

Definitions

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| FORMED LEGAL ROAD¹ | Means a legal road that has been physically constructed and includes gravelling, metaling, sealing or permanently surfacing the road. |
| TRANSPORT CORRIDOR² | means, in relation to the SIGN chapter, any formed legal road and the Designated railway corridor |

SIGN Signs - Ngā Tohu

Overview

Signs are an important method of providing community, consumer and destination information and safety messages and traffic controls. They include a wide range of type and scale including large bill boards; free standing signs, signs attached to or painted onto buildings, illuminated and/or moving signs and digital displays.

Signs are generally anticipated in commercially focused areas such as the Town Centre Zone and Neighbourhood Centre Zone, Settlement Centre Precinct and in the General Industrial Zone, where they are used to advertise products and services that are available on the site on which the sign is located. However, if not carefully managed, signs have the potential to cause visual clutter and undermine the character and amenity values of an area.

To ensure signs are compatible with an area, their scale, number, illumination, motion and placement are matters that are managed through Te Tai o Poutini Plan. This chapter contains the provisions that control signs and includes provisions which manage signage that advertises services or products which are not directly related to or associated with the activity undertaken on the site upon which the sign is located.

Other relevant Te Tai o Poutini Plan provisions

It is important to note that in addition to the zone chapters, other Part 2: District-wide Matters chapters may contain provisions that are relevant to signs, in particular the specific Overlay Chapters referred to within this chapter such as Historic Heritage and Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori.

Signs Objective

SIGN - O1

Signs contribute to the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of the West Coast/Te Tai o Poutini while:

1. Supporting the needs of business, infrastructure and community activities;
2. Ensuring that any proposed signage is compatible with³ the character and amenity values of the surrounding area, and that these are maintained or enhanced and protected from any adverse visual and amenity effects; and
3. Maintaining public safety.

Signs Policies

SIGN - P1

Enable a diversity of sign types that provide for effective communication of government, business and community information and whilst maintaining public safety, access needs and the overall character of the area.

SIGN - P2

Ensure that the significant⁴ adverse effects, including cumulative effects of signs on the⁵ landscape, natural character and amenity values of residential areas, settlements, rural areas, open space and outstanding natural landscapes and features are avoided, remedied or mitigated. ~~protected from adverse visual and amenity effects from large areas or numbers of signs.~~

¹ Grey District Council (S608.682)
² Buller District Council (S538.346)
³ Westpower Limited (S547.491)
⁴ Foodstuffs (S464.051)
⁵ Westpower (S547.492)

SIGN - P3

Ensure that signs do not adversely affect traffic safety of all road users including motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, or obstruct roads or footpaths.

SIGN - P4

Enable temporary signage subject to meeting basic activity and built form standards.

SIGN - P5

Ensure signs relating to a particular activity or/use of land or buildings on the site are located at the site of that activity, land or building.

SIGN - P6

Support the use of bilingual signage and the use of traditional Poutini Ngāi Tahu place names within the District.

SIGN - P7

Avoid new off-site signs in Rural and Residential Zones and ensure that off-site signs in all other zones maintain transport safety and are compatible with the character and visual amenity values of the surrounding area, particularly where they are visible from any Residential or Rural Zone.⁷

Signs Rules

Permitted Activities - All Zones

SIGN - R1 General Permitted Activity Performance Standards - All Zones

Where Activity Status is Permitted

All signs shall not:

1. Project over the road or be located within a transport corridor;
2. Obstruct the line of sight of any corner, bend, intersection or vehicle or rail crossing;
3. Obstruct, obscure or impair the view of any traffic or railway sign or signal;
4. Physically obstruct or impede traffic, trains or pedestrians; and
5. Resemble or be likely to be confused with any traffic sign or signal;
6. Have:
 - i. Reflective materials,
 - ii. Flashing, revolving or intermittent light,
 - iii. Sound effects, or
 - iv. Animated, trivisual, inflatable or aerial components; or
 - v. Digital or LED light components⁸.
7. Be affixed to vehicles or trailers and parked in a location visible from a public place. This does not apply to advertising incidental to the primary use of the vehicle or trailer;
8. Exceed the height requirements for buildings in the relevant zone;
9. Be of a colour or size which could be confused with a traffic signal;
10. ~~Exceed~~ Be smaller than⁹ with the following minimum lettering size and character requirements:
 - i. 120mm minimum lettering size where facing any road with a posted speed limit of less than 70 km/h;
 - ii. 160 mm minimum lettering size where facing any road with a posted speed limit of 70 km/h or more;
 - iii. Have a maximum of 6 words and/or symbols with a maximum of 40 characters per sign when facing any road with a posted speed limit of 70 km or more¹⁰; and
11. ~~Exceed~~ Be smaller than the following separation distances between signs where these are located within 10 metres of a road:
 - i. ~~60m separation distances between signs facing a road with a posted speed limit of <70km/h~~¹¹
 - ii. 70m separation distances between signs facing a road with a posted speed limit of 71-80 km/h
 - iii. 80m separation distances between signs facing a road with a posted speed limit of >80 km/h

