

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTION PROMOTIONS AND SIGNS

RR 10048

Officer responsible Environmental Policy and Planning Manager	Author Terence Moody, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Corporate Plan Output: Environmental Health Policy Vol II P.7.2.Text.12	

The purpose of this report is to confirm and amend the policy of the Council in regard to promotions and erection of advertising signs for Parliamentary and Local Body Elections.

INTRODUCTION

The Council at its meeting on the 23 July 1990 adopted requirements for the above purpose. These are contained in the Christchurch City Council Policy Register. While most of these continue to be valid, a few require minor amendment to reflect changes occurring since 1990 or to clarify the requirements, are appropriate.

CHANGES REQUIRED

Under the requirements for *Cathedral Square, City Mall and New Brighton Mall* in paragraph 5 the name *Leisure and Neighbourhoods Support Unit* should be changed to "Leisure Unit".

A further descriptive term should be added to the heading *Advertising Signs (Including Placards, Posters and Banners)*, reading "On or Adjacent to Roads".

In paragraph 2 under that heading the words *A building consent* should be replaced by the words "Council consent". The present note relating to *heavy signs* should be deleted and replaced with the following:

"This applies to signs of solid framing or backing in excess of 2 square metres in size."

Add a new paragraph following 3 which would read as follows:

"Signs must not be reflectorised or erected in such a location that they 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 requirement in terms of the Traffic Regulations 1976.)"

Add the following words at the end of paragraph 4. "Signs shall not be located so as to be likely to obscure or to confuse the interpretation of any traffic signals."

Add the following words to paragraph 5.

"However the following signs on vehicles are permitted:

- (i) Signs mounted on the roof of vehicles, provided they comply with the provisions of the Traffic Regulations 1976.
- (ii) Signwriting on the bodywork of candidates' vehicles, giving basic information such as the name of the candidate, their party and contact phone number(s).

(Note: Contravention of this paragraph is an offence under the parking bylaws)"

Amend paragraph 6 by the addition after the words *seven days after the election*, as follows:

"if a postal voting system is used; or removed and/or covered prior to election day when the ballot system is used."

Add a new paragraph as follows after paragraph 6:

"Signs erected contrary to these requirements or in a location or manner likely to cause distraction or danger to road users may be removed by the Council without prior notice. Where a sign is removed by the Council in these circumstances, the candidate(s) will then be advised of the action taken and the sign may be recovered from the Council following the payment of a fee of \$50.00 to cover part of the removal costs."

It should be noted that Transit New Zealand controls State Highways, some of which pass through Christchurch City, and they have requirements regarding election signs. These requirements are enforced by Transit New Zealand in a similar manner to that operating in this Council.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Since the matter was put forward to the June meeting of the Committee, City Streets staff have drawn attention to the provisions of the Traffic Regulations 1976 regarding loads on vehicles. They have suggested that it may be inappropriate for the Council to approve such vehicle mounted signs on moving vehicles when the securing of such a sign is covered by the provisions of regulations. It is recommended that the provision relating to this matter be deleted from clause 4 of the policy.

Recommendation: That the Council adopt the amended requirements, as specified above, for inclusion in the Election Promotions and Signs Policy.