

# **KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL**

# **SIGNS CODE**

Adopted:

29 September, 1997

Amended:

29 March, 1999 27 January, 2009 Refer Katherine Town Council By-Law 86

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### **CITATION**

This Code may be cited as the Katherine Town Council Signs Code.

#### COMMENCEMENT

This Code comes into operation on the date that By-laws repealing the By-laws of the Katherine Town Council Nos 85 of 1982, 21 of 1987 and 47 of 1990 came into operation.

## 2. PURPOSE OF CODE

The main purpose of the Code is to ensure, as far as is practicable, that the placement, size, shape, content and colour of signs, hoardings and advertisements on premises adjoining or in view of a public place:

- (a) are compatible with the design and character of the premises and land use to which they are related and with the streetscape and amenity of their locality;
- (b) do not cause visual clutter and disorder;
- (c) do not cause a potentially unsafe distraction to the drivers of motor vehicles;
- (d) provide useful information; and
- (e) are reasonably acceptable to the community as a whole.

## 3. USING THIS CODE

- 3.1 The following notes should be used as a guide to using this Code, and read in conjunction with Katherine Town Council Fees & Charges.
- i) Decide what type (structure) of sign and advertising you are proposing to erect by reference to the Definitions and Sign Structure Types diagram provided in Clause 4 (Interpretation);
- ii) Determine which NT Planning Scheme zone the sign is to be exhibited in; refer to Schedule 1 or Schedule 4. Then refer to Clause 6 (Exempt Signs) and the advertising sign tables in Schedules 2 and 3 to determine whether a permit is needed before the advertising sign can be exhibited;
- iii) Check to determine that the advertising sign will comply with the provisions in Clauses 8 (General Approval Criteria), 9 (General Council Policy Relating to Types of Signs) and 10 (General Council Policy Relating to Signs On or Over a Public Place);
- iv) Where a permit is required, make an application to Council.

#### 4. INTERPRETATION

For the purposes of interpretation, the Code is to be read together with the Katherine Town Council By-laws as in force from time to time. This Signs Code does not apply to regulatory signage located within the road reserve of Territory or local roads.

A reference in the Code to a specified zone means a reference to that zone specified and described in the NT Planning Scheme – Katherine made under the *Planning Act*, and of which brief descriptions are given in Schedule 1 with a pictorial reference (plan) being Schedule 4.

A person proposing a sign which does not appear to come within the scope of the definitions in this clause may apply to the Council for the approval or rejection of the sign on its merits and in accordance with the approval criteria set out in the Code and with general Council policy expressed in relation to the relevant zone where the proposed sign is to be situated.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

In this Determination, unless the contrary intention appears;

"advertising sign" means any form of advertising using words, letters, images, pictures, symbols, objects, colours or illumination, exhibited or displayed for the attention of the public, and includes murals, bunting, flags, blimps, kites, streamers, lamps, globes and flood lights;

"animated sign" means a sign that is designed to move, flash, change its message, intensity or pattern, or which contains moving parts;

"awning" includes a veranda or portico;

"balloons, blimps and kites" means signs made of inflatable devices or devices that require wind to stay aloft, being devices that are tethered to the ground or a structure;

"banner" means a sign made of light non-rigid material;

"business sign" means an advertising sign restricted to the name and occupation or activities of the person occupying the premises in relation to which the sign is erected, and, where a number of persons are carrying on different businesses in a place, includes a sign identifying the place;

"bunting" means a sign consisting of bunting, streamers, flags, pennants or windvanes;

"carriageway" means a portion of a road improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic and includes the shoulders and areas at the side or centre of the carriageway used for the standing or parking of vehicles (including parking bays), and, where a road has two (2) or more portions divided by a reservation, means each portion separately;

"CBD" means the central business district of the municipality:

"cluster sign" means a sign structure that contains more than one (1) sign;

"Code" means the Katherine Town Council Signs Code;

"community services sign" means a sign that provides information relating to community facilities, charitable organisations and religious venues;

"Council" means the Katherine Town Council;

"election sign" means a temporary sign erected shortly before the holding of a local government, Territory or federal election;

"exempt", in relation to a sign, means exempt from the requirement of obtaining a permit under this Code;