⁶ Buller Conservation Group (S552.157) and Frida Inta (S553.157)

⁷ Go Media Limited (S501.003)

⁸ Waka Kotahi (S450.178)

⁹ Waka Kotahi (S450.178), Davis Ogilvie & Partners Ltd (S465.029)

¹⁰ Davis Ogilvie (S465.030, S465.031), Griffen & Smith Ltd (S253.012)

¹¹ Go Media Limited (S501.008)

Advice Note:

Any sign located within the road corridor of a State Highway may require approval from Waka Kotahi - New Zealand Transport Agency as the landowner and network utility operator.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Restricted Discretionary

SIGN - R2 Traffic and Railway Signs - All Zones

Activity Status Permitted

Where:

1. The sign is required by Waka Kotahi - NZ Transport Agency and is located within a road reserve; or
2. The sign is required by NZ Railways Corporation/Kiwirail and is located within a rail corridor; or
3. The sign is required by the Council and is located within a road reserve or road corridor for a formed legal road.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Controlled

SIGN - R3 Official Signs that are not Traffic and Railway Signs - All Zones

Activity Status Permitted

Where:

1. The sign is required to meet legislative requirements such as health and safety legislation; or
2. The sign provides information relating to public safety or wayfinding, such as equipment use, property entrances or for security purposes, and is no larger than is reasonably necessary to convey the information; and
3. All performance standards of Rule SIGN- R1 are complied with, the exception being that signs required to meet health and safety obligations are not subject to the 6 word limit¹².

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Restricted Discretionary

SIGN - R4 Temporary Signs - All Zones

Activity Status Permitted

Where:

1. These are for community events and the sign is erected no earlier than 6 months before the event and is removed within 7 days of the event ending¹³; or
2. These are for temporary activities and the sign is erected no earlier than 1 month before the activity and is removed within 7 days of the activity ending; or
3. These are for construction sites and the sign is erected ~~no earlier than 6 months before the event~~ at the start of the construction activity and is removed within 7 days of the construction activity ending event; or
4. These are for land/premises for sale or lease and once the property is sold or let the sign is removed within 7 days; or
5. These are for electioneering where the sign is erected no more than 9 weeks before the election to which it relates and is removed within 1 day of the election day, unless otherwise required by statute; and
6. There is a maximum of one sign per road frontage;
7. The maximum sign face area is 3m²;
8. The maximum height measured from ground level is 42.5¹⁴m; and
9. All performance standards for Rule SIGN - R1 are complied with.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Restricted Discretionary

SIGN - R5 Community Signs - All Zones

Activity Status Permitted

Where:

1. There is a maximum of one sign per site;
2. The maximum sign face area is 2m²;
3. The maximum height measured from ground level is 4-2.5¹⁵m; and
4. All performance standards for Rule SIGN - R1 are complied with.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Restricted Discretionary

¹² Buller District Council (S538.348)

¹³ Buller District Council (S538.349)

¹⁴ Buller District Council (S538.349)

¹⁵ Buller District Council (S538.350)

SIGN - R6 Signs not visible from a road, publicly accessible space, RESZ - Residential, SETZ - Settlement or OSRZ - Open Space and Recreation Zone - All Zones
Activity Status Permitted

Activity status where compliance not achieved: N/A

SIGN - R7 Interpretation signs on the site of a Scheduled Feature in Schedules 1-4 or Schedule 6 - All Zones

Activity Status Permitted

Where:

1. The maximum sign face area of each sign is 3m²;
2. The maximum sign height measured from ground level is 4m; and
3. Performance standards for Rule SIGN - R1 are complied with.

