User manual Version 1.1

Traffic Sign Computer Aided Design (TraSiCAD V2.9.3)

December 2021

Queensland Government

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1 About this User Manual

1.1 The Purpose of this Manual

- Audience: This *User Manual* is intended for designers using the Traffic Sign Computer Aided Design (TraSiCAD) software program for the design of signs.
- Scope: The *User Manual* describes the process involved to:
  - create new signs within standard guidelines
  - produce designs for manufacture, and
  - interpret messages, warnings, and errors.
- Reader skills: The *User Manual* assumes that the reader has a basic knowledge of
  - personal computers
  - Australian Standard AS 1743 *Road Signs – Specifications*, and
- Expected outcomes: After studying this *User Manual*, the reader should be able to
  - create new signs
  - understand sign clearances, and
  - print drawings.

2 Using TraSiCAD

2.1 What is TraSiCAD?

TraSiCAD is a program developed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads to assist in the design of road signs.

This *User Manual* is intended to be used in conjunction with:

- Australian Standard AS 1743 *Road Signs – Specifications*
- Australian Standard AS 1744 *Standard Alphabets for Road Signs*, and
- the Queensland *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD).

More information can be found at the department's website.

2.2 Installing TraSiCAD

Go to the department's TraSiCAD webpage.

- **Find** Install_TraSiCAD_v2.930.zip file.
- **Save** to a relevant folder on your local drive and unzip it.
- **Run** Install_TraSiCAD_v2.930.msi.

TraSiCAD will automatically set up all files.

Follow all prompts until completed, then select **Finish**.

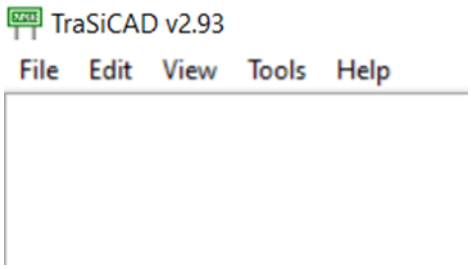
2.3 Opening TraSiCAD

After installation has been completed, open the program by either:

1. running from the executable file in the directory in which the program was installed, or
2. double-click on the TraSiCAD icon developed on the computer desktop during the installation.

The TraSiCAD working screen, as shown in Figure 2.3, will appear.

Figure 2.3 – TraSiCAD working screen



Note: TraSiCAD has its own complete **Help** function that may be used in conjunction with this *User Manual*.

2.4 Setting up defaults and options

TraSiCAD can set various default options required during the drawing design process. Before using TraSiCAD, the various options can be set up with default characteristics.

For faster and more efficient use of the program, these options should be set prior to the commencement of any design.

2.4.1 Options

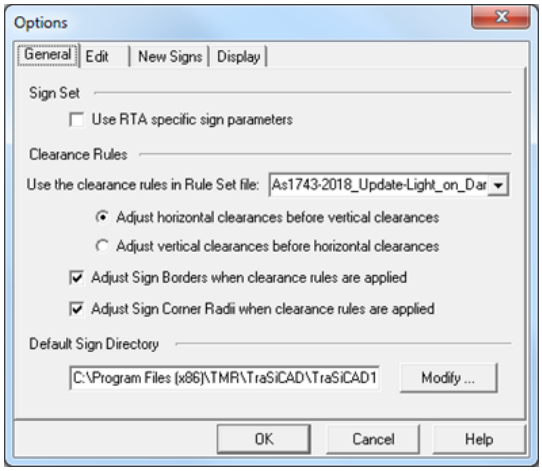
From the **Tools** directory, select **Options**.

This opens a dialogue box with four tab functions: **General, Edit, New sign** and **Display**.

2.4.1.1 General

Figure 2.4.1.1 shown the **General** screen.

Figure 2.4.1.1 – Options screen



The **General** tab:

- gives the option of selecting parameters with particular RTA characteristics
- accesses the clearance rule set* that determines the particular clearance rules for the elements within the sign
- sets the order in which clearances are made
- allows automatic setting of borders and corner radii when clearance rules are applied, if required, and
- redirects the default sign saving directory to user defined, if required.

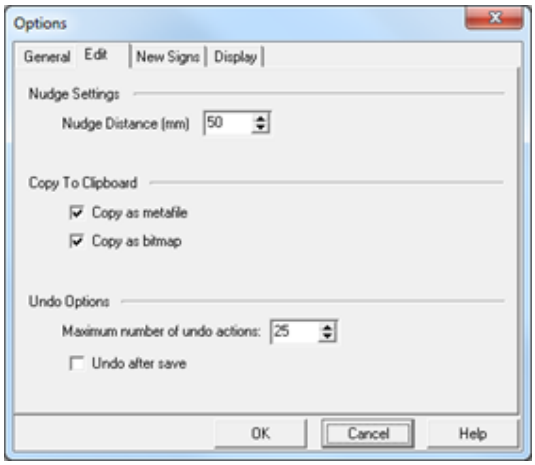
* These rule sets are based on AS 1743 and should not be modified unless there are valid design reasons. It is essential that the appropriate rule set is selected for correct clearances. There are two options available:

- AS 1743 Dark_on_Light (for dark legend on light background)
- AS 1743 Light_on_Dark (for light legend on dark background).

2.4.1.2 Edit

Figure 2.4.1.2 shows the **Edit** screen.

Figure 2.4.1.2 – Edit screen



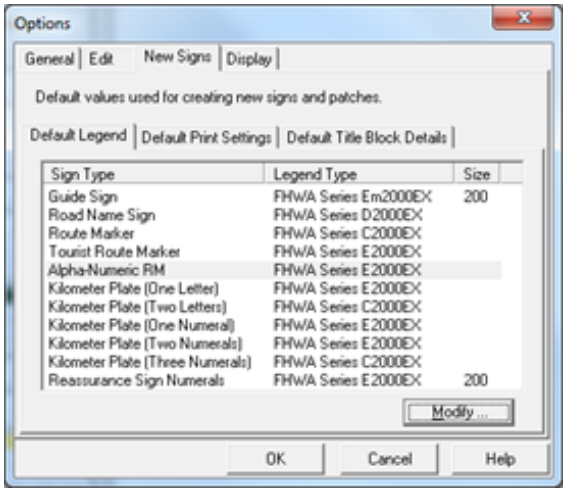
The **Edit** tab:

- varies the nudge distance of elements on the sign face
- achieves fine control of element placement by using the UP / DOWN / LEFT / RIGHT arrows on the keyboard
- allows selection of copying file types
- selects the number of **Undo** functions available, and
- can decide if the **Undo / Redo** stack is reset or not after a **Save** function has been completed.

2.4.1.3 New sign

Figure 2.4.1.3(a) shows the **New sign: Default legend** screen.

Figure 2.4.1.3(a) – New sign: Default legend

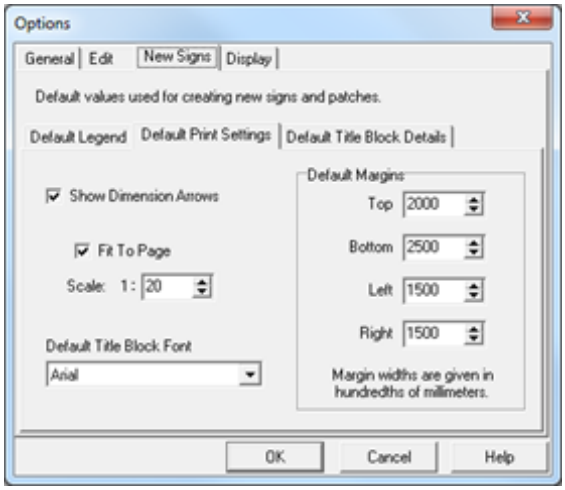


The **Default legend** option:

- sets the **Default legend** height which sets clearances consistent with the rule set being used
- enables the setting of default legends for the various signs and route markers used with the various wizards, and
- should be completed prior to using TraSiCAD.

Figure 2.4.1.3(b) shows the **New sign: Default print settings** screen.

Figure 2.4.1.3(b) – New sign: Default print settings screen

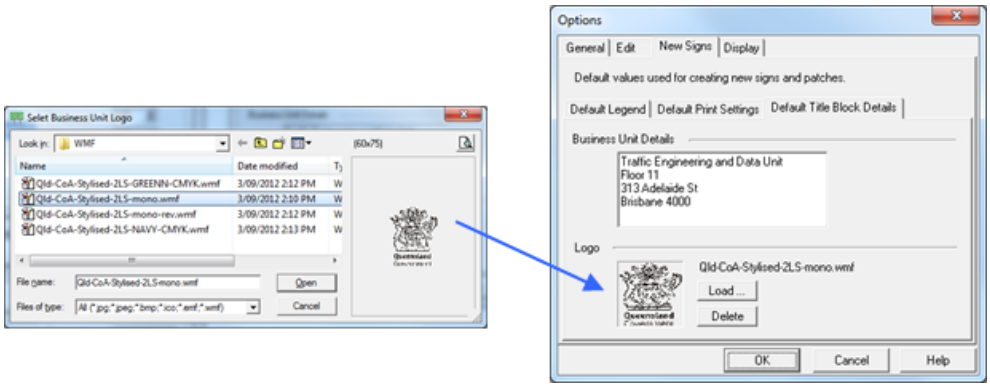


The **Default print settings** option:

- selects the ability to show arrow heads in dimensions
- selects the default printing scales
- sets the default print margins, and
- sets the default font for the print title block.

Figure 2.4.1.3(c) shows the **New sign: Default title block settings** screen.

Figure 2.4.1.3(c) – New sign: Default title block settings screen



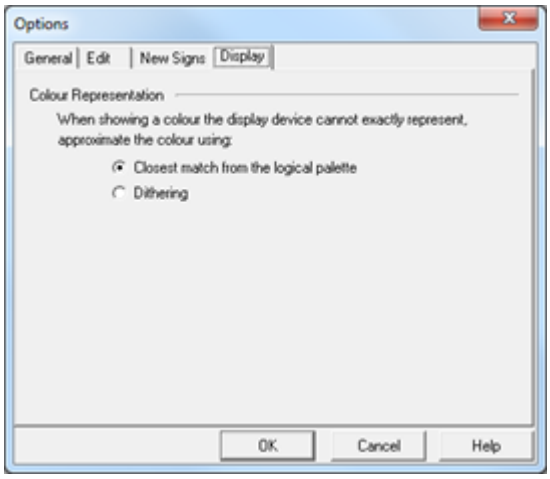
The **Default title block settings** option:

- sets default **Business Unit Details,** and
- loads / deletes a pre-designed logo as a default for use in the print title block.

2.4.1.4 Display

Figure 2.4.1.4 shows the **Display** screen.

Figure 2.4.1.4 – Display screen



The options on this screen set the colouring characteristics of TraSiCAD when non-system colours are displayed and represented.

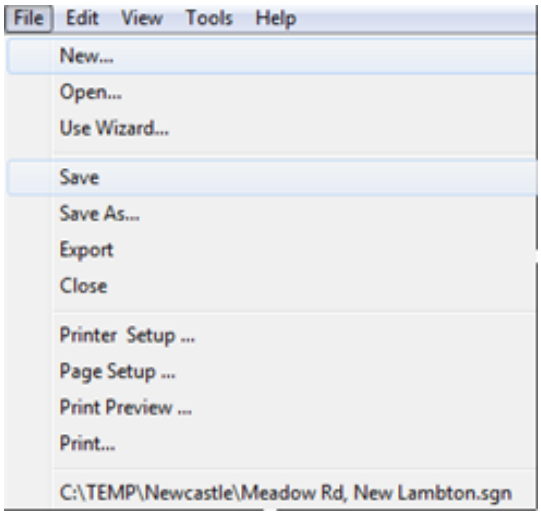
When using a display device with a colour palette smaller than 24 bits, some colours will not be available in the device palette and will need to be approximated. Two methods are available:

- closest match – colours are represented by the closest matching colour from the logical palette of the display device, and
- dithering – colours are represented by drawing a pattern using similar colours.

2.5 Starting a drawing

There are four different methods of accessing drawings within the TraSiCAD program, as shown in Figure 2.5.