"flag" means a banner supported or affixed on one side only and not exceeding 2m<sup>2</sup> in area:

"freestanding sign" means a sign that is self-supporting and not attached to the sides of a building, wall or facia; and includes a freestanding sign on the roof of a structure, whether its supports are attached to the roof or not;

"high sign" means an advertising sign, or its supporting structure, which:

- (a) is exhibited on or above the roof of a building;
- (b) is exhibited on a wall of a building so that any part of the sign, or its supporting structure, exceeds a height of 7 m above ground level; or
- (c) is freestanding and exceeds 7 m in height;

"illuminated" sign means:

- (a) a sign illuminated by lights within the sign;
- (b) a sign externally lit; or
- (c) a sign composed of light devices that do not flash, change intensity or pattern;

"information bay sign" means an advertising sign located on any one of three (3) Information Bays, situated on Territory road reserves.

"local road" means a road under the care, control and management of the Katherine Town Council.

"mural" means a painting or artistic work (including collage effects) composed of pictures or arrangements of colours which is devoid of advertising content and is made directly onto a wall or facia;

"pole sign" means an advertising sign which:

- (a) is erected on a pole or a pylon and which, in either case, is not on or part of a building or other structure; and
- (b) does not exceed a height of 7m above ground level;

"projecting sign" means an advertising sign attached to and protruding, perpendicularly or horizontally, from a building or structure, but is not attached to the roof of the building or structure, and which -

- (a) is not less than 2.7m above ground level;
- (b) does not exceed a height of 7m above ground level; and
- (c) does not extend past the edge of any awning adjacent to a road;

"promotion sign" means a sign that provides information about the services or goods produced, provided or sold as a major activity on the premises, or may relate to events or activities substantially carried out on the premises;

"real estate sign" means a sign of a temporary nature used to indicate, display or direct the public to real property that is available for rent, lease, sale, auction or inspection;

"street furniture sign" means a sign attached to such items as public seating, planter boxes and other functional structures in public places;

"Territory" means the Northern Territory Government;

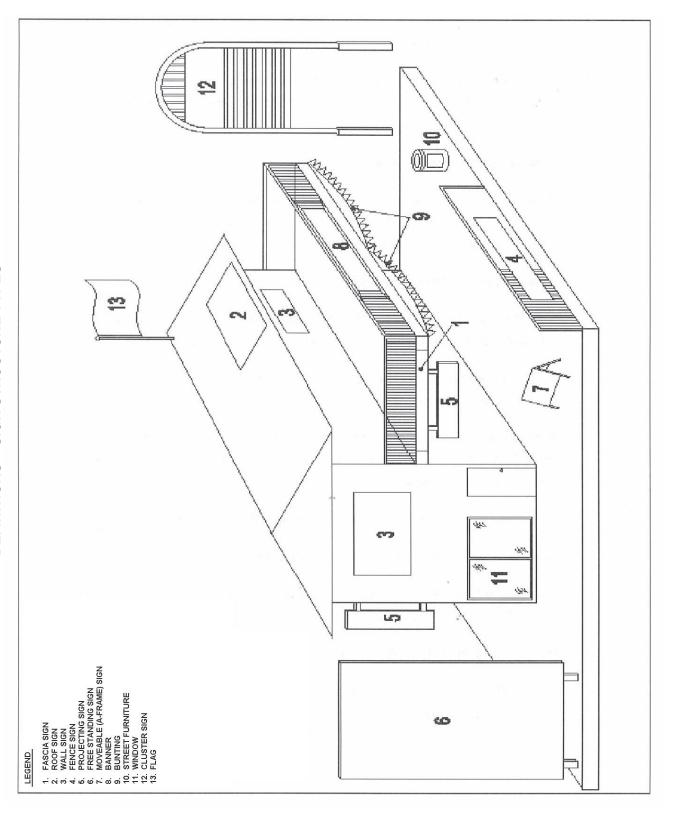
"Territory road" means a road under the care, control and management of the Northern Territory Government;

"third party advertising" means advertising that provides information about:

- (a) services or goods that are not produced, provided or sold as a major activity on the premises; or
- (b) events or activities not substantially carried out or associated with the premises;

"vehicle or trailer sign" means a static vehicle or trailer adapted for and used as a sign;

"wall or fascia sign" means a sign pasted, painted or mounted on a wall or fascia of a building (including structures attached to the building) or on a structure that protrudes no more that 50mm from the wall, fascia or structure, but does not protrude into or over a road.



