



Kaikōura District Council Proposed New Signs Bylaw



Some Questions Answered

What is Council doing?

Council is required by law to periodically review all its bylaws and to engage with the community in doing so. Since early 2023 Council has been engaging with a small working group of community representatives to guide the review of its existing Signs Bylaw, which was last reviewed in 2011. The proposed introduction of a new Signs Bylaw is an outcome of this current review process.

Why can't we keep the same Signs Bylaw that we currently have?

Keeping the existing bylaw is an option, but the working group felt that some aspects of the current bylaw were not appropriate or could be improved.

The current bylaw is very complicated and difficult to understand and contains some rules that are considered unnecessary. Because of this it is not practical to apply the bylaw and it has therefore not been effectively enforced and many signs in the district don't comply with it.

Such extensive non-compliance makes it impossible to apply any controls on signs through the bylaw without being accused of unfairness and this lack of control in turn creates potential for adverse effects.

What is the general approach taken to signs by the proposed new bylaw?

It is believed that the extent to which the potential effects of signs such as creating nuisance, hazard and visual intrusion are acceptable depends to some degree on the environment that a sign is in. Accordingly it is proposed that different sets of rules should apply to different areas of the community.

The working group also believed that most of the signs that currently exist are appropriate to the environments that they are in, even if in many cases they do not comply with the current bylaw. It is therefore intended that the rules in a new bylaw should better reflect this, whilst still retaining some limits on what can be done.

How will the proposed new bylaw be given effect?

It is intended that unlike the previous (2011) bylaw, the proposed new Signs Bylaw will be actively enforced. Signs will be inspected by Council staff with owners or operators required to ensure their signs meet the bylaw rules.



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Will my existing signs comply with the proposed new bylaw?

The new bylaw has rules that set limits on permitted numbers, areas, heights and other parameters for various different types of signs in particular areas of the district.

Whether your signs will comply with these rules can only be determined by examining the provisions of the proposed bylaw. A copy of the bylaw can be obtained at www.kaikoura.govt.nz/council/public-notice or the Council offices.

Though simpler than those of the current bylaw, the provisions of the proposed new bylaw are still quite detailed, because of the need to cover a wide range of different signs and circumstances.

What happens if some of my existing signs don't comply with the rules in the new bylaw?

Some existing signs that don't meet the current rules will be allowed to remain under an "amnesty" provision until they need to be repaired or replaced, at which time they will have to be made to meet the new rules or will need to be removed. Not all signs will however qualify for this amnesty. In particular amnesty will not be granted for any off-site signs (signs which are not on the site to which the sign relates), excessive numbers of sandwich board or flat board signs or other signs that fall into certain 'prohibited' categories.

Details of the signs which will qualify for amnesty are given at the bottom of the table on page 10 of the bylaw.

A written notice of non-compliance would be issued to parties who have signs that do not comply with the rules of the bylaw and don't qualify for amnesty. These parties must then remove the signs or otherwise make them comply and if they do not do so Council may remove the sign(s) and/or take a prosecution against the offending party.

What happens if I put up a new sign that does not comply with the rules in the new bylaw?

If a new sign is put up that does not comply with the rules of the bylaw, it will have to be removed or otherwise made to comply.

Whilst the issue of permits for signs will no longer be required, ***it is very important that any party considering the installation of a sign is aware of the relevant provisions of the new Signs Bylaw before making or ordering such a sign, so that they do not put something in place which then has to be removed.***

When will the proposed new bylaw come into effect?

If it is approved by Council, the proposed new bylaw would come into effect from 11 December 2023.

Who can answer my questions about the proposed new bylaw?

If after reading the proposed new bylaw you are still not clear on how it will affect your signs, you can contact Dave Clibbery at Council on 03 319 5026.

How can I provide feedback on the proposed new bylaw?

A consultation process is being conducted to hear the views of the community on the proposed new bylaw before a decision is made on its potential adoption.

Submissions must be made in writing to either:

The Chief Executive
Kaikōura District Council,
PO Box 6, KAIKŌURA 7300

or;

Admin@kaikoura.govt.nz

The closing date for submissions is 6 November 2023.

An opportunity will be available for submitters to be heard by Councilors should they wish to do so.

Submitters should identify in their submission if they wish to be heard.