Figure 2.5 – Accessing drawings from the File directory



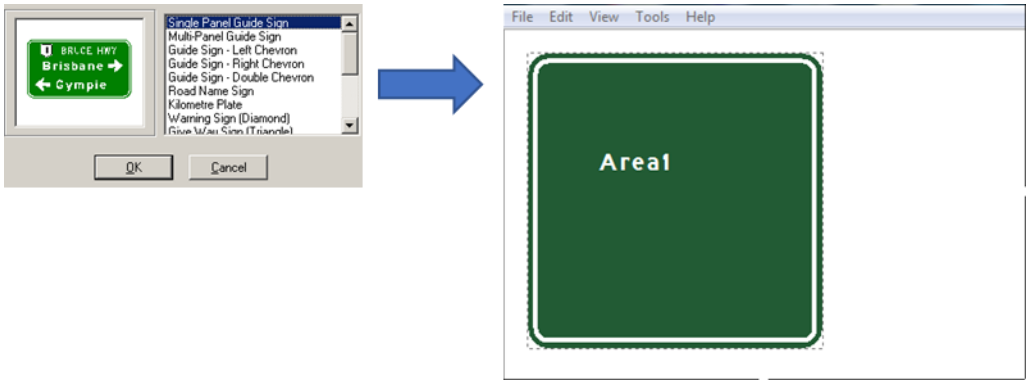
Selecting the **File** directory indicates **New, Open, Use Wizard** or the file history bar.

Note: Once a drawing has been commenced, it is recommended that the Sign Properties Feature (Alt+P) is used to enter user-nominated variables (see Section 2.7.4).

2.5.1 New

Figure 2.5.1 shows the screens that appear when **New** is selected.

Figure 2.5.1 – New screen options

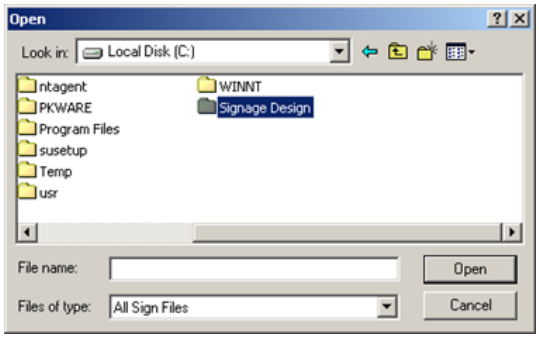


These options are used to develop new signs, using basic styles and backgrounds. There are up to 16 different styles that are selectable from this box.

2.5.2 Open

Figure 2.5.2(a) shows the screen that appears when **Open** is selected.

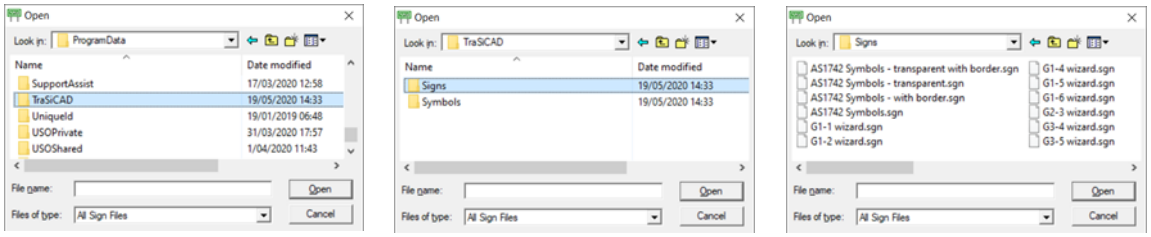
Figure 2.5.2(a) – Open screen option: Opening a previously designed sign



This option is used to open a previously designed sign from a file directory. This option can be used to modify, copy, or print previously designed signs selected from the user's specific local or network files and directories (see Section 2.4.1.1).

Alternately, the **Open** option can be used to access the specific **Signs directory** within TraSiCAD, as shown in Figure 2.5.2(b).

Figure 2.5.2(b) – Open screen option: Accessing the Signs directory



This directory contains a number of signs, as shown in Figure 2.5.2(c).

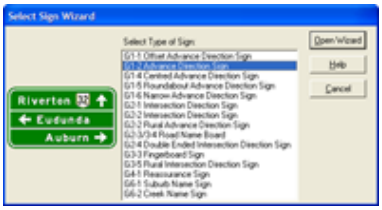
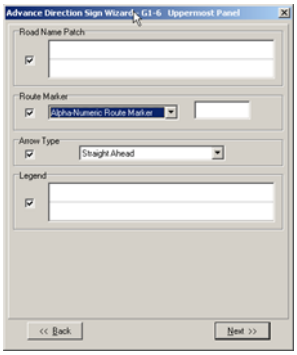
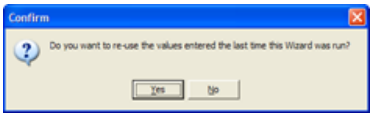
Figure 2.5.2(c) – Examples of signs available in TraSiCAD Signs directory.

After clearance with AS 1743 Light_on_Dark ruleset, borders and external and internal corners are reset.

2.5.3 Use Wizard

Table 2.5.3 details the steps and shows the screens that appear when the **Use Wizard** option is selected. This option is used to select a particular type of sign from a list of wizards (Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) selection if needed, see Section 2.5.1). This gives a specific design of a sign which will be set out according to predetermined standard format and style.

Table 2.5.3 – Wizard selection process

Wizard step	Screen illustration	
Select required Wizard (depending on the installation used (RMS or Transport and Main Roads), an example window indicates the type of sign to be selected)	RMS selection	Transport and Main Roads selection
Select number of panels (if available), the particular legend type and height. Note: The legend value selected only assigns the characteristics for the legends on that sign and has no bearing on the **Default** legend height value that set the clearance values between the elements on that sign.		
For each of the panels requested in the previous step, select, and apply details for a Road Name Patch, Route Marker type and number, Arrow type and Legend. Note: To assist with drawing efficiency, the subsequent use of any wizard allows the user to use previously entered values of a wizard when it was last run; for example, if a three-panelled wizard design was initially used and there was a requirement for a subsequent two-panel sign, any of the legends or symbols from the first two panels may be selected for use in that new design.		

2.5.4 History bar

Figure 2.5.4 shows the screens that appear when the **History** bar option is selected.

Figure 2.5.4 – History bar

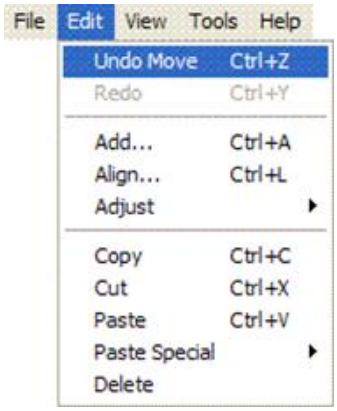
This option is used to select up to 10 previously designed drawings without needing to close a current drawing.

2.6 Drawing options

2.6.1 Functions

Drawing options are available in the **Edit** menu, as shown in Figure 2.6.1. Modifications, additions, and adjustments can be made to any sign drawing.

Figure 2.6.1 – Drawing options in Edit menu



The functions dialogue box gives access to options which include:

- **Undo**
- **Redo**
- **Add**
- **Align**
- **Adjust**
- **Copy**
- **Cut**
- **Paste**
- **Paste Special**, and
- **Delete**.

Selection from this list in the **Edit** directory or using the associated shortcut keys will use the functions as follows.

2.6.1.1 Undo

The **Undo** function undoes the last number of drawing steps carried out (**Undo** levels are set in the **Tools** directory under **Options / Edit** – see Section 2.4.1.2).

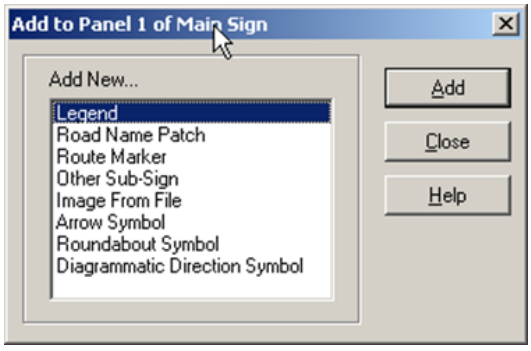
2.6.1.2 Redo

The **Redo** function redoes the previous **Undo** function. **Redo** levels are limited by the amount of **Undo** levels.

2.6.1.3 Add

The **Add** function facilitates the addition of various items to be inserted in a drawing, as shown in Figure 2.6.1.3.

Figure 2.6.1.3 – Add options to insert in a drawing



Items are:

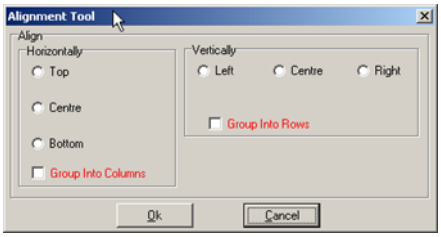
- **Legend**
- **Road Name Patch**
- **Route Marker**
- **Other Sub-Sign**
- **Image From File** (see Section 2.6.6)
- **Arrow Symbol** (see Section 2.6.7)
- **Roundabout Symbol** (see Section 2.6.8), and
- **Diagrammatic Direction Symbol** (see Section 2.6.9).

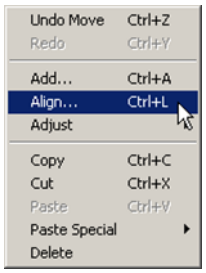
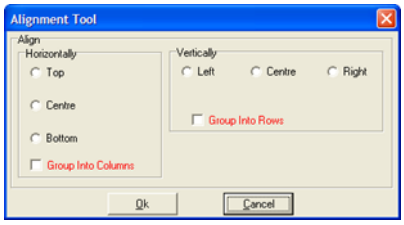
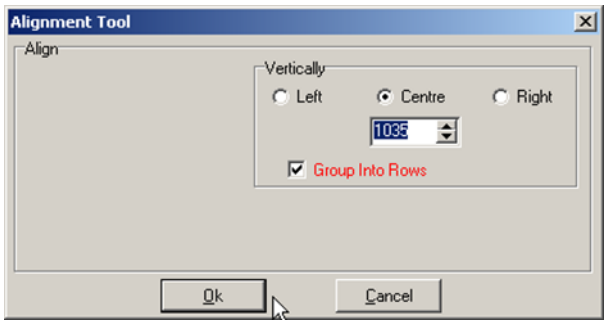
2.6.1.4 Align

The **Align** function allows for the horizontal or vertical alignment of two or more separate items on a drawing.

Note: All preselected items will be aligned to the last item selected in the **Align** process, which is detailed in Table 2.6.1.4.

Table 2.6.1.4 – Align process

Step	Screen illustration
Alignment of two single items	
Select the first item to be aligned to another.	
Hold down the Shift key and select the second item.	
Select **Edit** directory, then **Align** (or Ctrl L). An **Alignment Tool** dialogue box will appear.	
Select the relevant **Horizontally** (**Top**, **Centre,** or **Bottom**) or **Vertically** (**Left**, **Centre** or **Right**) alignment box.	
The items will appear aligned on the screen.	
Select **OK**.	
The sign will be permanently aligned and updated in the drawing.	
Vertical alignment of multiple legends (for example, Rest Area and 1km)	
Quantity items may be made up of two separate 'words' (for example, '1' and 'km'). To correctly align these separated quantity items with other legends, select the number '1'	
Hold the Shift key then select 'km'.	
While still holding the Shift key, select the legend 'Rest Area' to which the quantity item is to be aligned.	

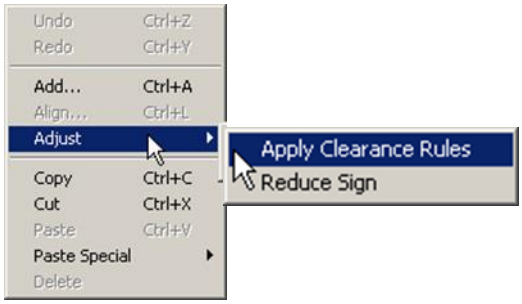
Step	Screen illustration
Select **Edit** directory, then **Align** (Ctrl L) where an **Alignment Tool** dialogue box will appear.	
Select the **Group Into Rows** box. This will group select the '1' and the 'km.' This will be indicated on the screen with dotted box enclosing both items selected.	
Select **Centre** for a centre alignment. A position measurement indicator will appear signifying the centre position of the new alignment line. Manual modifications to this position measurement can be made in this box if required by direct editing or using the up / down arrows.	
Select OK to generate the newly aligned sign.	