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#### 5. PERMITS REQUIRED

- (1) Unless an advertising sign is exempt under Clause 6 (Exempt Signs), a permit is required for a person to erect, install, place, paint or construct a sign, hoarding or advertisement or allow any such thing to happen, on premises adjoining or in view of a public place.
- (2) An application for a permit may be made to the Council, together with any drawings or plans of the proposed sign, and accompanied by the prescribed fee (if any).
- (3) An application for a permit for a sign which is prohibited will not be accepted by the Council.
- (4) A permit for a sign in, on or over a public place will not be issued until the applicant has agreed in writing to indemnify the Council from any loss or damage caused by the sign.
- (5) Except as otherwise provided in the Code, a permit remains valid for a period of five (5) years, after which a review of the permit shall take place, except for signs located on road reserves, which are renewable annually.
  - NB: permits for Free Standing and Blue Finger Board signage remain valid for five (5) years.
- (6) The Council will not issue a permit for a sign on a Territory road unless it is in possession of a written consent from the Territory authorising the applicant to erect the sign.

#### 6. EXEMPT SIGNS

The following signs do not require a permit:

- (a) a sign stated to be exempt in both Schedule 2 and Schedule 3, and which complies with the Council policy and approval criteria set out in the Code;
- (b) a traffic control or driver advisory guide, service or similar device displayed by reason of a statutory obligation imposed by a law in force in the Territory;
- (c) a sign on enclosed land (including a sporting field) or within a building and not readily visible from a public place outside the enclosure or building;
- (d) a sign displayed on or inside a vehicle, other than a vehicle which is adapted and exhibited primarily as an advertising sign; or
- (e) a sign affixed to the inside of a window of premises, or displayed inside a window of premises, unless the sign is likely to cause offence to members of the public.

## 7. GENERAL COUNCIL SIGNS POLICY IN VARIOUS ZONES

The general policy of the Council towards signs in the various zones is as set out below. Refer to Schedules 1 and 4 for further clarification.

#### (a) **RESIDENTIAL ZONES** – SD, MD, MR & HR

Signs within residential zones should be sympathetic to the residential character of the zone, discreet and of small scale. Signage should be limited to the front of a building, facing the street, rather than on the sides of buildings facing residential properties.

## (b) **COMMERCIAL ZONES** – CB, C, SC, TC & CV

Generally, signs in business zones should be of such a standard so as not to constitute a traffic hazard or be offensive to general community standards.

Opportunities should be taken for the shared use of signage, particularly a pole sign. A pole sign may be permitted to extend past the property boundary and over a road reserve within the CBD but this will not be permitted in other locations.

## (c) INDUSTRIAL ZONES – LI & GI

An industrial zone with its larger scale built form and larger wall spans is more suited to larger signs.

Dominant activities in premises should have the dominant sign with identification of the business being the prime objective.

In the case of an industrial village or multi-tenant complex, signage should be displayed so as to avoid clutter. A single structure which identifies the village location and the various tenancies is desirable. Pole signs should not extend past a property boundary into or over a road reserve.

Where premises front an arterial road, signs should be presented to avoid message clutter and be designed to reduce visual confusion when seen from the road.

#### (d) **RECREATION ZONES** – PS, OR & CN

Advertising in recreation zones should be discreet and limited to that necessary to identify the use of the land and be sited so as to minimise the impact on the locality.

#### (e) **RURAL AND OTHER ZONES** – R, H, RR, RL, A, WM & FD

The rural zones, by their very nature, provide for low density residential development, whilst catering for agricultural pursuits, and signs within these zones should be limited to that necessary to identify the use of the land and be so sited to minimise the impact on the locality.

