

5 July 2022

Dear Candidate

Electioneering Signs Adjacent to State Highways

Waka Kotahi (NZTA) as road controlling authority for State highways throughout New Zealand seeks the co-operation of your party in controlling the location of electioneering signs adjacent to those highways.

The Waka Kotahi Board continues to be concerned with the potential for driver distraction arising from signs, particularly those adjacent to intersections and along higher speed arterial routes carrying high traffic volumes. It is clear from New Zealand and overseas experience that there is a direct correlation between poorly located signage and road crashes. Waka Kotahi is keen to ensure that electioneering signs do not contribute in any way to the road toll on New Zealand roads.

With this in mind there are some fundamental considerations we would ask you 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 Waka Kotahi 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 give consideration to 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 Waka Kotahi 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 Waka Kotahi costs.

Thank you for your cooperation.

If you have any further queries, please contact Jude Ward, Waka Kotahi on (03) 964 2813 or jude.ward@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Mark Pinner

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Waka Kotahi