2.6.1.5 Adjust

The **Adjust** function sets the automatic adjustment of items on the sign face at predetermined clearances. Two separate options are available: **Apply Clearance Rules** and **Reduce Sign**.

The **Apply Clearance Rules** option is shown at Figure 2.6.1.5(a).

Figure 2.6.1.5(a) – Adjust: Apply Clearance Rules option

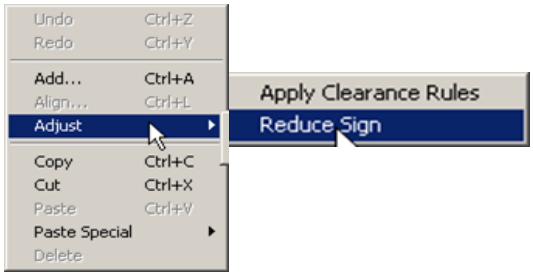


The **Apply Clearance Rules** option enforces an automatic clearance on all items on the drawing to give predetermined spacing from rules installed within TraSiCAD. These rules can be found in the **Rule Editor** in the **Options** directory (see Section 2.4.1.1).

Note: Clearances are determined by the 'Default legend' size and not the size of the legend being used on the drawing.

The **Reduce Sign** option is shown at Figure 2.6.1.5(b).

Figure 2.6.1.5(b) – Adjust: Reduce Sign option



The **Reduce Sign** option completely reduces the sign to its smallest size, taking into consideration and applying clearance rules formulated in the rule sets previously mentioned in Section 2.4.1.1.

It will set the borders and corner radii to the appropriate values if the particular requested boxes are checked in the **Options / General** dialogue box (see Section 2.4.1.1).

2.6.1.6 Copy

The **Copy** function takes a copy of the selected item on the drawing and places it on a working clipboard to be reused on that drawing or in other compatible software applications. The copied item remains intact on the drawing.

2.6.1.7 Cut

The **Cut** function takes a copy of the selected item before erasing it from the drawing. It places it on a working clipboard to be reused on that drawing or in other compatible software applications. This function can also be used as a **Delete**.

Note: The working clipboard will only hold one item at a time. If another object is subsequently cut or copied, the previous object will be overwritten, depending on the number of **Undo** levels.

2.6.1.8 Paste

The **Paste** function places the object obtained by the last **Cut** or **Copy** function from the working clipboard onto the present working drawing.

2.6.1.9 Paste Special

The **Paste Special** function enables two separate ways to import items from the clipboard of other Windows applications.

- Paste Text as a Legend: Takes text copied or cut to the clipboard from other compatible applications and places it on the working drawing in a text editable format.
- Paste Metafile as Image: Imports an object or text copied or cut to the clipboard from other compatible applications and places it on the working drawing in a non-editable form. This is ideal for quickly importing logos and symbols from electronic brochures.

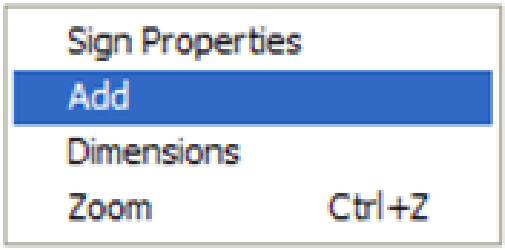
2.6.1.10 Delete

The **Delete** function deletes any object from the drawing. This option does not use the working clipboard; therefore, the object will be deleted permanently. The **Undo** function will undelete any object deleted, depending on the amount of **Undo** levels set in the **Options / Edit** box (see Section 2.4.1.2)

2.6.2 Adding a Legend

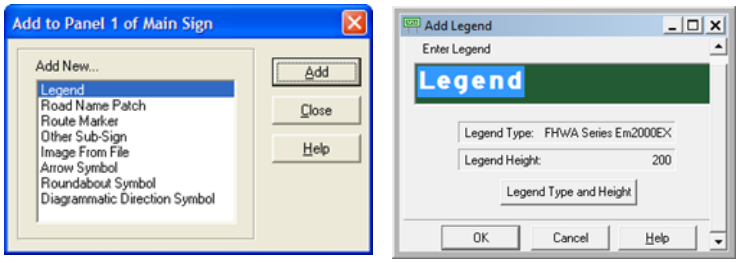
Note: The **Add** function can be activated in shortcut mode by placing the cursor somewhere on the active drawing and right-clicking the mouse. A dialogue box with four options, including Add, as shown in Figure 2.6.2(a), will appear on the drawing.

Figure 2.6.2(a) – Add shortcut



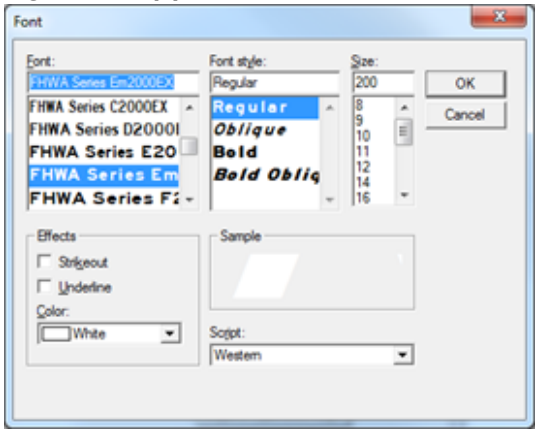
Selecting **Legend,** as shown in Figure 2.6.2(b), allows specified words to be imported into the drawing from the ensuing **Add to Panel** dialogue box. Particular **Legend** types and heights can be selected as required.

Figure 2.6.2(b) – Legend option: Add to Panel



Note that all fonts used in TraSiCAD are derived from any font in the C:\Windows\Fonts directory. All Australian Standard fonts, as shown in Figure 2.6.2(c) (sold separately to the TraSiCAD software), should be installed in that directory.

Figure 2.6.2(c) – Australian Standard fonts

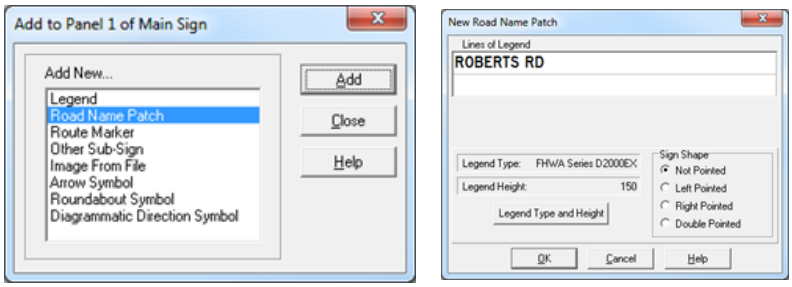


2.6.3 Adding a Road Name Patch

Note: The **Add** function can be activated in shortcut mode by placing the cursor somewhere on the active drawing and right-clicking the mouse. A dialogue box with four options, including **Add**, as previously shown in Figure 2.6.2(a), will appear on the drawing.

Selecting **Road Name Patch**, as shown in Figure 2.6.3, allows one of the following specified shaped patches to be imported into the drawing from the ensuing **Add to Panel** dialogue box.

Figure 2.6.3 – Road Name Patch option: Add to Panel



Sign shape options are:

- **Not Pointed**
- **Left Pointed**
- **Right Pointed**, or
- **Double Pointed**.

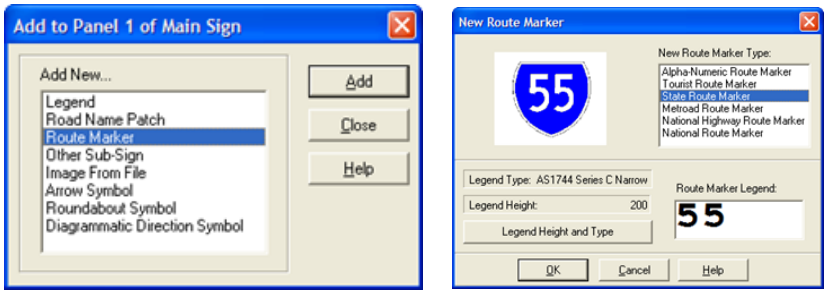
Note: The **Legend Height** used in a **Road Name Patch** is automatically reduced to 75% of the main sign **Legend Height**.

2.6.4 Adding a Route Marker

Note: The **Add** function can be activated in shortcut mode by placing the cursor somewhere on the active drawing and right-clicking the mouse. A dialogue box with four options, including **Add**, as previously shown in Figure 2.6.2(a), will appear on the drawing.

Selecting **Route Marker**, as shown in Figure 2.6.4, allows one of six different types of markers to be imported into the drawing from the ensuing **Add to Panel** dialogue box.

Figure 2.6.4 – Route Marker option: Add to Panel



Route marker options are:

- **Alpha-Numeric Route Marker**
- **Tourist Route Marker**
- **State Route Marker**
- **Metroad Route Marker**
- **National Highway Route Marker**, or
- **National Route Marker**.

2.6.5 Adding Other Sub-Sign

Note: The **Add** function can be activated in shortcut mode by placing the cursor somewhere on the active drawing and right-clicking the mouse. A dialogue box with four options, including **Add**, as previously shown in Figure 2.6.2(a), will appear on the drawing.

Selecting **Other Sub-sign** from the **Add to Panel** box, as shown in Figure 2.6.5, allows a selection of signs to be imported from the ensuing **New Sign** dialogue box to be placed into the main sign. Multiple-sub-signs may be selected. A number of sub-sign panel options are available for selection from the **New Sign** dialogue box.

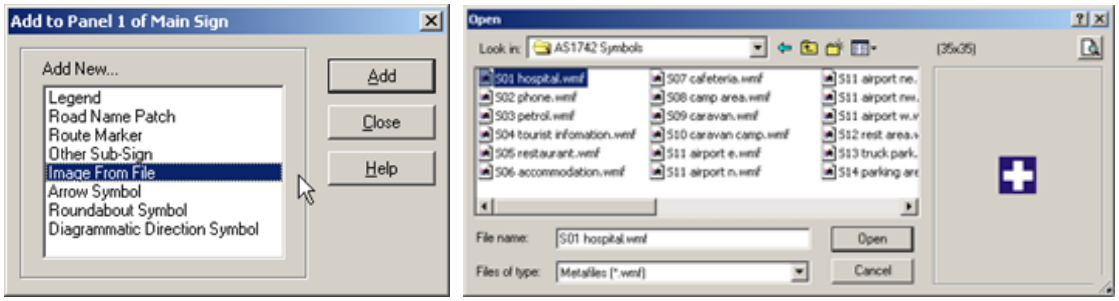
Figure 2.6.5 – Other Sub-Sign option: Add to Panel

2.6.6 Adding an Image

Note: The **Add** function can be activated in shortcut mode by placing the cursor somewhere on the active drawing and right-clicking the mouse. A dialogue box with four options, including **Add**, as previously shown in Figure 2.6.2(a), will appear on the drawing.

Selecting **Image From File** from the **Add to Panel** box, as shown in Figure 2.6.6, allows specialised image files to be imported into the drawing from the ensuing **Open** browse dialogue box.

Figure 2.6.6 – Image From File option: Add to Panel

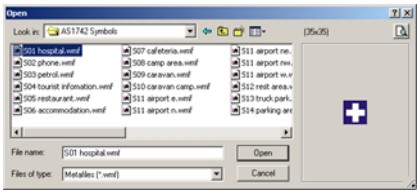
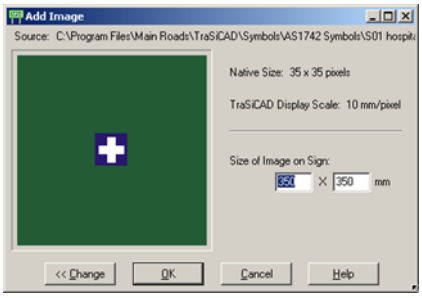


TraSiCAD accesses internal directories of .wmf or .emf symbol files to be directly imported onto the sign face. Selecting **Add**: **Image From File** will usually directly access the **Symbols** library within the TraSiCAD program. In a typical installation this file location will be C:\ProgramData\TraSiCAD\Symbols.