Advice Note:

For signs located on or within Scheduled features compliance with the relevant rules for earthworks, buildings and structures may mean a resource consent is required.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Restricted Discretionary

SIGN - R8 Footpath Signs - All Zones

Activity Status Permitted

Where:

1. The sign is placed on the footpath immediately in front of the premises to which it relates;
2. A consistent 2m wide clear space for pedestrians on the footpath is maintained between the sign and the internal boundary of the footpath¹⁶;
3. The sign is removed from the footpath at the completion of the day's trading and not returned until the start of the next day's trading;
4. The sign is not displayed or attached to any public structure or traffic control device in a public place; and
5. All performance standards for Rule SIGN - R1 are complied with.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Restricted Discretionary

SIGN - R9 Verandah Signs - All Zones

Activity Status Permitted

Where:

1. The sign is under the verandah, on top of the verandah or within the verandah fascia;
2. The sign relates to an activity occurring on the site;
3. All performance standards for Rule SIGN - R1 are complied with;
4. There is a maximum of one under-verandah, one verandah fascia sign and one above verandah sign per premises per road frontage;
5. Any under-verandah sign must:
 - a. Provide a clearance of at least 2.5m from the footpath to the bottom of the sign;
 - b. Have a maximum height of 0.6m and a maximum depth of 0.25m;
 - c. Be setback 0.5m from the kerb of the road; and
 - d. Be mounted at right angles to the kerblines.
6. Any sign on a verandah fascia must be contained entirely within the verandah fascia;
7. Any sign above the verandah must:
 - a. Not exceed 1.2m in height above the fascia;
 - b. Not project beyond the face of the verandah; and
 - c. Be setback 0.5m from the kerb of the road.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Restricted Discretionary

Permitted Activities - Specific Zones

SIGN - R10 Signs in the MPZ - Māori Purpose Zone

Activity Status Permitted

Where:

1. These are erected with the approval of the relevant Poutini Ngāi Tahu Rūnanga; and
2. All performance standards for Rule SIGN - R1 are complied with.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Restricted Discretionary

¹⁶ Te Mana Ora (S190.564)

SIGN - R11 Signs in the AIRPZ - Airport Zone

Activity Status Permitted

Where:

1. These are erected by the airport/aerodrome/heliport controlling authority and relate to the purpose of the zone; and
2. All performance standards for Rule SIGN - R1 are complied with.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Restricted Discretionary

SIGN - R12 Signs in RESZ - Residential Zones

Activity Status Permitted

Where:

1. The sign relates to an activity occurring on the site;
2. There is a maximum of one sign per site;
3. There is a maximum sign face of 1m²; and
4. All performance standards for Rule SIGN - R1 are complied with.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Discretionary

SIGN - R13 Signs in the SETZ - Settlement Zone outside of the SETZ - PREC2 Settlement Centre Precinct and SETZ - PREC3 - Coastal Settlement Precinct

Activity Status Permitted

Where:

1. The sign relates to an activity occurring on the site ~~or an adjoining site~~¹⁷;
2. There is a maximum of one sign per site;
3. There is a maximum sign face of 2m²; and
4. All performance standards for Rule SIGN - R1 are complied with.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Restricted Discretionary

SIGN - R14 Signs in the SETZ - PREC 3- Settlement Zone - Coastal Settlement Precinct

Activity Status Permitted

Where:

1. The sign relates to an activity occurring on the site;
2. There is a maximum of one sign per site;
3. There is a maximum sign face of 1m²; and
4. All performance standards for Rule SIGN - R1 are complied with.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Discretionary

SIGN - R15 Signs in the GRUZ - General Rural Zone, RLZ - Rural Lifestyle Zone, FUZ - Future Urban Zone, MINZ - Mineral Extraction Zone and BCZ - Buller Coalfield Zone

Activity Status Permitted

Where:

1. The sign relates to an activity occurring on the site ~~or an adjoining site~~¹⁸;
2. There is a maximum of one sign per road frontage of the site;
3. There is a maximum sign face of ~~23~~¹⁹m²; and
4. All performance standards for Rule SIGN - R1 are complied with.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Restricted Discretionary

SIGN - R16 Signs in any OSRC - Open Space and Recreation Zone or the STADZ - Stadium Zone

Activity Status Permitted

Where:

1. The sign is located in an OSRZ - Open Space and Recreation Zone; and
2. The sign is:
 - a. Ancillary to a conservation, recreation or community activity; or
 - b. For commercial sponsorship of a recreation activity; and
3. All performance standards for Rule SIGN - R1 are complied with.

