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## INFORMATION GUIDE:

### MOVEABLE SIGNS

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#### What is a moveable sign:

The Local Government Act 1999 defines a moveable sign as "a moveable advertisement or sign". Moveable signs are commonly used to advertise business activities and come in the form of "A" frame, inverted "T" designs or the like.



"A" Frame Sign



Inverted "T" Sign

#### Rules relating to moveable signs:

Wattle Range Council has adopted By-Law No: 2 *Moveable Signs* that establishes the standards for moveable signs and their placement.

By-Law No: 2 stipulates the rules relating to movable signs as follows:

#### Construction and design:

A moveable sign displayed on a public street or road should:

- Be of a kind known as an "A" frame or sandwich board sign, an "inverted T" sign, or a flat sign
- Be well constructed and maintained in good condition so as not to present a hazard to any member of the public using the footpath upon which the moveable sign has been placed.
- Be of strong construction so as to be stable when in position and to be able to keep its position in adverse weather conditions
- Not contain sharp or jagged edges or corners
- Not be unsightly or offensive in appearance or content
- Not contain flashing parts
- Be constructed of timber, metal, plastic or plastic coated cardboard, or a mixture of such materials

- Not exceed 900mm in perpendicular height, or have a base with any side exceeding 600mm in length
- Not have a display area exceeding one square metre in total or, if the sign is two-sided, one square metre on each side
- Be stable when in position
- In the case of an "A" frame or sandwich board sign - be hinged or joined at the top – be of such construction that its sides shall be securely fixed or locked in position when erected
- In the case of an inverted "T" sign, contain no struts or supports that run between the display area and the base of the sign

#### Placement:

A moveable sign shall only be positioned on a public street or road on the footpath area subject to the following conditions. The moveable sign:

- Must be adjacent to the premises of the business to which it relates
- Where there is no kerb to define the footpath, must allow a set back of 400mm from the edge of the carriageway
- In case of a flat sign, must be in line with and against the property boundary of the street or road
- Must be placed no less than 2 metres away from any structure, fixed object, tree, bush or plant
- Must not, without Council's permission, be fixed, tied or chained to or, leaned against any other structure, fixed object, tree, bush or plant
- Must not be placed on a sealed part of any footpath area, unless the sealed part is wide enough to contain the sign and still leave a clear thoroughfare at least 1.2 metres wide
- Must not be placed within one metre of the corner of a street or road
- Must not be placed on a landscaped area
- Must not be placed on a designated parking area or within 1 metre of an entrance to or exit from premises
- Must not be placed within 6 metres of an intersection
- Must not unreasonably restrict the use of the footpath or road or endanger the safety of members of the public

## Restrictions:

A moveable sign displayed on a public street shall:

- Display material which advertises a business being conducted on commercial premises adjacent to the sign, or the products available from that business
- Be limited to one per business premises
- Only be displayed when the business is open to the public
- Be securely fixed in position such that it cannot be blown over or swept away
- Not be in such a position or in such circumstances that the safety of any user of the street or road is at risk
- Not be displayed during the hours of darkness unless it is clearly visible
- Not be displayed on a medium strip, traffic island or a carriage way of a street or road.
- Not cause a nuisance or detrimentally affect amenity enjoyed on nearby sites through the emission of glare, reflection, flashing lights or movement
- Not comprise bunting, streamers or attached floating objects

## Moveable Signs that:

- Direct people to an open inspection of any land or building that is available for sale or lease
- Direct people to a garage sale that is being held on residential premises
- Direct people to a charitable function
- Are a flat sign containing only the banner or headlines of a newspaper or magazine -

are not subject to the requirements above and do not need any form of Council Approval.



## What should I do if my moveable sign is not within the Rules set out in the By-Law?

There are a number of cases where a sign may require Development Approval or be subject to other legislative requirements. This may occur if a proposed or moveable sign or advertising sign is proposed in the following situations:

## Local Government Act 1999

In accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act a permit may be obtained to "Alter a Public Road". This may occur if you wish to install an additional or larger sign on a public road. Prior to issuing an authorisation under Section 221 of the Local Government Act the Council must ensure that the sign will not unduly affect the use of the safety of the roadway or footpath.

## Development Act 1993

A freestanding sign is a sign that is not attached to a building or other structure but is typically erected on pole/poles in the ground or some other support. All signs of this nature require Development Approval from the Council. A Development Application must be lodged with and approved by the Council before the sign is displayed.

Most applications are assessed on their merits and a planning assessment will be undertaken to determine the appropriateness of the sign against the policies in the Council's Development Plan. Most freestanding signs will be classed as category 3 developments.

## Street, directional and tourist signs

Street, directional and tourists signs (eg. sign posts on street corners displaying the street name and often, names of churches, schools, or other community facilities) need the approval of and will be erected by Councils Engineering Services Department.

Requests should be made in writing and outlining the location of the proposed sign, the information to be displayed and a contact person for further information. Fees are payable for this service.



## Further Information

For more information please contact Development Services Department staff on 08 8733 0900.