

Request to erect fluoride referendum signage on Council land

TO	Council
FROM	Angela Jane - Governance Strategy Manager
DATE	28 April 2015
SUBJECT	Request to erect fluoride referendum signage on Council land

1 Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to present a request from Jane Beck on behalf of Fluoride Free Thames for the placement of eight signs for the fluoride referendum campaign.

2 Background

The fluoride referendum is scheduled for the second half of the 2015 calendar year. The ballot will most likely take place over October/November 2015. A timetable with the suggested ballot wording will be presented to Council at its August 2015 meeting.

3 Issue

On 6 April 2015 Jane Beck, on behalf of Fluoride Free Thames, requested through staff permission to erect eight signs on Council land. Strategic Planning staff sought information and advice from the regulatory enforcement staff and the Thames Area Office. Historically the Thames-Coromandel District Council has declined all requests to erect election signage on Council land on the basis of ensuring Council's neutrality. On this basis staff advised the Chief Executive to decline the request.

Jane Beck was advised of the Chief Executive's decision on 19 April 2015 and was offered the option of seeking permission from the Council at the next Council meeting.

4 Discussion

The request from Jane Beck, on behalf of Fluoride Free Thames is attached. The request includes specific sites and suggests that both sides of the fluoride debate be given permission.

The request notes that Council's Control of Advertising Bylaw 2007 has expired and that the bylaw allowed referendum signage to be erected without a permit so long as the signage complied with the referendum clause requirements and approval was obtained from an authorised officer prior to placement of the sign.

The referendum clause in the bylaw also refers to election signage. The requirements relate to size (shall not exceed 3 m²); approval by the Council for placement on any reserve or public place; and timeframes for signage (no earlier than 2 months before polling day and removed before polling day).

While the bylaw provided for election and referendum signage it appears that the Council has not given permission, at least in recent times, for election signage and there has not been a referendum to the writer's knowledge.

5 Suggested resolution(s)

That the Council:

1. Receives the 'Request to erect fluoride referendum signage on Council land' report, dated 27 April 2015.
2. Determines the request from Jane Beck, on behalf of Fluoride Free Thames to erect fluoride referendum signage at the following locations:
 - Junction of Burke and Queen Street, northern corner.
 - Junction of Pollen and Queen Street, southern corner.
 - Queen Street at boundary just inside Porritt Park facing Sealey Street.
 - Junction of Richmond and Queen Street, northern corner on western side closest to the Firth of Thames (double sign).
 - Queen Street on grassy patch of garden almost opposite Mitchell Street (double sign).
 - Jellicoe Crescent on verge opposite Banks Street (double sign).
 - Ngati Maru Highway north side of the bridge over the Kaueranga River on the eastern side of the road.
 - Ngati Maru Highway south side of the bridge over the Kaueranga River on the western (Firth) side of the road.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A *Request from Fluoride Free Thames (Jane Beck) to erect fluoride referendum signage on Council land*

Attachment A

<<Insert DW Link or place Attachment here>>