



Understanding Planning

Election Signs

Election signs – general rules

The rules regarding signs in Nelson are covered under the Proposed Nelson Resource Management Plan.

To assist candidates for the forthcoming general elections the following information details criteria which applies to election signs that may be erected **without** resource consent.

Signs erected contrary to these provisions and not having a resource consent may be removed forthwith with any charges incurred referred to the candidate concerned.

How many?

The maximum number of signs is **10 per candidate** within the Nelson City district (including those on residential properties). In addition a further 2 larger signs may be put up in the Bishopdale and Miyazu Park areas (see overleaf).

How big?

For the 10 smaller signs the maximum area per sign is 0.75m² (e.g. 1.2m x 0.6m).

How high?

Maximum height 2.0m from ground level to top of sign.

Where can I place signs?

Election signs are permitted in all zones but they must **not** pose any hazard to road users.

To ensure driver visibility and traffic safety:

- Signs must be located at least 10m from any road intersection.
- Where located within 10 metres of a property access, signs must be set back 1.5m from the front boundary of the site or be less than 1m in height.
- The sign must not be erected on or overhanging any road reserve or public place (except in the Inner City, Suburban Commercial, and Industrial Zones).
- Where election signs are to be positioned along the State Highway written consent must first be obtained from Transit New Zealand, or if within the 50km/hr zone, from Nelson City Council.

When can I put them up?

Election signs can be put up no earlier than two months before the election and must be removed the day of the election. No sign may be put up or dismantled between the hours of 7pm and 7am.

What about the design of the sign?

The sign must meet the following design requirements:

- On local, sub-collector or collector roads, lettering must be a minimum of 150mm with a 100mm vertical gap between lines.
- On principal, arterial roads or State Highway 6, lettering must be a minimum of 160mm with a 100mm vertical gap between lines.
- The sign must not be 3 dimensional type (i.e. it must be a flat board but it can be double sided).
- The sign must not have reflective materials, flashing illumination, aerial or moving displays.
- The sign must not mimic or conflict with the design, shape, and colour combinations of traffic control or direction signs or signals or otherwise compromise traffic safety and control.
- The sign must be tidy and not detract from the visual amenities of the area.
- Any external illumination for the sign must be fixed and directed at the sign so as not to cause a distraction to drivers or a glare nuisance or spill light to other properties.

Special areas – Miyazu Park and Bishopdale Hill

To assist candidates two additional sites have been identified specifically for larger signs up to a maximum of 1.5m² (e.g. 1.2m x 1.2m) and a maximum length of 2.4m.

Note: a half sheet of wallboard will meet this area requirement.

For traffic safety reasons these signs are only to be painted on one side.

Signs may be erected on these sites one month prior to the election and must be removed the day of the election.

The maximum height permitted for these signs is 2 metres to the top of the sign.

The sites where these larger signs are permitted are:

1. Miyazu Park – to the south of the main cemetery gates, Queen Elizabeth II Drive.
2. Bishopdale, west side of Waimea Road to the south side of Ulster Street.

At each of these sites a maximum of one sign per candidate may be placed within the area, positioned on and parallel to the rows marked out by Council Officers.

Signs must not obstruct one another and must comply with all other rules for signs.

Other situations

If you want to put up signs which do not meet the criteria detailed in this pamphlet you will need to apply for a resource consent.

Such signs have to be dealt with as a Discretionary Activity. This means that careful assessment of the proposal will have to be made.

If the effects are significant and there are objections from neighbours the application would need to be notified – this process will take several months and your application may be declined. Any submitters have the right to appeal the Council’s decision

It is therefore important to ensure that any proposal you may have is made well in advance of the time required and that you also allow for the costs involved.

If you need more information contact the Nelson City Council’s Resource Management Division - Planning & Consents Section.

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