Note: TraSiCAD allows import of any .emf or .wmf files. If other self-generated symbols files are designed, they may be placed in this directory for convenience or located in other dedicated directory locations.

The process to **Add: Image From File** is shown in Table 2.6.6.

Table 2.6.6 – Add: Image From File

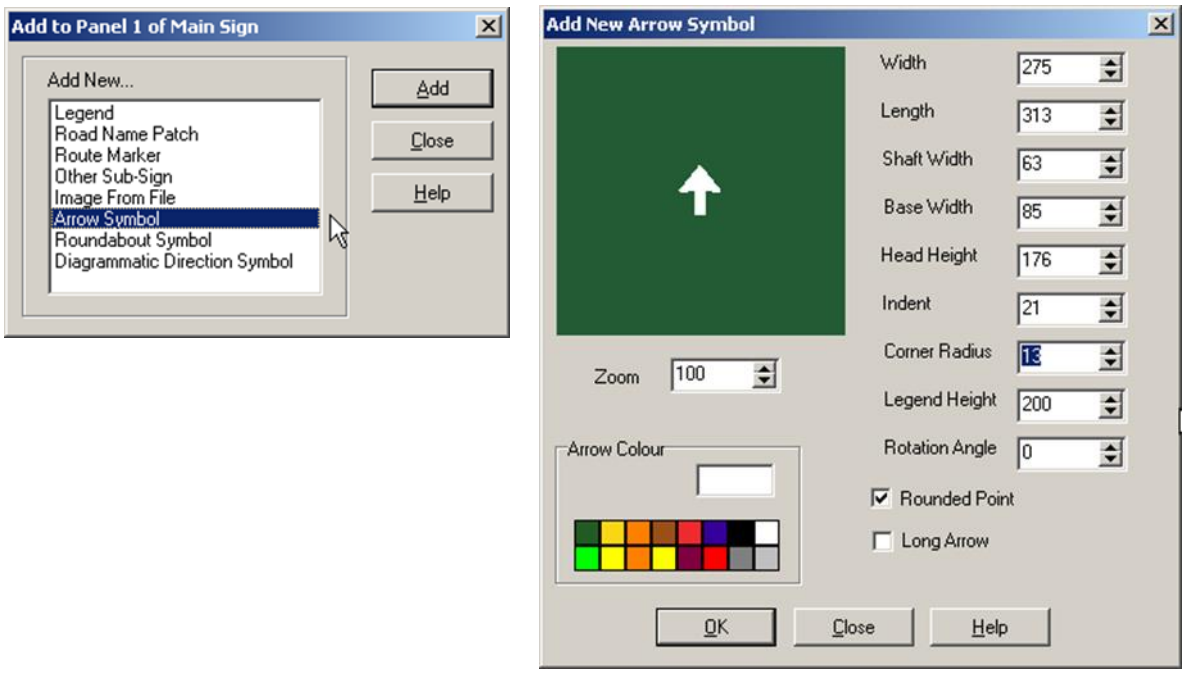
Step	Screen illustration
Select the required symbol. Select **Open**.	
An **Add Image** dialogue box will appear, indicating the symbol selected. The height and width are shown, along with a scaling option to increase or reduce the importing size to suit the sign dimension requirements. Options to **OK**, **Change** (revert to the previous dialogue box for alternative selection) or **Cancel** the symbol are available.	

2.6.7 Adding an Arrow Symbol

Note. The **Add** function can be activated in shortcut mode by placing the cursor somewhere on the active drawing and right-clicking the mouse. A dialogue box with four options, including **Add**, as previously shown in Figure 2.6.2(a), will appear on the drawing.

Various types and sizes of arrows can be added to a panel by selecting **Arrow Symbol** in the **Add to Panel X of Main Sign** box and the ensuing **Add New Arrow Symbol** dialogue box, as shown in Figure 2.6.7(a).

Figure 2.6.7(a) – Arrow Symbol option: Add to Panel



Variations to the types and sizes of arrows can be established and modified through the **Add New Arrow Symbol** dialogue box.

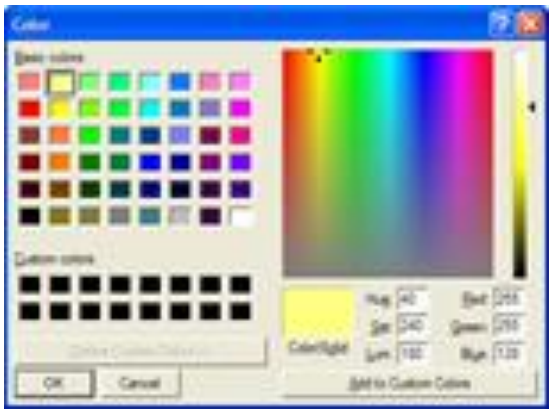
Select appropriate boxes to alter arrow properties. Settings are based on a particular legend height with variations made to:

- **Width**
- **Length**
- **Shaft length**
- **Base width**
- **Head height**
- **Indent**
- **Corner Radius**
- **Legend Height** and
- **Rotation angle**.

Other functions to determine colours, rounded or pointed arrowheads and standardised long or short length shafts can be made in this option. A zoom function is also available to enhance the details in the design box. This function does not affect the zoom in the actual drawing.

Note: Double clicking on any colour brings up a full colour palette as shown in Figure 2.6.7(b).

Figure 2.6.7(b) – Full colour palette

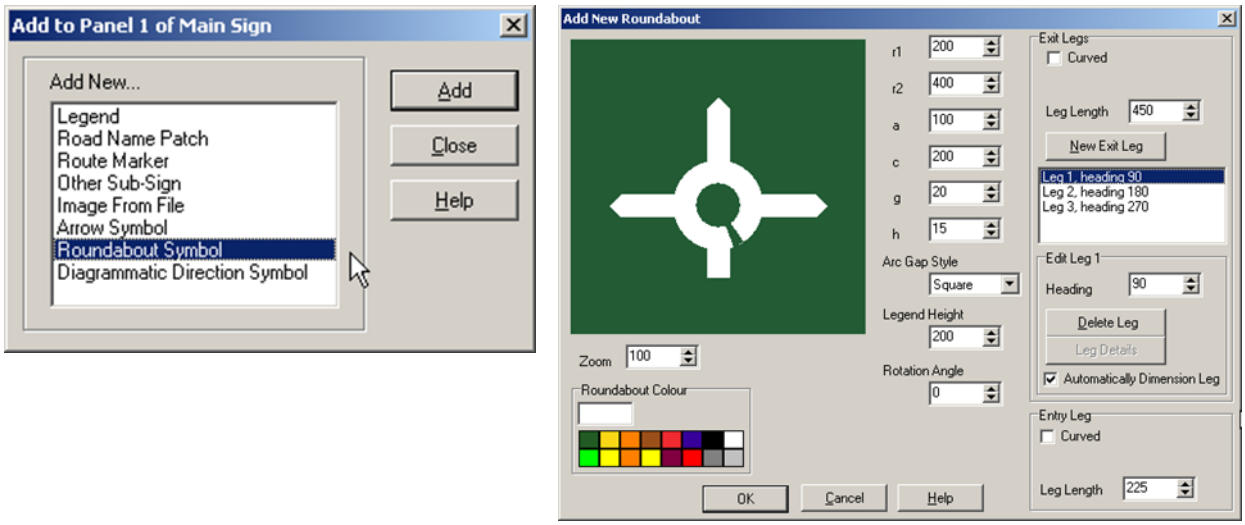


2.6.8 Adding a Roundabout Symbol

Note: The **Add** function can be activated in shortcut mode by placing the cursor somewhere on the active drawing and right-clicking the mouse. A dialogue box with four options, including **Add**, as previously shown in Figure 2.6.2(a), will appear on the drawing.

Various types and sizes of roundabouts can be added to a panel by selecting **Roundabout Symbol** in the **Add to Panel X of Main Sign** box and the ensuing **Add New Roundabout** dialogue box, as shown in Figure 2.6.8(a).

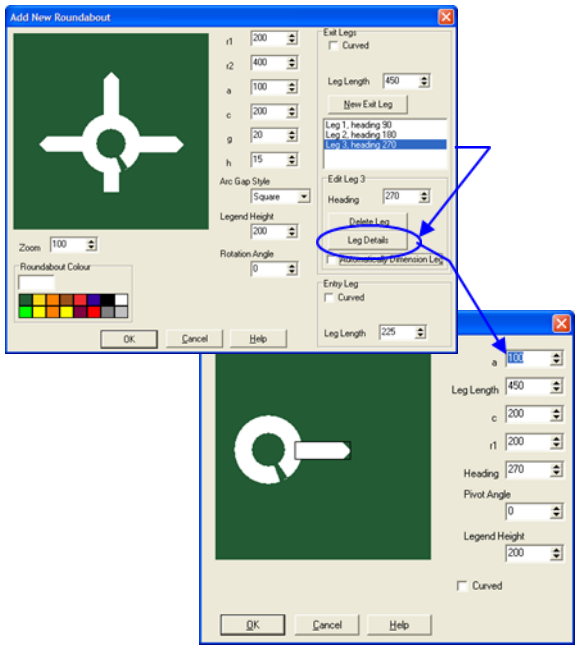
Figure 2.6.8(a) – Roundabout Symbol option: Add to Panel



Various types and sizes of roundabouts can be designed in the **Add New Roundabout** dialogue box. Three sections can be accessed through various boxes in each, where a number of options for specific designs can be entered, as detailed in Table 2.6.8.

Table 2.6.8 – Options for specific designs

Dialogue box section	Design option	
View	Zoom	Sets the screen view for optimum design detail
	Roundabout colour	Sets the symbol colour. Double-clicking displays full colour palette
	r1	Inner roundabout radius
	r2	Inner roundabout radius
	a	Varies height of the triangular tip for selected arc gap styles
	c	Width of roundabout and legs
	g	Location in degrees of the arc gap
	h	Width of the arc gap in degrees
	Arc Gap Style	Sets as Square, Pointed or Double Pointed entry / exit
	Legend Height	Sets the overall size of the symbol
	Rotation Angle	Sets the rotation angle of entire roundabout symbol (in degrees)
Exit Legs	Set the Exit Legs to be straight or curved. By checking the Curved box, the following options become available:	
	Curved left	When selected, the Exit's Curve installs for clockwise-driven roundabout as opposed to an anticlockwise-driven roundabout when unselected
	Attached at Base	Determines if the arc of a curved leg should be tangential to the roundabout body or tangential to centreline of the triangular tip of that leg
	Exit Leg properties are also available.	
	Leg Length	Determines the radial distance in millimetres, from the roundabout outer edge to the base of the Exit Leg's triangular tip
	New Exit Leg	Inserts extra Legs and indicates them in the associated list box
	Selection of a particular Leg in the list box enables the user to: • modify parts of Exit Legs • **Delete** or **Add** a selected Leg, or • automatically size an Exit Leg via the **Automatic Dimensioning Leg** option	
	If the **Automatic Dimensioning Leg** box is not checked when an Exit Leg is selected, the Leg can be 'manually' sized via the **Leg Details** box as shown in Figure 2.6.8(b). This separate dialogue box individually tailors the characteristics of that particular Exit Leg.	

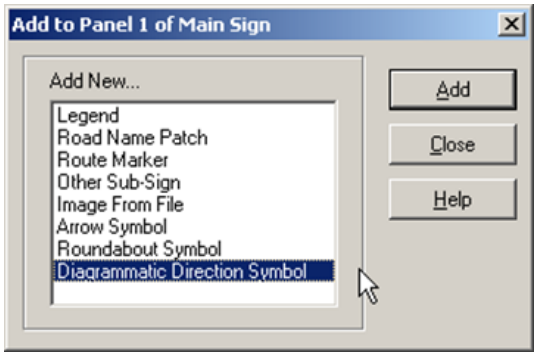
Dialogue box section	Design option	
Figure 2.6.8(b) – Manual sizing via Leg Details		
		
Entry Leg	Entry Legs may be straight or curved. By checking the Curved box, two options are made available.	
	Curved left	Sets the exits to curve clockwise as opposed to the default anticlockwise
	Attached at Base	Determines the arc of a curved Leg to be tangential to the roundabout body or tangential to centreline of the triangular tip of that Leg
	Leg Length modification can also be achieved in this section.	

