

# Ngā Tohu Pōti

## Election Signs

### Election Signs

Regulations for signage in the Rangitikei District are contained in the District Plan and the Signs and Public Places Bylaw 2024. Candidates wishing to erect local government election signs within the Rangitikei District Council boundaries shall comply with the following:

- Signs must not be erected prior to 11 July 2025.
- No sign shall be erected in any public place. This includes within any part of the road reserve (other than New Zealand Transport Agency roads – see below), a park or recreation ground.
- Signs are allowed on roads controlled by the New Zealand Transport Agency (state highway) and on adjacent land where visible from those roads provided approval has been issued by the New Zealand Transport Agency (contact [environmentalplanning@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:environmentalplanning@nzta.govt.nz)). Approval from NZTA must be provided to Council prior to erecting a sign on a State Highway (email approval to [planning@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:planning@rangitikei.govt.nz)). Signs must also comply with the Rangitikei District Plan - see below.
- Signs on private property must comply with the Rangitikei District Plan:

Zone	Total signs per property	Maximum face area per sign
General Residential Zone	2	1m <sup>2</sup>
General Rural Zone	4	2m <sup>2</sup>
Rural Lifestyle Zone	4	2m <sup>2</sup>
Commercial Zone	1	2m <sup>2</sup>
General Industrial Zone	2	3m <sup>2</sup>
Education Zone	1	1m <sup>2</sup>

- Signs must not be revolving, flashing, animated, or reflective, and must not contain moving lights, lasers or images.
- Signs affixed to any building must not protrude above the roofline or beyond the outer edges of the façade to which they are affixed.
- Signs shall not adversely affect traffic safety.

- All signs that project outward from the wall or fascia they are attached to in the Commercial Zone and General Industrial Zone must:
  - Be positioned 2.4 metres above a footpath
  - Be set back 600mm from the road kerb
  - Be no more than 900mm deep or project more than 200mm from a veranda fascia.
- Signs having a face area of 6m<sup>2</sup> or less do not require a building consent, provided that they are less than 3 metres above ground level. Larger signs will require a building consent in which case the fee is \$430.00 per sign. However, building consent is not required for any sign that is designed by a chartered professional engineer.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to see to it that the provisions of the Electoral Act 2001 are complied with in every respect.

### Content of election signs

Queries regarding content of election signs including authorisations are to be made to the Electoral Officer. The Electoral Officer will make a candidate aware of any campaign material that does not have an appropriate authorisation.

Queries regarding the placement, size, or location are to be made to Council's planning department. Such complaints may result in the sign being removed by council staff.

## Guidelines for Managing Local Body Election Signs on State Highways

With local body elections approaching in September 2025, **NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA)** would like to remind local bodies and election candidates of its approach to managing candidates' election signs adjacent to state highways.

NZTA tries to minimise the potential for road crashes arising from drivers distracted by indiscriminate installation of election signs and seeks consistency of application of NZTA's policy on such signs by local bodies and election candidates.

When erecting election signs adjacent to state highways, there are several fundamental considerations to keep in mind:

### In rural areas (Speed limits 70km/h or above):

- Signs should not be located on the legal road. For signs on adjacent private land candidates will need to consult property owners and the local authority to gain any necessary consent.
- If the sign requires resource consent, approval from NZTA, as an affected party under Section 95 of the Resource Management Act, will probably be needed.
- If candidates wish to place signs along state highways on the legal road, consultation with NZTA is essential as the signs will be subject to the State Highway Bylaw which has provisions about the positioning, size, and content of signs.
- 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 similar form 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 (Speed limits 70 km/h or less):

- Candidates 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 has been removed the candidate will be advised where they can collect it. There may be a fee to cover NZTA's costs.

NZTA welcomes enquiries from candidates and councils so if you have any queries please contact:

**Alan Catchpole** at [environmentalplanning@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:environmentalplanning@nzta.govt.nz).