

COUNCIL POLICY

TITLE: ELECTION SIGNS

MEETING: Regulatory & Services

EFFECTIVE DATE: 17 August 2010

FILE REFERENCE: 101200

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1. POLICY STATEMENT

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Election Signs are subject to specific controls under the Electoral Act 1993 and associated Regulations, the Kawerau District Plan and the General Bylaw and any Transit New Zealand Rules in respect of State Highway 34.

2.0 General

2.1 The Electoral Act 1993 and associated Regulations set out national standards for certain aspects of election signs during parliamentary general elections and by-elections. Local election candidates are extended the same privileges under this policy.

2.2 Temporary election signs are permitted on private property (subject to the consent of the property owner).

2.3 Temporary election signs do not require a building consent or fee payable prior to their erection.

2.4 Temporary election signs for local elections are subject to the authorisation requirements as set out in the Local Electoral Act 2001.

2.5 The period of display for temporary election signs in the Kawerau District is limited to two calendar months prior to the general or local election (including any by-election or referendum). All election signs shall be removed before the election day.

3.0 National Standards

3.1 If electoral signs:

- encourage or persuade voters to vote for either a candidate or a registered party
- are displayed on any road or visible from any road
- do not exceed 3 square metres in size
- do not use reflective material or illumination or have moving parts; and
- do not look like a traffic sign in shape or colour

they may be displayed in the two months up to election day, regardless of any local authority bylaws and restrictions that may differ from the national standards.

3.2 In addition, if an electoral sign is displayed on any road controlled by Transit New Zealand the:

- lettering on the sign must be at least 120mm in height if visible from a road with a speed limit of less than 70km/h; or
- lettering on the sign must be at least 160mm in height if visible from a road with a speed limit of 70km/h or more.
- spacing between lines of text must be not less than 50mm.

3.3 Local authority by-laws and restrictions (if any) will continue to apply to aspects of the signs not covered by the national standards. Examples include location, density, application procedures, letter sizing and spacing on non-Transit controlled roads, fees, actions that local authorities may take in relation to non-complying signage, electoral signs greater than three square metres and signs displayed more than two months before election day.

4.0 Council Standards

4.1 All signs and their supporting structures shall be constructed, fixed and placed in a manner so they do not pose a danger to property or the public. This shall be the responsibility of the sign owner and the owner of the land or building on which the sign is placed.

4.2 No election sign shall be placed on any Council property or on any road or on any reserve or other public place.

4.3 Vehicle mounted signs are not permitted.

4.4 Any election sign must be securely braced from the ground up to carry wind loads for 60 days and must not be affixed to any tree or any surface, building or structure in a public place.

- 4.5 Council may remove any non-complying, unsafe or unauthorised sign. The cost incurred in removing the sign shall be recoverable as a debt against the owner of the sign or the owner of the land on or over which the sign was placed.
- 4.6 Any sign removed by the Council shall be released to the owner upon payment of the costs incurred in its removal and storage. Any sign that remains unclaimed or not released for a period exceeding one month may be disposed of by the Council.
- 4.7 No sign shall be erected or allowed to remain near roads where in the opinion of the Council that sign will:
- Obstruct the line of sight of any corner, bend, intersection or vehicle crossing
 - Obstruct, obscure or impair the view of any traffic sign or signal
- 5.0 Monitoring
- 5.1 Candidates and representatives from political parties should regularly monitor all their election signs and reinstate any vandalised or storm damaged signs.
- 5.2 Any signs that have not been reinstated within a period of 72 hours may be removed from the site by the Council.

6 RELEVANT DELEGATIONS

The Chief Executive Officer or his/her nominee has delegated authority for the implementation of this policy.

7 REFERENCES AND RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- Electoral Act 1993 and associated Regulations
- Local Electoral Act 2001
- Kawerau District Council General Bylaw: Part 5 – Advertising Signs