2.6.9 Adding a Diagrammatic Direction Symbol

Note: The **Add** function can be activated in shortcut mode by placing the cursor somewhere on the active drawing and right-clicking the mouse. A dialogue box with four options, including **Add**, as previously shown in Figure 2.6.2(a), will appear on the drawing.

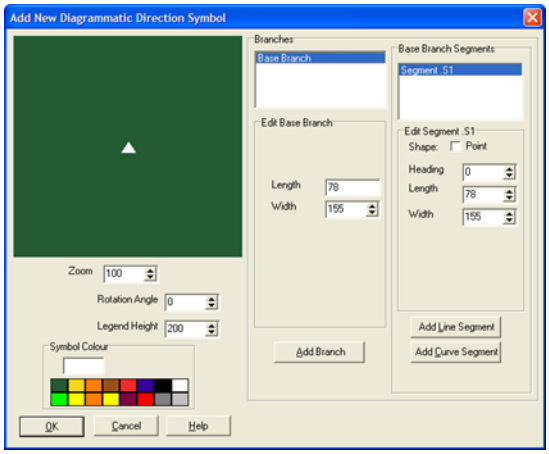
Various types and sizes of direction symbols can be added to a sign by selecting the **Diagrammatic Direction Symbol** from the **Add to Panel** dialogue box, as shown in Figure 2.6.9(a).

Figure 2.6.9(a) – Diagrammatic Direction Symbol option: Add to Panel



Various types and sizes of diagrammatic direction symbols can be designed in the created **Add New Diagrammatic Direction Symbol** dialogue box, shown in Figure 2.6.9(b).

Figure 2.6.9(b) – Add New Diagrammatic Direction Symbol option

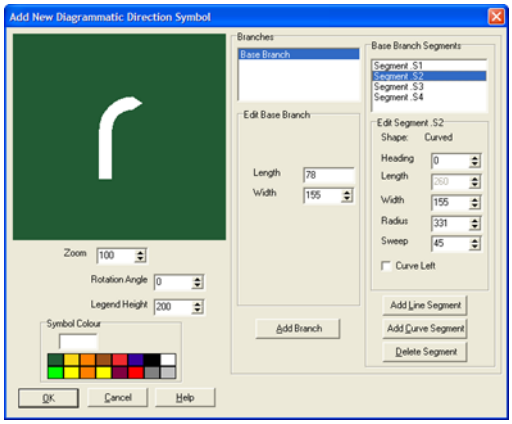


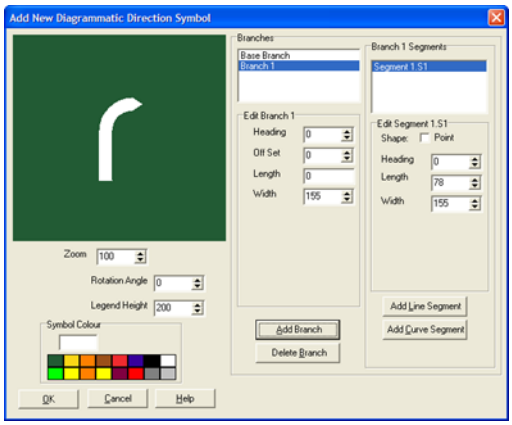
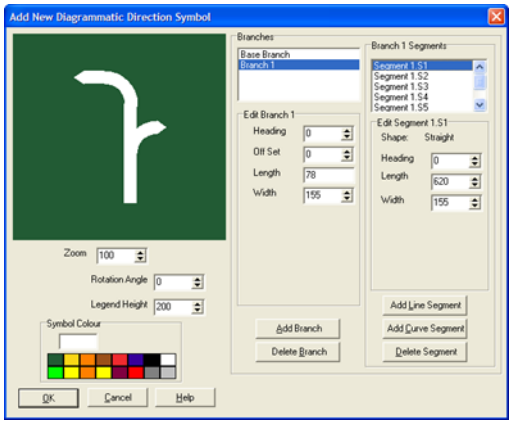
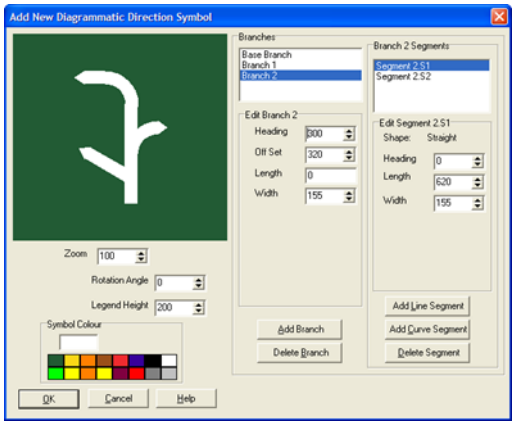
When using diagrammatic direction symbols, three process areas are used to assist the design:

- **View section** – actively views the design
- **Base Branch Segments** – selects and modifies curved or straight segments that, when added together, make up a particular branch, and
- **Branches** – adds, selects, and modifies branches to make up the basic design.

These process areas are detailed in Table 2.6.9.

Table 2.6.9 – Diagrammatic direction symbols process areas

Dialogue box section	Design options	
View	Zoom	Assists in design view. Has no effect on the size of the diagram in the drawing.
	Rotation Angle	Rotates the diagrammatical as required.
	Legend Height	Determines the size of the diagram on the panel.
	Symbol Colour	Sets the symbol colour. Note: Double clicking on any colour brings up a full colour palette as shown in Figure 2.6.7(b).
Branches	The default opening branch is tagged Segment S1 as shown in Figure 2.6.9(b). This is, in fact, a pointed segment. As subsequent segments are added (straight or curved), they are nominated a sequential number in the **Base Branch Segments** box.	
Base Branch Segments	The newest segment is allocated the Segment S1 notation (the notation for each existing segment increases as another new segment is added) as shown in Figure 2.6.9(c). ***Figure 2.6.9(c) – Base Branch Segments***  **Curve Left** option allows a default right curve to be changed to left if required. Note: Subsequent left curve segments require **Curve Left** selection each time.	
	Selecting a particular segment in the **Base Branch Segments** box activates modifiers: **Heading**, **Length**, **Width**, **Radius** and **Sweep** to be altered as required.	
	Add or remove segments by selecting the **Add Line Segment**, **Add Curve Segment** or **Delete Segment** options.	
	Once a main Base Branch has been designed in the **Base Branch Segments** box it may be necessary to overlay another branch on that design.	
	Selecting the **Add Branch** button produces another branch which is superimposed on the preceding base branch. This is signified by Branch 1 in the **Branches** box. The **Base Branch Segments** box now changes designation to Branch 1 Segments box, indicating another S1 segment relating to the new Branch 1, as shown in Figure 2.6.9(d).	

Dialogue box section	Design options
Base Branch Segments (continued)	***Figure 2.6.9(d) – Add Branch option***  This S1 segment and possibly successive segments, although shown in the box, exist on top of the base branch and may appear invisible. Only when subsequent segments are added will they show their existence, as shown in Figure 2.6.9(e).
	Figure 2.6.9(e) – Depiction of multiple segments 
	When an added branch is selected, the **Edit Branch** area reveals two further options, as shown in Figure 2.6.9(f). ***Figure 2.6.9(f) – Edit Branch option*** 

Dialogue box section	Design options	
Base Branch Segments (continued)	Heading	Sets the direction in degrees to which a segment points.
	Off Set	Sets the amount of offset (distance) the segment is set vertically on the branch from the base of the diagrammatical.
	As many new branches as required can be added to make up a detailed represented drawing.	

2.6.10 Provision for alphanumeric routes

In the design of new direction signs, provision should not only be made to accommodate the shield, space should be available on the signboard to allow subsequent change to an alphanumeric code by overlaying the existing shield. Provision should be made for one letter and up to three digits: for example, A369. See Figures 2.6.10(a) to 2.6.10(c).

Figure 2.6.10(a) – Example of directional sign with insufficient space for overlay

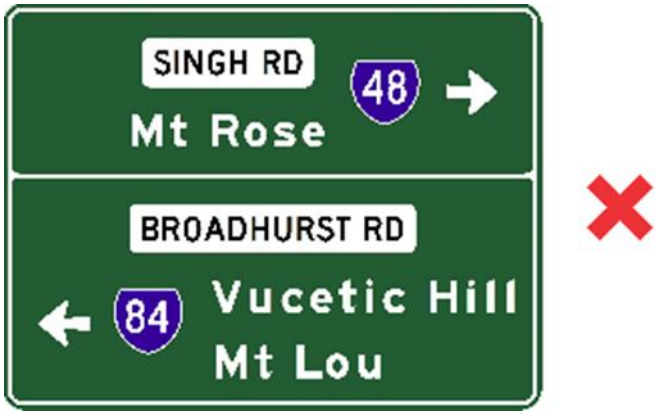


Figure 2.6.10(b) – Example of directional sign with sufficient space for overlay

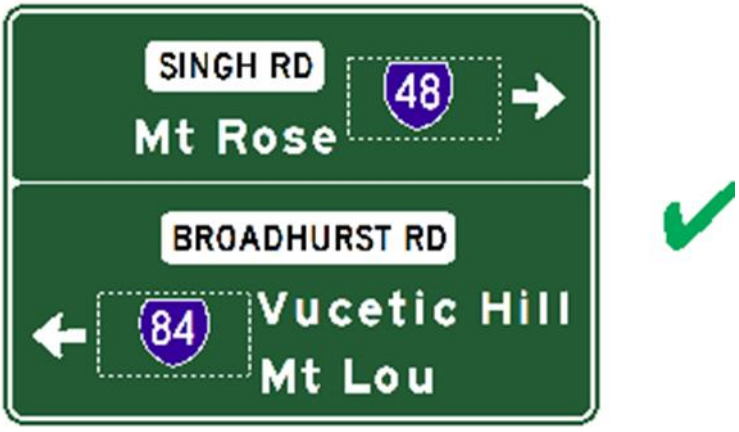
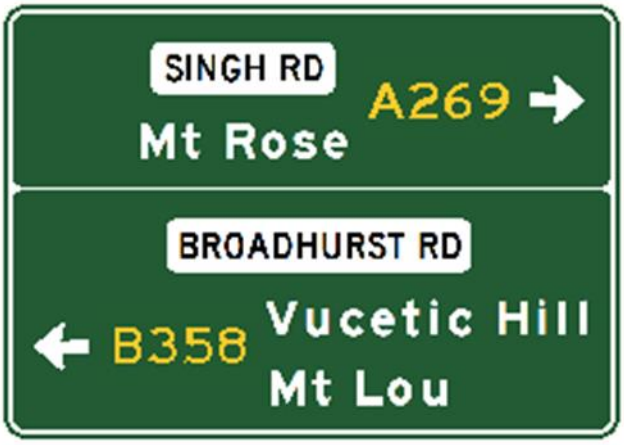


Figure 2.6.10(c) – Example of overlayed sign



2.7 Viewing options

During the drawing process, TraSiCAD uses various viewing options to assist accurate sign detail and design.

There are four options, as shown in Figure 2.7, which can be found in the **View** directory:

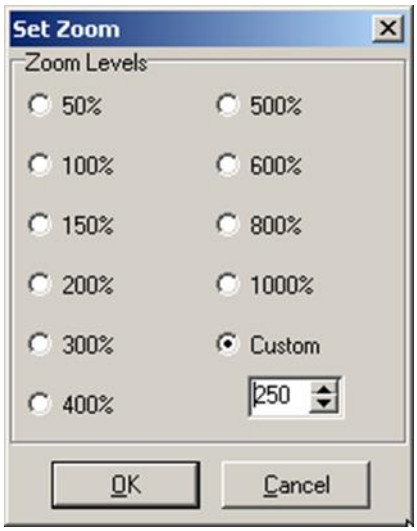
- **Zoom**
- **Gridlines Setup**
- **Dimensions**, and
- **Sign Properties**.

Figure 2.7 – View directory options

2.7.1 Zoom

The **Zoom** feature, shown in Figure 2.7.1, scales the drawing up or down on the screen to assist the detailed designing of a sign.