#### 8. GENERAL APPROVAL CRITERIA

When considering an application for a permit under the Code the Council, after taking into account its zone policies set out in Clause 7 (General Council Signs Policy in Various Zones), will consider the following criteria in relation to the particular application:

- (a) where a number of tenants of premises are involved, advertising signs shall be coordinated and complimentary to one another. They shall also be complimentary to the design and architecture of the premises. Coordination of signage is the responsibility of the owner of the premises or the property manager;
- (b) the number of advertising signs per site shall be minimised to avoid visual clutter and disorder and to avoid one sign obscuring another;
- (c) advertising signs shall be designed so as not to detrimentally affect the amenity of the site by reason of their location, construction, design or type;
- (d) advertising signs shall be designed so that structural supports are either concealed from public view or are of minimal visual impact. Guy wires, for example, are considered undesirable forms of support;
- (e) advertising signs shall not emit excessive glare or reflection from internal or external illumination:
- (f) all forms of advertising signage shall be constructed of durable materials and maintained in good condition at all times;
- advertising signs shall not, by reason of their size or location, obscure a driver's view of oncoming vehicles, pedestrians or potentially hazardous road features;
- (h) advertising signs shall not be located or designed so as to distract a driver's attention from traffic lights, intersections or the road in general;
- (i) advertising signs shall not bear any resemblance to any regulatory or warning traffic control device in colour, animation, wording or symbols that may cause confusion to drivers:
- (j) advertising signs which may cause offence to the general public by virtue of their design or message are prohibited; and
- (k) all signs shall comply with all relevant laws in force in the Territory.

#### 9. GENERAL COUNCIL POLICY RELATING TO TYPES OF SIGNS

The general Council policy relating to certain types of signs on, adjoining or in view of a public place is as set out below. This Clause 9 should be read in conjunction with Clause 4 (Interpretation).

#### (a) Vehicle or trailer signs

The use of vehicle or trailer signs is prohibited in all zones.

## (b) Animated signs

Flashing lights in an animated sign are prohibited if they are likely to be in the view of a driver of a vehicle.

Chasing lights, where lights follow in a repetitious pattern, are only appropriate within commercial zones, particularly the CBD, but are prohibited in an animated sign if they are likely to cause distraction to drivers, the general public or residents.

Bright lights are generally undesirable as they are likely to cause a distraction to drivers and may be confused with traffic control devices. Bright lights are particularly undesirable within, or adjacent to, residential zones.

## (c) **Bunting**

Bunting can cause the impression of clutter and is inappropriate particularly in, or within close proximity to a residential zone.

Bunting may be acceptable within commercial zones, particularly within car yards or service stations, where the premises maintain an open appearance.

Bunting is inappropriate on or under awnings which extend over Council controlled roads or reserves. Temporary bunting will be permitted for special promotions (other than in residential zones unless associated with new housing/land developments).

## (d) Murals

Murals will not generally be permitted in, or within close proximity to, a residential zone.

Murals are generally undesirable outside the CBD, but may be appropriate on school buildings.

Murals should generally be limited to one facade of a building and should not exceed  $35m^2$  in area.

#### (e) Banners

Temporary banners are permitted in industrial and commercial zones and require approval in all other zones.

Banners displayed on a permanent basis will not generally be permitted.

## (f) Balloons, blimps and kites

Advertising balloons, blimps, and kites may be permitted if displayed for promotional reasons on a temporary basis, in zones other than residential.

The maximum duration for the display of a balloon, blimp or kite is two (2) weeks, and no more than three (3) permits a year for a display from any one site will be granted.

#### (g) Flags

Flags can be displayed for two reasons:

- (i) to advertise national flags or emblems; or
- (ii) to advertise products or services which may be available from the premises to which they are attached and to advertise premises that are open for business.

## (h) Event Signage

Notwithstanding Clause 11 (Third Party Signage), the Council may allow the use of sponsors' names or logos in signs advertising events if the event appears to have significant community value.

Event signage shall not be erected more than one (1) week prior to the event occurring and shall be removed within two (2) business days following the event

NB: Clause 8 (General Approval Criteria) applies to all forms of Event Signage.

#### (i) Cluster Signs

Businesses within Industrial and Commercial Zones and zone CV, refer Clause 7 (General Council Signs Policy in Various Zones), are only eligible to apply for a permit for a Cluster Sign.

