

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING ELECTIONEERING SIGNS ON STATE HIGHWAYS

This statement is a guideline for Waka Kotahi, NZ Transport Agency, regional staff/delegated, local authority staff, their wider teams and consultants.

The guideline objectives are to minimise the potential for road crashes arising from drivers being distracted by indiscriminate installation of electioneering signs and to ensure consistency of application of Waka Kotahi NZTA policy on such signs with minimal involvement by Waka Kotahi NZTA.

1. On State Highway Reserves – All areas above 70km/h (Waka Kotahi to Manage)
 - 1.1 Signs should not be located on state highway reserves.
 - 1.2 In exceptional circumstances only, signs may be erected within the state highway reserve **with the written approval of the Waka Kotahi NZTA Principle Safety Engineer.**
 - 1.2.1 For the exceptional circumstance to apply, the applicant must be able to demonstrate that all other options have been exhausted and that there is no other appropriate safe location for the sign.

Signs erected with written approval should meet the Waka Kotahi policy requirements set out in paragraphs 2.2.1 below.
 - 1.3 For safety reasons, vehicle mounted signs situated on State Highway Reserves **are not permitted.**
 - 1.4 To minimise staff involvement, Waka Kotahi shall:
 - Act quickly on inquiries from political parties and the public;
 - Instruct the network maintenance teams to inspect all state highways for compliance every 7 to 10 days;
 - Contact the parties/candidates where there is non-compliance, requesting action/removal within 48 hours; and
 - Instruct network maintenance teams to remove the signs if there is no action after 48 hours.
 - 1.5 Where any sign is erected without Waka Kotahi approval in an obviously unsafe location it will be removed immediately and stored undamaged. The party/candidate will then be advised of the storage location for retrieval at a fee of \$50.00 + GST. to cover Waka Kotahi costs.
2. **On Property Adjoining State Highways and on Urban State Highway Reserves (All Road reserves 70km/h or less) and adjoining property (Local Authorities to Manage)**
 - 2.1 Waka Kotahi shall refer all applicants/parties to the appropriate Local Authority.

2.2 Although it is expected that local authorities will administer their own controls in terms of district plans, Waka Kotahi should make known its views that any signs should meet the Waka Kotahi policy requirements set out in paragraphs 2.2.1 below.

2.2.1 Signs must:

- Not be reflectorised;
- Be located generally giving consideration to visibility and traffic safety;
- Not be on or adjacent to motorways;
- Not be erected in a manner that will create distraction or danger to road users; and
- Not imitate any official traffic signs.

2.3 Beyond appropriate liaison with local authorities to convey the above policy, Waka Kotahi shall have no other involvement with signs in these areas.