Figure 2.7.1 – Zoom option

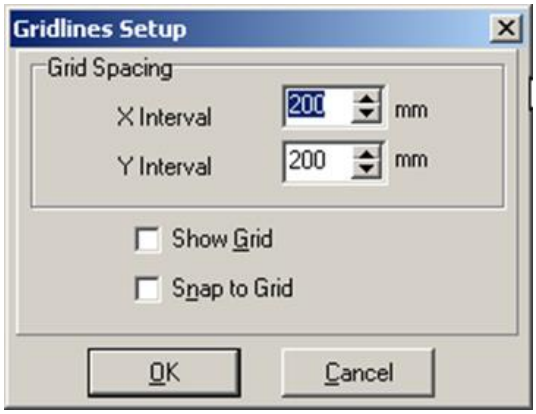


Zoom levels range from 50% to 1000%. A **Custom** zoom range is also available and can be used to suit individualised viewing needs.

2.7.2 Gridlines Setup

The **Gridlines Setup**, shown at Figure 2.7.2, enables a series of gridlines to be added to the drawing. This assists the particular spacing of items as each item is placed on the drawing.

Figure 2.7.2 – Gridlines Setup option



Any nominated grid size intervals up to a maximum of 1000 millimetres may be used.

2.7.2.1 Show Grid

When selected, the **Show Grid** option enables the previously set grid to be visible on the screen for the drawing process, as shown in Figure 2.7.2.1.

Figure 2.7.2.1 – Show Grid option

2.7.2.2 Snap to Grid

When selected, the **Snap to Grid** option enables the items to be placed and 'snapped' onto the drawing along the previously determined grid pattern, as shown in Figure 2.7.2.2. 'Snapping' will occur even if the grid is not visible.

Figure 2.7.2.2 – Snap to Grid option

2.7.3 Dimension

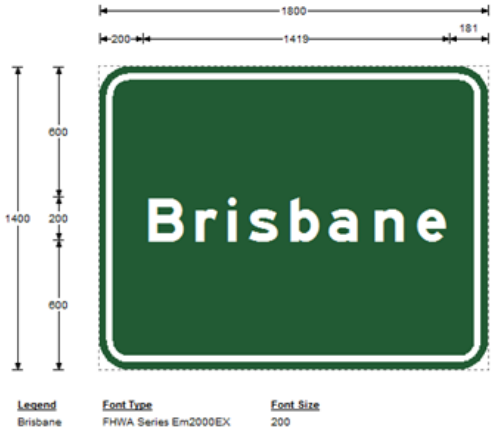
Selecting the **Dimension** feature gives exact indications of the lengths, heights and clearances of legends, symbols, and images on a drawing. See Section 2.9.2.1 for details on removing arrow heads for clearer detail.

As shown in Figure 2.7.3, in this mode, there are two separate areas on the screen drawing, showing:

a) all horizontal and vertical dimensions associated with any items on that drawing, and

b) a tabled view of all font legends, font types and sizes being used on all the panels and sub-signs within that drawing.

Figure 2.7.3 – Dimension option



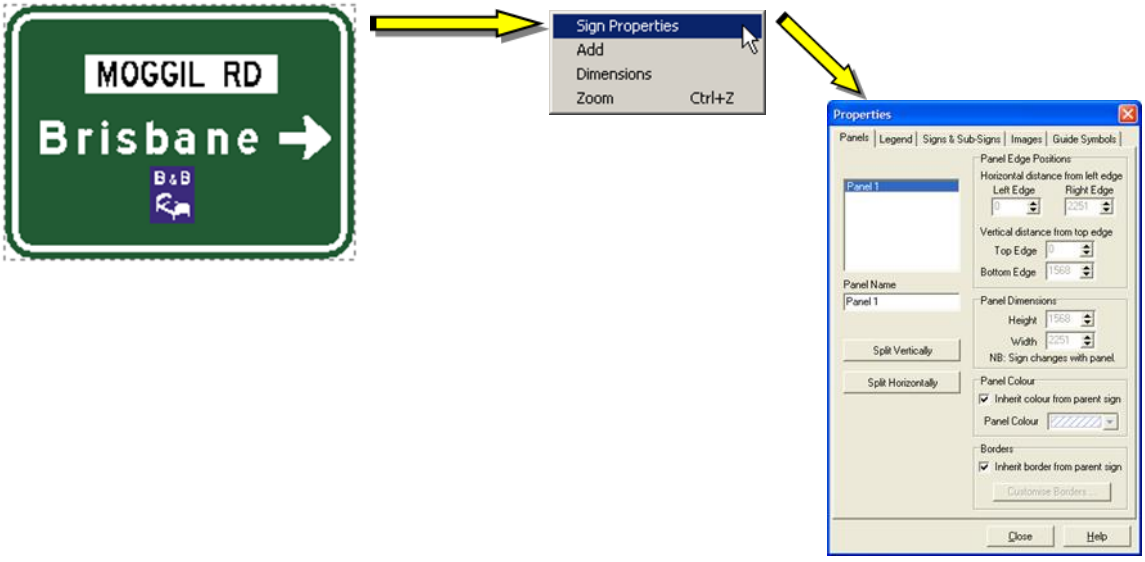
Note: These dimensions actively vary as any drawing changes are being made.

2.7.4 Sign Properties

The **Sign Properties** option enables the user to navigate and modify colours, panels, plates, legends, and elements associated within the sign design. Figure 2.7.4 shows an example of the **Sign Properties** option.

Note. The **Properties** box can be activated with Alt+P or by placing the cursor anywhere on the active drawing and right-clicking the mouse. A dialogue box with four options appears, as shown in Figure 2.7.4. Select **Sign Properties**.

Figure 2.7.4 – Sign Properties option example



This **Properties** box shows five separate tabs giving access to particular variables within the sign:

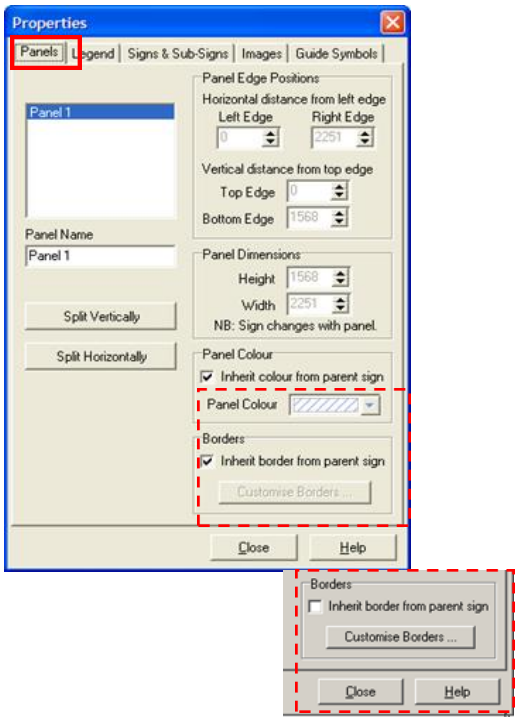
- **Panels**
- **Legends**
- **Signs & Sub-Signs**
- **Images**, and
- **Guide Symbols.**

2.7.4.1 Panels tab

As shown in Figure 2.7.4.1, selecting the **Panels** tab enables:

- accurate positioning of items within the sign
- sizing to particular dimensions
- splitting panels horizontally or vertically
- colour panels from the inherent panel colour (determined in **Sign & Sub-signs** tab) or from a colour palette
- setting inherent border colours (checked), and
- individually setting and colouring of all borders if a panel is split (unchecked). Refer Section 2.7.4.6 for details.

Figure 2.7.4.1 – Panels tab

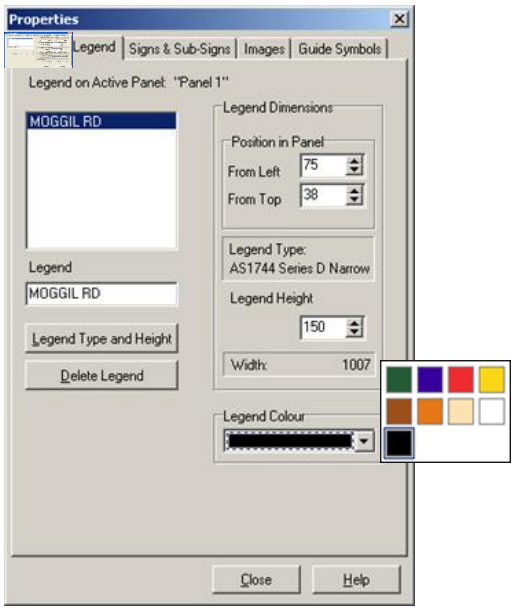


2.7.4.2 Legend tab

As shown in Figure 2.7.4.2, selecting the **Legend** tab once a panel has been selected enables the legend type to be:

- accurately positioned within the panel
- viewed
- modified by height and type
- deleted
- specifically sized to a height
- automatically word width calculated, and
- coloured from a standard nine-colour palette.

Figure 2.7.4.2 – Legend tab

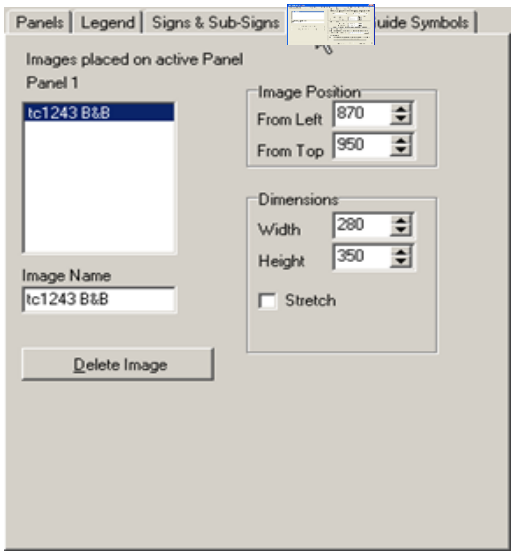


2.7.4.3 Images tab

As shown at Figure 2.7.4.3, the **Images** tab allows the selected image on a particular panel to be:

- accurately positioned within the panel
- identified
- sized to desired height or width
- stretched (non-proportionally) when checked, and
- deleted.

Figure 2.7.4.3 – Images tab

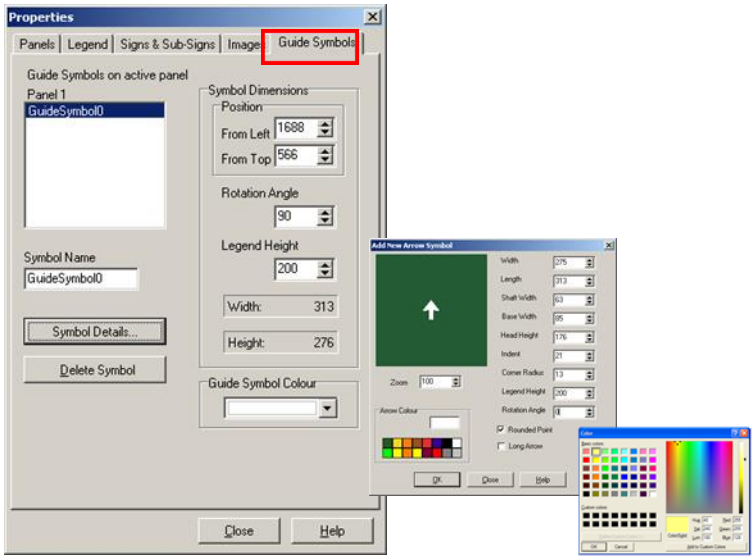


2.7.4.4 Guide Symbol tab

As shown in Figure 2.7.4.4, selection of the **Guide Symbol** tab enables the guide symbol widths and heights to be viewed, and:

- accurately positioned within the panel
- rotated
- identified and/or renamed
- sized according to legend height
- coloured from a standard nine-colour palette
- modified via the **Symbol Details**, and
- deleted.