The signage displayed shall be directional in nature, with blades measuring 1050mm x 150mm, giving a total of 0.15m², alternatively structures located at the Industrial Estate, Sportsgrounds, Victoria Highway, Emungulan Road and the Cemetery, or as otherwise determined by the Katherine Town Council measure 200mm x 2500mm, giving a total of 0.5m².

NB: each premises is entitled to one (1) Cluster Sign only.

#### (j) Information Bay Signs

Council in conjunction with the Northern Territory Government has constructed three (3) Information Bays located at Uralla Road – Stuart Highway, Zimin Drive – Victoria Highway and Emungulan Road – Stuart Highway.

Permits are valid for a 12 month period commencing at the start of each financial year. The applicant must supply and maintain the sign in good condition, as damaged or faded signs will be removed by Council and the owner will be required to repair or replace them prior to reinstallation.

NB: Sign allocations measure 1m<sup>2</sup>; each business is entitled to one (1) Information Bay sign per structure, irrespective of business premises location.

# 10. GENERAL COUNCIL POLICY RELATING TO SIGNS ON OR OVER A PUBLIC PLACE

Unless placed directly on the face of an approved awning, all advertising signs which are on or over a public place require a permit from the Council which, in considering an application, will have regard to the policies set out below. This Clause 10 should be read in conjunction with Schedule 3.

## (a) Signs overhanging a public place

A projecting sign which overhangs a road reserve is prohibited in a residential zone.

All advertising signs which overhang a public place must comply with the Code in respect of size, type and number relevant to the zone in which the sign is sited.

#### (b) Freestanding advertising signs located on road reserves

A freestanding advertising sign may be placed on a road reserve (other than on the carriageway) if it is constructed of -

- (i) two (2) faces joined together at the top by hinges (sandwich board or A-frame sign);
- (ii) one face that is placed against the front of a property boundary to the road (flat signs); or
- (iii) a double-sided board in a free standing frame.

In general only one freestanding advertising sign for each premises will be permitted. Additional sign structures may be considered on merit.

Where there are multiple tenants to a site, ie a shop or business is located within an arcade or within an industrial park, one sign advertising all tenants would be preferable.

The sign shall not:

- (i) exceed a height of 1.2m from the ground;
- (ii) exceed 0.8m in width; or
- (iii) exceed 1m<sup>2</sup> in area.

The base of the sign shall be no wider than 0.8 m but in zones LI, GI, TC, CP or CV (refer Schedule 1) where there are areas with wide nature strips, a sign of up to 1.8m in height and 1.2m in width will be considered on merit.

The sign must be located directly outside the premises in question and not across the road or on a median strip. In such instances where the business is located on a National One Service Road, free standing signage may be permitted to be sited on the dividing median strip.

The owner will, in all instances before being granted a permit, be required to indemnify the Council against any loss or damage resulting from the sign.

#### (c) Permanent signs on road

Permanent signs on a road reserve (other than on the carriageway) will only be approved under special circumstances in commercial and industrial zones.

## (d) Blue finger information signs attached to street poles

No more than two (2) Blue Finger signs will be permitted per street pole and no more than two (2) signs will be permitted to direct motorists to the site in question.

A Blue Finger sign may not exceed an area of 0.15m<sup>2</sup>.

A Blue Finger sign may be displayed to:

- (a) advertise community facilities such as pools, libraries or churches;
- (b) direct motorists to sporting fields, sporting venues, entertainment venues or other community facilities, major shopping centres; industrial, commercial or business centres, particularly when their location is off a main road.

In accordance with Clause 5 (Permits Required), the installation of a Blue Finger Board sign requires a permit application; the provision of such signage will then be considered on its merit.

Approved permits remain valid for a period of five (5) years, with all associated costs borne by the applicant.

A Blue Finger sign must be designed and constructed in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards, including but not limited to, AS 1742.6 Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices – Tourist and Service Signs, Section 5 Clause 5.4 – Commercial Services and 5.5 – Community Facilities.

#### (e) Advertising on Street Furniture

Advertising on street furniture, eg seating, planter boxes, traffic control cabinets, and the like will only be considered within commercial and industrial zones.