¹⁷ Grey District Council (S608.683) and Waka Kotahi (S450.181)

¹⁸ Grey District Council (S608.684) and Waka Kotahi (S450.182)

¹⁹ Grey District Council (S608.088)

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Restricted Discretionary

SIGN - R17 Signs in any CMUZ - Commercial and Mixed Use Zone, any INZ -Industrial Zone, the PORTZ - Port Zone or a SETZ - PREC2- Settlement Centre Precinct

Activity Status Permitted

Where:

1. Signs must relate to an activity occurring on the site;
2. Signs are not directed towards residential or rural areas;
3. Signs attached to the structure or face of the building must be no larger than²⁰ a maximum of 10% of the area of the building facade or 3m², whichever is the lesser; and
4. All performance standards for Rule SIGN - R1 are complied with.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Restricted Discretionary

Controlled Activities

SIGN - R18 Traffic and Railway Signs not meeting Permitted Activity Standards - All Zones

Activity Status Controlled

Matters of control are:

- a. The location of the sign;
- b. The size and height of the sign; and
- c. The management of effects on road and footpath user safety.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: N/A

Restricted Discretionary Activities

SIGN - R19 Signs which do not meet Permitted Activity standards not subject to Rule SIGN - R18

Activity Status Restricted Discretionary

Where:

1. The sign is not located in a RESZ - Residential Zone or a SETZ - PREC 2 - Coastal Settlement Precinct; and
2. The sign is not located in, on or within a Scheduled Natural or Cultural feature identified in Schedules 1 - 8 except the following Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori:
 - i. SASM 10 Kawatiri Pā; SASM 12 Kawatiri Town Reserve; SASM 15 No. 42 Kawatiri (Township) Native Reserve; SASM 31 Punakaiki Area; SASM 56 Māwhera Pā 1; SASM 57 Māwhera Gardens; SASM 58 Greymouth Railway Land; SASM 59 Māwhera Pā 2; SASM 60 Māwhera Kāinga; SASM 61 Victoria Park; SASM 63 No. 32 Nga Moana e Rua Native Reserve; SASM 94 No. 30 Arahura Native Reserve; SASM 96 Taramakau River; SASM 104 Kawhaka Creek Catchment; SASM 112 Arahura River at Tūhua; SASM 117 Waitaiki Catchment; SASM 121 Waitaiki Historic Reserve; SASM 197 Ōkuru.

Discretion is restricted to:

- a. The location of the sign;
- b. The content of the sign²¹
- c. The design materials and appearance of the sign and/or support structure and their effects on visual amenity;
- d. The size and height of the sign;
- e. For temporary signs, the length of time the sign is in place;
- f. Effects on road and footpath user safety; and
- g. Effects on traffic safety²²; and
- h. The relationship of the sign with existing signage on the site and in the surrounding area.

Notification:

~~Where a sign is visible from a state highway and does not meet the Performance Standards in Rule SIGN - R1 then the application will be Limited Notified to Waka Kotahi - NZ Transport Agency and may be publicly notified.~~²³

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Discretionary

Discretionary Activities

²⁰ Grey District Council (S608.089)

²¹ Grey District Council (S608.685) and Waka Kotahi (S450.183)

²² Waka Kotahi (S450.178)

²³ Buller District Council (S538.364)

SIGN - R20 Signs which do not meet Permitted Activity standards and are located in a RESZ - Residential Zone

Activity Status Discretionary

Activity status where compliance not achieved: N/A

SIGN - R21 Signs which do not meet Permitted Activity standards and are located in a SETZ - PREC 3 - Coastal Settlement Precinct.

Activity Status Discretionary

Activity status where compliance not achieved: N/A

SIGN - R22 Signs which do not meet Permitted Activity or Restricted Discretionary Activity standards and are located in, on or within a scheduled site or area identified in Schedules 1- 8

Activity Status Discretionary

Notification:

Applications for signs on sites and areas of significance to Māori will always be notified to the relevant rūnanga and may be publicly notified.

Activity status where compliance not achieved: N/A