

Election Hoardings Policy (#2112)

Adopted: 24 September 2020

Background

Council has adopted a policy for the erection of temporary election hoardings (signs). It is necessary to give clear direction to those wishing to erect election hoardings on Council property, as well as clear authority to remove hoardings that are contravening the policy. This policy applies to local and national elections and will be made available to candidates prior to each election.

This policy covers the erection of election hoardings on Council property whereas rules for erecting election hoardings on private property are included in Chapter 16 of the District Plan – Signs and Lighting.

Legislative Context

The Electoral Act 1993 section 221B – Display of Advertisement of a Specified Kind sets the regulations for local and national elections regarding the size, shape and features of election hoardings. Local election hoardings must also be authorised in accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001 section 113(2) (b).

Objective

Election hoardings are located in places that reduce the impact on community infrastructure and traffic and pedestrian safety.

Policies

1. Election signs shall be placed in accordance with Far North District Council's Election Hoardings Policy.
2. All election hoardings erected on a public place must comply with the conditions detailed in this policy.
3. Election hoardings are permitted on Council streets and roads but not, street furniture, bus shelters, public toilets, power light or telephone poles and parks and reserves.
4. Election hoardings on the state highway corridor are not permitted at or above the 70kmph speed limit zone. Candidates should contact the New Zealand Transport Agency for advice.
5. Election hoardings placed in a public place should not exceed 3 square metres in size.
6. Structures and hoardings must be removed if they are considered by Council to be unsafe or constitute a traffic or pedestrian hazard.
7. The period of display of election hoardings shall be restricted to nine weeks prior to any election, by-election or poll. All such signs must be removed by midnight the day before the Election Day.
8. If the Chief Executive is of the opinion that any hoarding contravenes the above policy he may, without further authority from the Council, take whatever action he considers appropriate to remove the hoarding.

9. No election hoarding may use reflective materials or illuminations or moving parts and must not look like a traffic sign in shape or colour (see sections 5-8 of the Electoral (Advertising of a Specified Kind) Regulation 2005).