Figure 2.7.4.4 – Guide Symbol tab

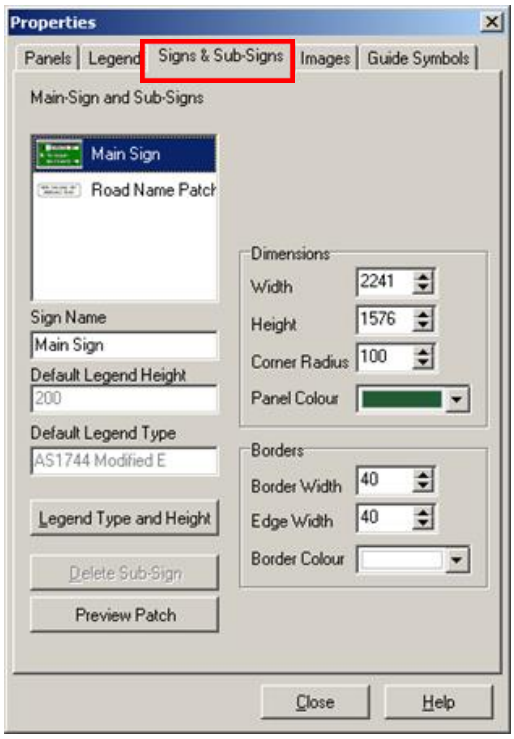


Note: Guide symbol colour options can be increased to full colour palette by selecting **Symbol Details** as shown in Figure 2.7.4.4 and double-clicking on any colour in the **Arrow Colour** box.

2.7.4.5 Signs & Sub-signs tab

As shown in Figure 2.7.4.5(a), selection of the **Signs & Sub-signs** tab gives an overview of all the panels contained within the entire sign. Modifications to panel sizes, position of legends and panels within the main sign are available from this tab.

Figure 2.7.4.5(a) – Signs & Sub-signs tab



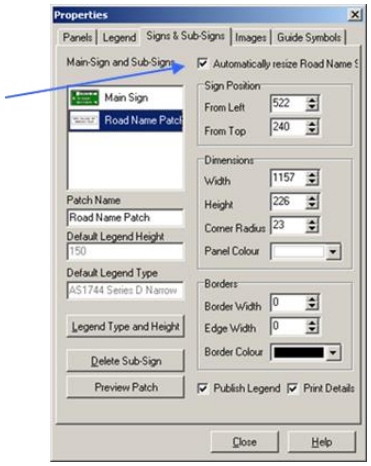
Selecting the main sign or any sub-sign in the list box will indicate all features associated with the makeup of those signs. This will allow control over panel positions, colours, and dimensions as well as border widths and colours. It also indicates the default legend types and height of each panel.

Note: The default legend height is used to calculate ALL clearances on a sign, irrespective of what other legend sizes are being used on the sign. See Section 2.4.1.3.

Selecting a sub-sign, road name patch or route marker will:

- display an **Auto Resize Route Markers and Road Name Patches** check box – when this box is checked (as shown in Figure 2.7.4.5(b)), changing the size of legend on the 'active sign' (if it is a route marker or road name sign / patch) will change that active sign's width and height proportionally; if it is not checked, the size of the legend will not automatically be scaled with the sign's resizing

Figure 2.7.4.5(b) – Auto Resize Route Markers and Road Name Patches check box



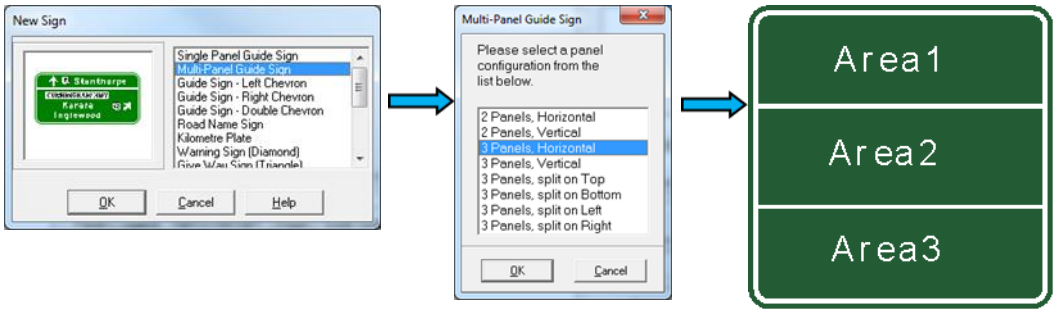
- highlight the active sign / patch and, subsequently, access control of panel / patch positions, dimensions, border sizes and colours
- indicate the default legend types and heights
- enable panel legend modification
- delete a sub sign, and
- enable options to **Publish Legend** and **Print Details** of any sub-panel or patch when a drawing is printed.

Note: If **Publish Legend** is left unchecked, only legends for the main panel are printed. If **Print Details** is left unchecked, no subsequent sub-panels or their details are printed.

2.7.4.6 Multi-panel selection and inner border radius control

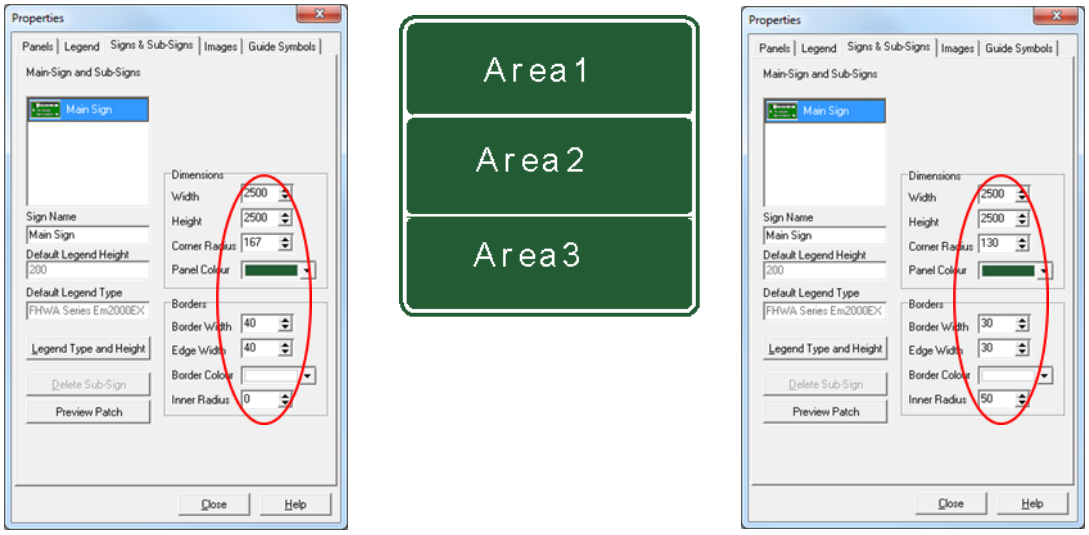
As shown in Figure 2.7.4.6(a), when a multi-panel sign is selected from **New**, the external corners, the panel corners and the borders require clearance rules to be applied. Default setting is only applied at this stage.

Figure 2.7.4.6(a) – New multi-panel sign



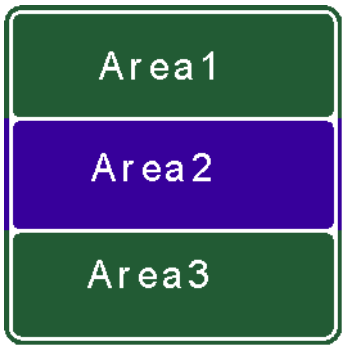
As shown in Figure 2.7.4.6(b), when clearance is applied, borders, external corners and panel corners are set according to the rule set used.

Figure 2.7.4.6(b) – Clearance applied to new multi-panel sign



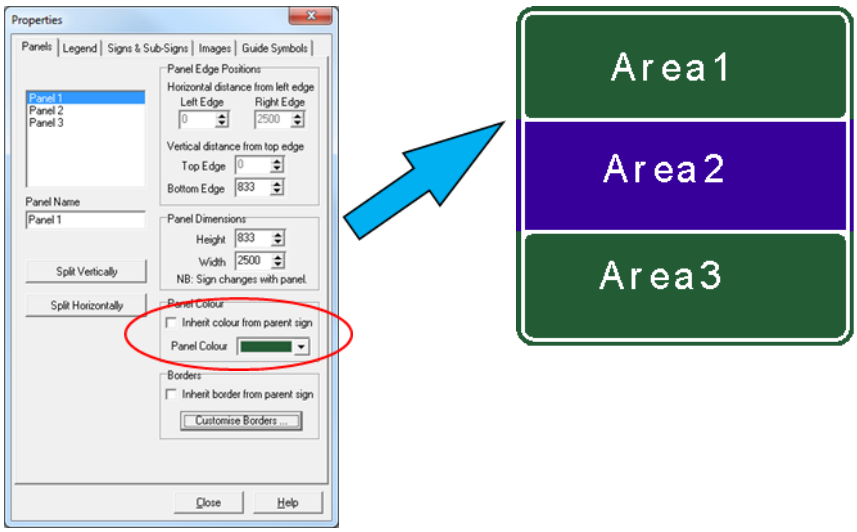
Note: Any panel colour can be changed independently with no effect on the internal corners of that panel, as shown in Figure 2.7.4.6(c).

Figure 2.7.4.6(c) – Example of independent panel colour change



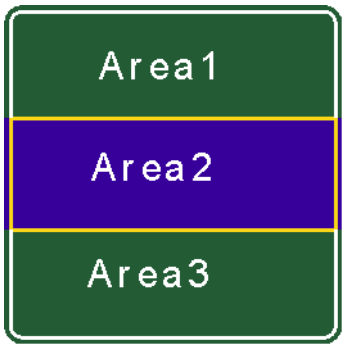
However, when **Inherit colour from parent sign** is deselected, as shown in Figure 2.7.4.6(d), the internal corner radii of that panel are transformed to straight corners.

Figure 2.7.4.6(d) – Deselection of Inherit colour from parent sign



It is, therefore, not possible to achieve internal panel corners when a different coloured border is required in that separate panel, as shown in Figure 2.7.4.6(e).

Figure 2.7.4.6(e) – Different coloured border in separate panel

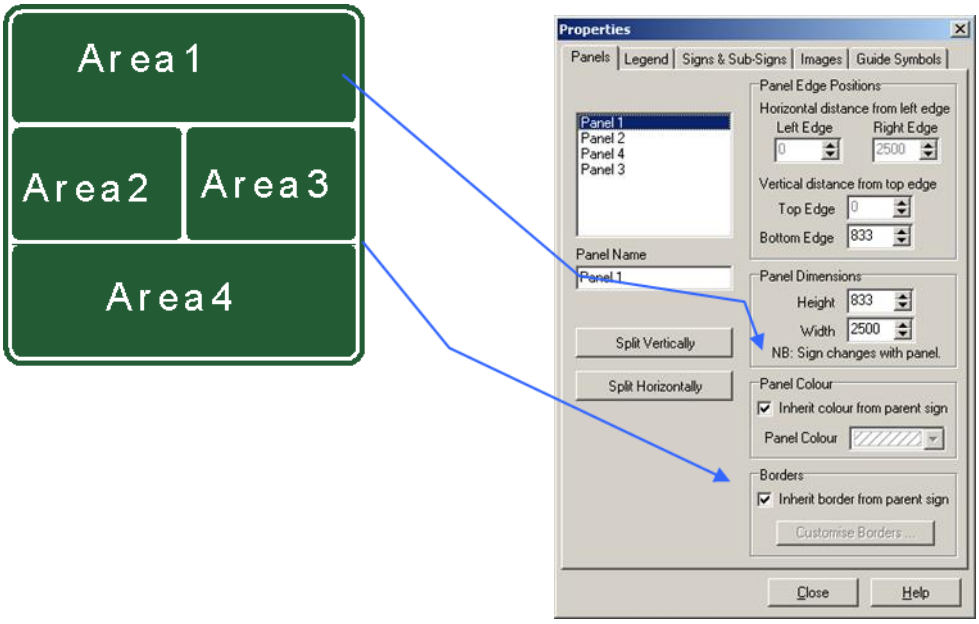


2.7.4.7 Multi-panel border and colour control

When a multi-panel sign is selected, there are options to:

- by checking the appropriate boxes, inherit all panel colours, border widths and colours from the main (or parent) sign panel as shown in Figure 2.7.4.7(a)

