

# **Request to Place Referendum Signage on Council Land**

---

<b>TO</b>	Thames Community Board
<b>FROM</b>	Greg Hampton - Area Manager
<b>DATE</b>	9 June 2015
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Request to Place Referendum Signage on Council Land</b>

---

## **1 Purpose of report**

To present a request from Jane Beck on behalf of Fluoride Free Thames for the placement of eight signs on Council land 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.

## **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.

A report was provided for the 13 May 2015 Council meeting which was subsequently withdrawn and referred to the Thames Community Board.

The Thames Community Board discussed the issue at its 21 May 2015 workshop and requested a report be presented to its 29 June 2015 ordinary meeting so that it may make its formal recommendation.

## **4 Discussion**

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

### **Proposed sites for signage**

- 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 Kauaeranga River on the eastern side of the road.
- Ngati Maru Highway south side of the bridge over the Kauaeranga River on the western (Firth) side of the road.

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 m<sup>2</sup>); 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 Thames Community Board:

1. Receives the Request to Place Referendum Signage on Council Land report.
2. Recommends to Council that the request to erect signage on Council land for the fluoride referendum campaign be declined.

## **References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments**

***Attachment A*** *Request to erect signage on Council land*

[Attachment A - Request to erect signage on Council land](#)