinstated within a period of 72 hours, may be removed from the site by Council Officers.
- To assist Council in the prompt processing of an election sign complaint, it would be appreciated if all candidates/parties register a contact name and phone number with Waipa District Council's Electoral Officer, for each ward within Waipa District where signs are to be erected. Candidates should ensure compliance with s 113 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 which requires that any advertisement (including signs) should contain a statement setting out the true name of the person(s) for whom or at whose direction it is published and the street address of his or her residence or business.