

ELECTION HOARDINGS POLICY



WAIROA
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Stored:	Hyperlink
Approved by:	Senior Leadership Team
Department:	Community Development and Services
Policy Author:	
Date Approved:	22 August 2023
Next Review Date:	August 2025
Reviewed:	July 2023
Revision No:	2
Relevant:	Local Electoral Act 2001 Electoral Act 1993
Legislation related policies:	N/A
Related forms:	N/A

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PURPOSE

Local authorities are responsible for regulating when, where and how temporary signs can be displayed relating to central government and local body elections (often referred to as hoardings).

The purpose of this policy is to provide information on the rules and guidelines regarding temporary signage for central government and local body elections and how to lodge a query or complaint regarding a hoarding.

SCOPE

In the lead up to local body and central government elections, candidates standing may erect temporary signage around the community to promote their candidacy.

All signs must comply with the following:

1. Where signs erected on private property – these signs must have written permission from the landowner.
2. All signs must comply with relevant Wairoa District Plan signage rules.

POLICY PROVISIONS

Council's regulations regarding signage are outlined in Wairoa's District Plan, available on the Council website. The following are District Plan provisions that apply to signage.

- a) Signs advertising good and services and or conveying general information to the public are an essential and accepted method of communication.
- b) Signs commonly direct their message to the travelling public and therefore are located adjacent to public roads.
- c) These signs should be easily read, yet not distract the driver and not detract from the amenities of the area.
- d) Signs can also direct their message to pedestrians and should do so without causing a hazard on or above public footpaths.

See relevant zone rules of the District Plan for full details on signage rules and requirements.

LOCAL ELECTORAL ACT 2001

Under section 113(2)(b) of the Local Electoral Act, it provides that all signs are to display the name and contact address of the person authorising them.

GENERAL RULES

Temporary signs relating to central or local government elections shall not exceed 3.0m² in area and shall not be more than 4.0m in height.

Signs shall be securely braced to carry wind loads for 60 days.

Signs visible from roads shall be located at least 15m from any traffic control signs or signals and shall not obstruct driver visibility along the road and at intersections and accessways. Where Council considers signs to be unsafe or constitute a traffic hazard such as blocking lines of sight at an intersection, the Electoral Officer or Deputy Electoral Officer may instruct the Wairoa District Council Compliance Team to remove such signs. Any expenses incurred as a result of having to remove such signs will be at the sign owners cost.

The period of display of election hoardings shall be restricted to 9 weeks before polling day, in accordance with section 267A(2)(b) of the Electoral Act 1993. All such signs must be removed the day before Election Day.

PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

Where a candidate wishes to place signage on privately owned land, permission must first be obtained from the property owner. Permission cannot be given by a tenant to erect signage on tenanted land, and it is anticipated that where the land is owned by someone not in the resident household, that the residents will be notified prior to permission being granted.

Where the landowner and/or the tenant are employees of Wairoa District Council, permission must not be given to any candidates to place signage on their property as employees must maintain political neutrality throughout the entire election process.

COUNCIL OWNED AND ADMINSTRATED LAND

No election hoardings are to be erected on any Council owned or administrated land including roads, road reserves, streets, street furniture, bus shelters, public toilets, parks and reserves.

OTHER AGENCIES

It is advised that prior to the display of signage on or adjacent to a state highway the written consent of Waka Kotahi – New Zealand Transport Agency must first be obtained.

Candidates are also responsible for ensuring that, where applicable, their signage conforms with other agencies regulations such as KiwiRail.

RAISING A CONCERN

All queries or complaints in relation to temporary signage for central government and local body elections should be directed to the Wairoa District Council Electoral Officer or Deputy Electoral Officer at info@wairoadc.govt.nz

The Electoral Officer and/or the Deputy Electoral Officer will undertake an initial assessment to clarify the issue and where applicable, contact the landowner.

PERIOD OF PERMITTED SIGNAGE

Where a query is raised in relation to signage being erected before 9 weeks before polling day or left up after the required date, the Electoral Officer or Deputy Electoral Officer will contact the relevant potential candidate(s) and advise that the issue must be immediately addressed.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed at least every 3 years prior to the pre-election period and further alongside any review of the Wairoa District Council District Plan in relation to signage that may affect temporary signs and/or election hoardings.