

New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA): Guidelines for Managing Electioneering Signs on State Highways

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 NZTA policy on such signs with minimal involvement by NZTA.

There are some fundamental considerations to make when erecting electioneering signs adjacent to state highways. These are:

In **rural** areas (where speed limits are 70km/h or above):

- Signs should be located off the highway reserve. You will, of course, need to consult with property owners and the appropriate local authority to gain any necessary consent
- If the sign requires resource consent, approval will likely be required from NZTA as an affected party under Section 95 of the Resource Management Act, your local authority will be able to advise on this
- Signs must not be reflectorised or erected in such a location that will create an obvious conflict with existing road signs
- Signs must not imitate or be of a form similar to any traffic signs. (This is a legal requirement in terms of the Land Transport Act 2003.)
- The location of signs must consider visibility and other traffic safety aspects
- Signs must be located at least 100m from intersections, bends in the highway and from other regulatory signs
- Signs are not permitted on or adjacent to **motorways**
- For the above noted safety reasons, vehicle mounted signs situated on state highways **are not permitted**

In **urban** areas (where speed limits are 70 km/h or less) you should seek the local authority's approval for erection of signs within or adjoining the road reserve.

Signs erected on rural state highways in a location or manner likely to cause distraction or danger to road users may be removed by NZTA or its agents without prior notice. Where a sign is removed the party will then be advised of the action taken and that the sign may be redeemed for a fee of \$50 to cover NZTA costs.

If you have any further queries, please contact:

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