

POSITION STATEMENT

# APPLYING FOR ROADSIDE TOURIST SIGNS



## ► RESPONSIBILITY FOR ROAD SIGNS

Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) is responsible for regulatory signs on all roads, and all other signs on highways and main roads throughout WA.

Local Governments, through delegation of powers, are responsible for non-regulatory road signs on local roads. MRWA requires Local Government approval before assessing a tourist sign application.

## ► CATEGORIES OF SIGNS

There are two fundamental categories of tourist signs used throughout Western Australia:

- Tourist Attraction Signs
- Tourist Service Signs

### TOURIST ATTRACTION SIGNS

Tourist attraction signs have a white legend on a brown background and direct visitors to recognised tourist attractions which meet the essential criteria, such as:

- Commercial Tourist Attractions
- National Parks
- Natural Features
- Historic Buildings, Sites and Towns
- Wineries, Breweries & Distilleries
- Aboriginal Heritage
- State Tourist Drives

### TOURIST SERVICE SIGNS

Tourist service facility signs have a white legend on a blue background and direct visitors to tourist service facilities which meet the essential criteria, such as:

- Tourist Accommodation Establishments (including Caravan Parks and camping facilities)
- Visitor Information Centres
- Tourist Information Radio

It must be noted that MRWA does not permit the installation of Tourist Service Signs within the boundary of the Inner Perth Metropolitan Area.

## ► BEFORE MAKING AN APPLICATION

Before making application for a roadside sign, it is recommended that applicants consult with their Local Shire to discuss their assessment requirements. In most cases, the application process can be simple when there is a clear understanding of the issues and/or constraints that may be involved. Each application is assessed on its individual situation and location.

## ► **MAKING AN APPLICATION**

Applications for the installation of new or replacement tourist attraction or service signs must, in the first instance, be made direct to the relevant Shire.

There is no “application form” as such - a letter of request is all that's required which addresses each of the Minimum Essential Criteria for the particular category of sign.

Upon receipt of an application, the Shire refers the application to MRWA to assess the application based on traffic safety requirements. MRWA will then determine the appropriate category, size and location of sign as well as the cost of manufacture and installation.

## ► **COSTS**

MRWA and local Shires provide tourist signs for recognised natural and scenic features at no cost to other agencies as part of the state's road signing system.

However, where signs relate to a commercial tourist operation, all costs associated with the manufacture, transportation and installation of road signs will be required to be met by the applicant. MRWA or the local Shire will provide the applicant with a quotation prior to commencement of manufacture. Payment will be required in advance.

## ► **OWNERSHIP OF TOURIST FACILITY SIGNS**

MRWA, through the local Shire, retains ownership of all tourist facility signs (other than those signs provided on behalf of another agency under a special agreement) together with the right to modify, relocate or remove the signs as it deems necessary.

## ► **REVIEW**

All signs will be reviewed after 5 years to determine any change to the nature of the business and to ensure that compliance conditions are still being met.

Tourist attractions, services and facilities are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that minimum standards are consistently maintained throughout WA and that they continue to meet the essential criteria for road signage purposes.

Where a tourist attraction, service or facility is found to no longer meet the essential criteria, the operator or manager of the tourist attraction, service or facility will be advised accordingly to restore their eligibility. If their eligibility is not rectified within three months, all signs will be removed.

When tourist attraction, service and facility signs become due for replacement or are required to be relocated, the tourist attraction, service or facility should be re-assessed to ensure that it still meets the essential criteria for road signage.