An application for a permit will be considered having regard to -

- (i) the quality and size of the proposed sign;
- (ii) the compatibility with other signage in the locality; and
- (iii) the proximity to the business in question.

It is unlikely that the Council will issue a permit for a sign of this type when a valid permit already exists allowing a sandwich board/A-frame sign to advertise the same business.

## (f) Real estate signs

Real estate signs will be permitted on road reserves if:

- (i) the signs are displayed for no longer than 48 hours;
- the signs are not placed on median strips in the middle of the road or on the carriageway;
- (iii) the signs are not placed so as to impede pedestrian or traffic flow;
- (iv) the signs are not placed so as to obscure a driver's view; and
- (v) the signs do not exceed 0.8m<sup>2</sup> in area.

### (g) Real estate signs on fence lines

Real estate signs will be permitted on fence lines if:

- (i) the signs do not exceed 1.5 m<sup>2</sup>, subject to subparagraph (iv);
- (ii) there is only one sign per business per street frontage;
- (iii) the signs are removed within two (2) days after the sale (settlement) or lease of the property; and
- (iv) any auction sign on the fence line does not exceed 4m<sup>2</sup> in area.

### (h) Election signs

Election signs should only be erected on a temporary basis (including erection on or attachment to a fence).

Election signs shall not be erected more than 6 weeks prior to an election and shall be removed within one week after it, subject to any law relating to election advertising.

Election signs will only be permitted if:

- (i) they are not placed on a road carriageway;
- (ii) they are not placed so as to obscure the view of drivers; and
- (iii) they are not more than 1.5m<sup>2</sup> in area.

## 11. THIRD PARTY ADVERTISING

Signs with third party advertising are prohibited in all zones.

# NT PLANNING SCHEME ZONES KATHERINE

INDEX OF ZONES						
Residential Zones						
SD	Single Dwelling Residential					
MD	Multiple Dwelling Residential					
MR	Medium Density Residential					
HR	High Density Residential					
CV	Caravan Parks					
CL	Community Living					
Commercial Zones						
СВ	Central Business					
С	Commercial					
SC	Service Commercial					
TC	Tourist Commercial					
Industrial Zones						
LI	Light Industry					
GI	General Industry					
DV	Development					
Recreation Zones						
PS	Public Open Space					
OR	Organised Recreation					
Rural Zones						
Н	Horticulture					
Α	Agriculture					
RR	Rural Residential					
RL	Rural Living					
R	Rural					
Other Zones						
СР	Community Purposes					
CN	Conservation					
W	Water Management					
FU	Future Development					

## Schedule 2

(Clauses 3 & 6a)

