



9. TECHNICAL SERVICES POLICIES

9.1 TECHNICAL SERVICES

9.1.19 Variable Message Signs

Policy Measures

The primary use of Variable Message Signs (VMS) is to communicate information about traffic and road conditions specific to trips undertaken by road users, drivers and riders. Their use is;

- To give information on upcoming changes to traffic conditions as a result of planned traffic delays (road works and events).
- To provide instructions on what actions should be taken in the event of unplanned traffic incidents (accidents, weather and unforeseen road and traffic conditions).
- To provide current and real time information on general traffic conditions to enable road users to make informed decisions about their journey.

Where there is no need to communicate such specific messages, VMS may be used to display messages relative to bush fire emergencies, non-profit organisations and/or other events approved by the Manager of Technical Services (MTS). All messages must be approved by MTS or relevant hierarchy before administration.

The Shire of Manjimup has two (2) portable VMS that are mobile and only temporarily displayed in any road reserve (moved and placed by Shire officers only). They are to be located adjacent to the roadway and have the ability to display a large number of individual messages that can be seen by road users.

The portable VMS must be placed at safe locations that do not present an accident risk to road users. Suitable locations include:

- Where minimum sight distance is available for the prevailing speed;
- Where road users have enough time to read, comprehend and adopt the specified action given in the message/s;
- On a straight and unobstructed road;
- Sites for rural areas that comply with the clear zone criteria.

The VMS must not be located on footpaths or on medians with mountable kerbs where they may obstruct access for pedestrians, cyclists or other path users

The preferred message configuration for the Shire's VMS consist of up to three (3) slides, with each slide having three (3) lines and a maximum number of eight (8) characters, including spaces. Traffic emergency slides will be kept at two (2) maximum. At the discretion of MTS the message configuration can be altered to better fit the message.



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It is important to establish a priority when using VMS to ensure that important or urgent messages are communicated clearly and rapidly. The following table illustrates priorities for VMS application. The VMS will not be used for commercial advertising.

First Priority	Unplanned traffic incidents and unexpected road conditions such as major crashes, closures and diversions, flooding, bush fires and weather affecting road use
Second Priority	Active planned traffic incidents such as road construction works, road closures and diversions and special events
Third Priority	Future planned traffic incidents such as road closures and diversions for upcoming road works and special events and specific road safety campaigns
Fourth Priority	Non-profit organisation events
Fifth Priority	Profit organisation events (with MTS approval)

Administration

Responsibility for implementing this policy is delegated to the Manager Technical Services.

Adoption and Date Due for Revision

ADOPTED 26 MARCH 2015
REVIEWED 26 MAY 2022

NEXT DUE FOR REVIEW MAY 2026

The Administration of this Policy is by the Works & Services Directorate
