

### OVERVIEW

This document contains the framework and principles for the placement of election signage for local and central government elections and by-elections.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide election candidates and their agents with guidance on the placement of election billboards.

### 1.2 SCOPE

QLDC is committed to the principles of fairness and open democracy. It will not align itself with any political party or interest.

This Policy applies to billboard signage used to publicise election candidates and/or parties. Elections may include the following:

- > Local elections and by elections
- > Central government general elections and by elections
- > Elections of local trusts, including licensing trusts

## 2 REFERENCES

Type	Title
Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Local Electoral Act 2001</li><li>&gt; Local Electoral Regulations 2001</li><li>&gt; Electoral Act 1993</li></ul> <i>Note: Any legislation referred to should be interpreted as meaning the Act and its amendments</i>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Stay Safe Near Electricity (Aurora Energy)</li></ul>

### 3 POLICY

#### 3.1 DEFINITION

- > **“Billboard”** means any sign used to advertise an election candidate and/or party.
- > **“Election”** means any formal and organised choice by public vote of a person for a political office or other position.
- > **“Council”** means the Queenstown Lakes District Council.

#### 3.2 POLICY

Subject to the following restrictions election/by-election and referendum signs may be placed on business and residential zoned land and on approved Council owned or controlled sites.

No election/by-election or referendum signs shall be placed on any Council property or in any public place except in defined areas as nominated by the Council.

The period of display of election/by-election or referendum signs on approved Council owned or controlled sites shall be limited to two calendar months prior to the election date. All such signs shall be removed before the election/referendum day.

Election/by-election or referendum signs advertising, promoting or announcing any candidate or political party shall not exceed one (1) for any single candidate or any single political party, on any site and no such sign shall exceed 3m<sup>2</sup> in area.

An Enforcement Officer may remove any sign that does not comply with the above requirements. The Council may pull down, alter or remove any sign that does not comply with the above requirements and recover all costs incurred with the removal from the person who authorised the sign or at whose direction the sign was erected.

#### 3.3 APPROVED COUNCIL SITES

The approved Council owned or controlled sites are as follows:

Arrowtown

- > Road reserve adjacent to Millbrook corner

Glenorchy

- > Road reserve on the corner of Oban and Mull Streets

Kingston

- > Road reserve at the library/tennis reserve on Kent Street

Queenstown:

- > Frankton marina and marina drive reserve land
- > SH6 Local Purpose reserve (opposite entrance to Queenstown Airport)
- > Queenstown Events Centre road reserve
- > Ballarat Street car park road edge
- > Reserve on the Stanley/Shotover Street corner
- > Gorge Road on either side of the road at the bottom of Industrial Place and back towards Arthurs Point
- > At the top of the hill towards Sunshine Bay (on the left going towards Glenorchy)
- > On the Kelvin Heights corner

Wānaka:

- > Cardrona Valley Road road reserve opposite the Retirement Village
- > Showgrounds corner (corner of McDougall and Mt Aspiring Roads)
- > Two road reserves at the corner of Beacon Point Road and Plantation Road
- > Road reserve by the Department of Conservation land down from the Anderson Road roundabout.

No Council sites are currently identified in Makarora, Luggate, Hāwea and Albert Town.

Election signs will be permitted on other Council land by application to Council. Applications should be forwarded the Roading Operations Contract Manager at Queenstown Lakes District Council 03 441 0499.

## 4 WAKA KOTAHI NZTA REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTION HOARDINGS (SUMMARY)

Waka Kotahi NZTA requirements for electioneering signage on state highways is as follows:

- > No signs are allowed on or adjacent to motorways;
- > In speed environments of 70 kph or above, signs must not be located on the state highway road reserve\*;
- > The placement of a sign within the state highway road reserve in a speed environment less than 70 kph or on private property adjoining the state highway must:
  - not be reflectorised or placed in such a way that will create an obvious conflict with existing road signs;
  - not imitate or be of form similar to any traffic signs;
  - give consideration to visibility and other traffic safety aspects;
  - have no more than 6 to 8 words or 40 characters;
  - not be erected for longer than 8 weeks prior to election day and must be removed as soon as possible after election day;
  - seek approval from the local council.

\*The exception to this rule is that signs are permitted in the road reserve of state highways with speed environments of 70 kph or less in urban environments (e.g. Frankton Road).

## 5 ELECTION SIGNAGE AND CABLE STRIKE RISK

All the permitted Council sites have been reviewed for underground services and we believe that the risk of cable strike in these locations is low. However, please take care before digging in any location and your attention is drawn to the following advice from Aurora Energy Ltd:

- > Check before you dig – be aware that there are live electricity assets in the ground – always check for underground assets before installing stakes for signs
- > Only install signs in designated areas where it is safe to do so
- > Only use wooden stakes when installing signage to a maximum buried depth of 30cm
- > Note that the original location and buried depth of underground cables can change over time due to subsequent ground movement, landscaping and excavation, etc.
- > Review safety information on Aurora Energy's website including on checking before you dig and our guide to working safely around Aurora Energy's electricity network.

The website [beforeudig.co.nz](http://beforeudig.co.nz) provides useful information on this issue.