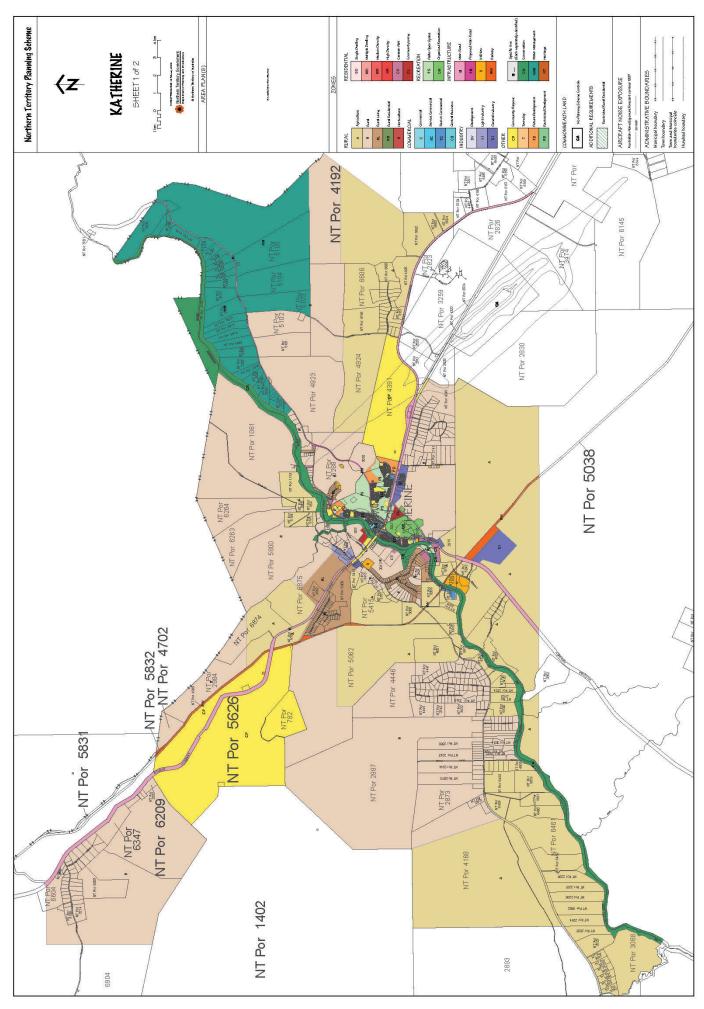
## **CONTROL STANDARDS – BY TYPE**

7015	SIGN CLASSIFICATION			
ZONE	BUSINESS	PROMOTION		
SD, MD, MR, HR	EXEMPT SUBJECT TO APPROVED COMMERCIAL LAND USE, EG HOME OCCUPATION	PERMIT REQUIRED		
CV, CB, SC, C, TC, LI, GI, R, RR, RL, WM	EXEMPT	EXEMPT		
PS, CN, A, H	EXEMPT	PERMIT REQUIRED (PROHIBITED ON FENCE LINES)		
OR, FD, CP, CL	EXEMPT	PERMIT REQUIRED (PROHIBITED ON FENCE LINES FACING ROAD CARRIAGEWAYS)		

## **CONTROL STANDARDS - BY SIZE AND NUMBER**

		SIGN TYPE							
ZONE		POLE	WALL OR FACIA	PROJECT-ING	HIGH SIGN	ILLUMINATED	TEMPORARY REAL ESTATE SIGN INSIDE PROPERTY	FENCES	
SD MD MR R RR RL WM HR	MAX. SIZE	Prohibited above 1.8 m. Permit required	Exempt if less than 1 m <sup>2</sup>	Totally within site only. Less than 1 m <sup>2</sup>	Prohibited	Permit required all sizes	3.6 m <sup>2</sup> for SD & MD 8 m <sup>2</sup> for MR & HR	Permit required all sizes	
	MAX. No. PER SITE	1	1	1	NA	1	1 per business	1	
CB SC	MAX. SIZE	5 m <sup>2</sup>	20 m <sup>2</sup>	1.5 m <sup>2</sup>	5 m <sup>2</sup>	3 m²	8 m <sup>2</sup> above 7 m 3.6 m <sup>2</sup> below 7 m	Permit required above 1 m <sup>2</sup>	
C TC CV	MAX No. PER SITE	1	Max 25% of wall or facia	1 per building	1 per building	1 per site greater than 30 m from residential sites	1 per business	1	
LI GI	MAX. SIZE	8 m²	30 m²	3 m²	8 m²	5 m <sup>2</sup>	8 m²	Permit required above 1 m <sup>2</sup>	
	MAX. No. PER SITE	-	Max 25% of wall or facia	1 per building	1 per site	1 per site greater than 30 m from residential sites	1 per business	1 per 9 linear metres	
PS CN A	MAX. SIZE	2 m²	5 m <sup>2</sup>	1 m <sup>2</sup>	Prohibited	Prohibited	NA	Permit required above 1 m <sup>2</sup>	
H	MAX. No. PER SITE	1	-	1 per building	NA	NA	NA	1	
OR CP CL	MAX SIZE	2 m²	5 m <sup>2</sup>	1 m <sup>2</sup>	Prohibited	Permit required	NA	Permit required above 1 m <sup>2</sup>	
	MAX. No. PER SITE	1	-	-	NA	1	NA	1	
FD	MAX. SIZE	1.5 m <sup>2</sup>	3 m <sup>2</sup>	1.5 m <sup>2</sup>	Prohibited	Prohibited	3.6 m <sup>2</sup>	Permit required above 1 m <sup>2</sup>	
	MAX No. PER SITE	1	1	-	NA	NA	1 per business	1	

Note: that where a sign falls into two (2) or more categories, the more stringent classification applies.



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