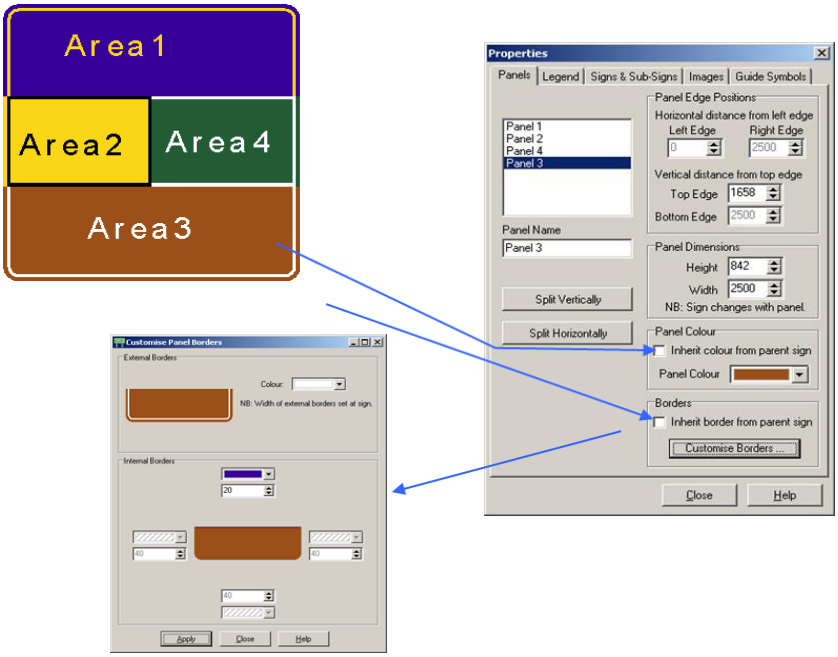
Figure 2.7.4.7(a) – Inherit panel colours, border widths and colours



or

- unchecking the appropriate boxes, independently changes the panel colours and border widths and colours as compared to of the main (or parent) sign panel as shown in Figure 2.7.4.7(b).

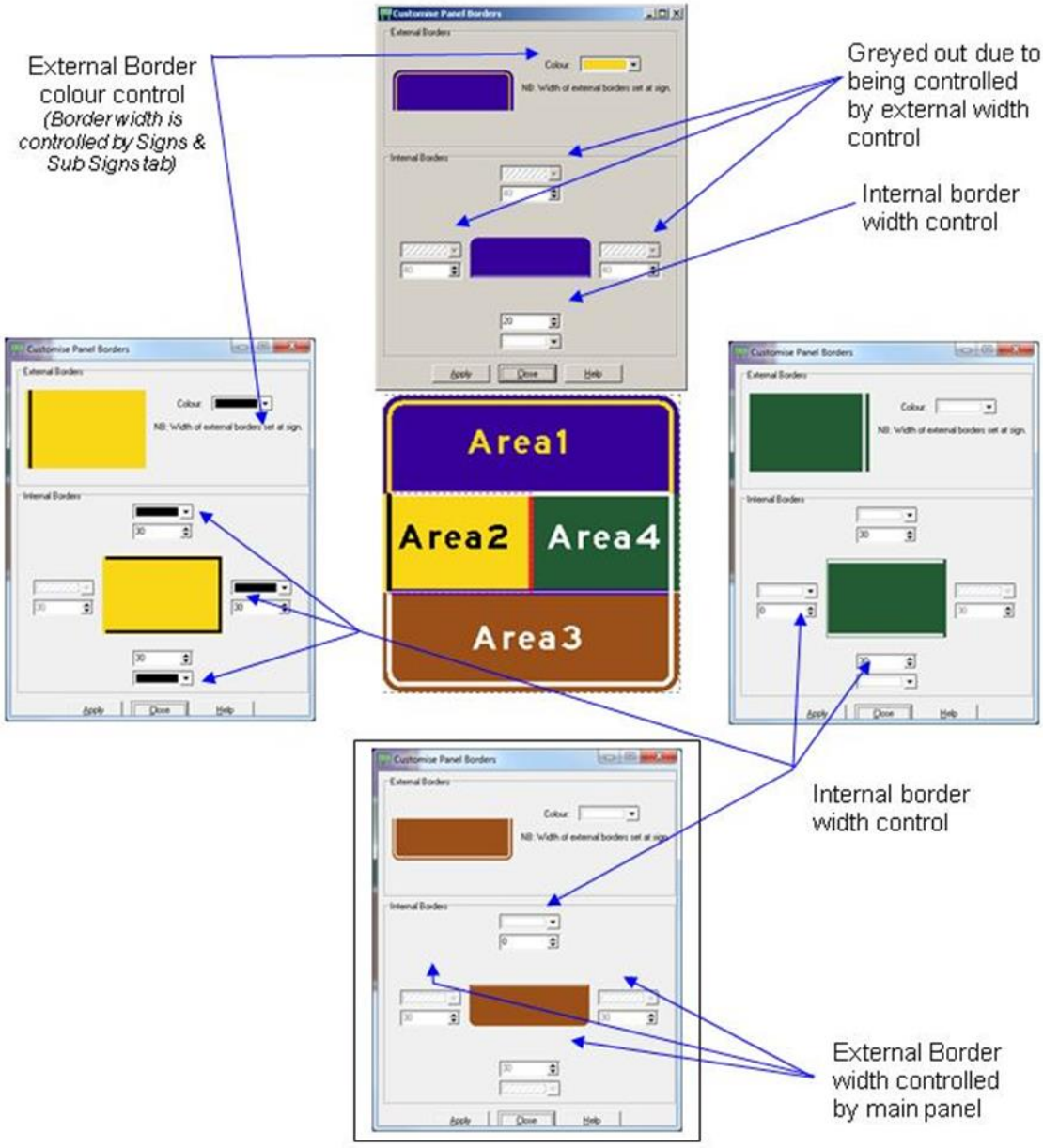
Figure 2.7.4.7(b) – Independent change of panel colours and border widths and colours



Note: Internal corner radii are removed.

Figure 2.7.4.7(c) provides an example of external border colour control.

Figure 2.7.4.7(c) – Example of external border colour control



Note: The internal borders are a combination of two halves. Allocation of an internal width and its colour must be complemented with that of an adjacent panel border.

2.8 Saving a drawing

The saving of a drawing will be necessary at some stage in the process to have it archived for future reference and use.

TraSiCAD has three alternatives of saving a drawing. Saving is initiated from the **File** directory to gain access to one of three options: **Save As**, **Save** and **Export.**

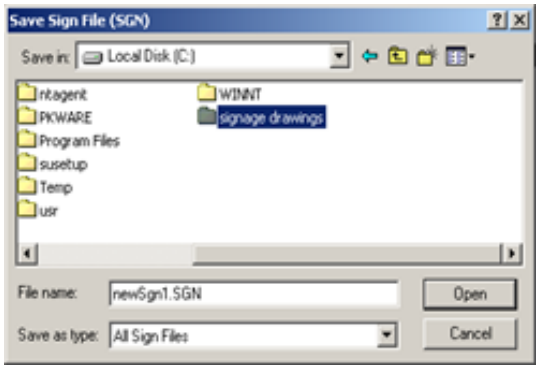
2.8.1 Save As

Selecting **Save As** as shown in Figure 2.8.1(a) saves a new drawing into a default TraSiCAD \ Signs directory (see Section 2.4.1.1). A user-defined file name is requested at this point and a .sgn extension will be assigned.

Figure 2.8.1(a) – Save As selection

If an alternate location is required, select the required drive (for example, C drive) and directory (for example, Signage Design) then name the file and select the **Save** button as shown in Figure 2.8.1(b).

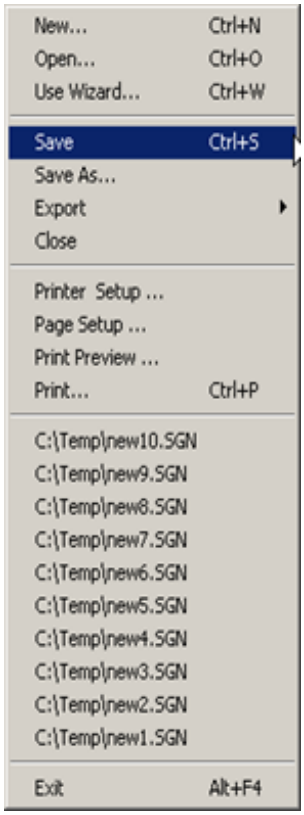
Figure 2.8.1(b) – Save As alternate selection



2.8.2 Save

Once a drawing has been initially saved or opened from a file, the **Save** function, shown in Figure 2.8.2, updates and saves any modifications performed on the working drawing to that point. All updates are saved in that same file name and directory.

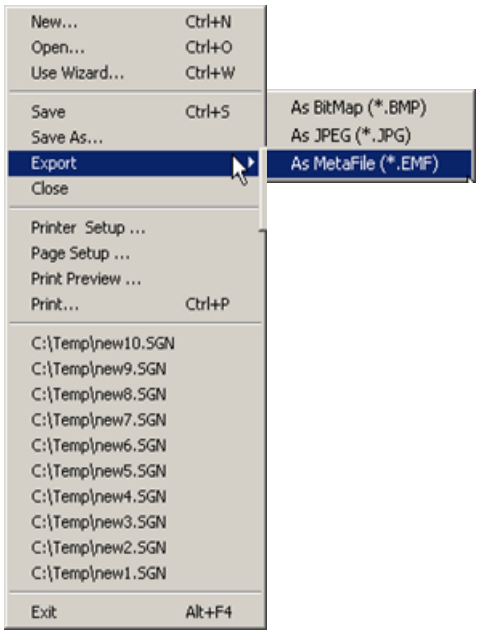
Figure 2.8.2 – Save selection



2.8.3 Export

The **Export** feature enables the exporting of a drawing in a non-editable bitmap (*.BMP) and Jpeg (*.JPG) or as an editable Metafile (*.EMF) format, as shown in Figure 2.8.3. These formatted files may then be imported into other compatible software programs.

Figure 2.8.3 – Export selection



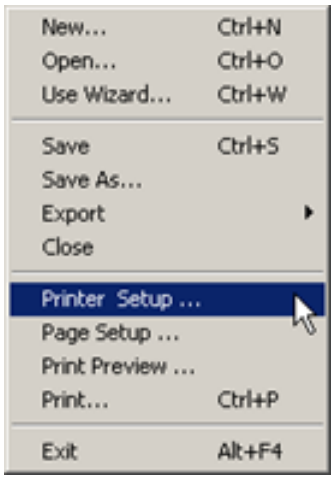
2.9 Printing

TraSiCAD has four options to customise drawing printouts found in the **File** directory: **Printer Setup**, **Page Setup**, **Print Preview** and **Print**.

2.9.1 Printer Setup

The **Printer Setup** selection, as shown in Figure 2.9.1, produces a dialogue box that enables the printer properties to be modified on a selected networked or local printer.

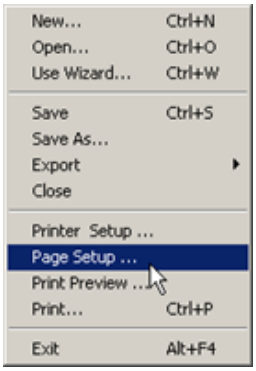
Figure 2.9.1 – Printer Setup selection



2.9.2 Page Setup

The **Page Setup** selection, as shown in Figure 2.9.2, produces a dialogue box with **Layout**, **Title Block** and **Margins** tabs.

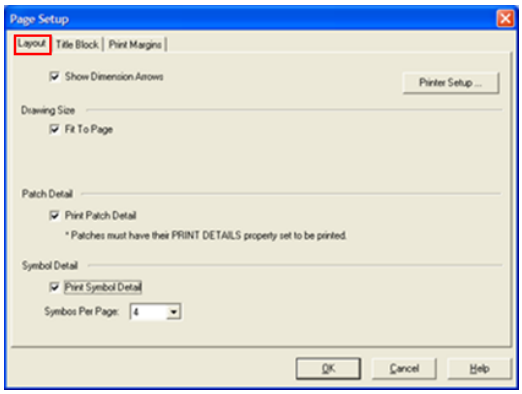
Figure 2.9.2 – Page Setup selection



2.9.2.1 Layout tab

The Page Setup>Layout tab selection, as shown in Figure 2.9.2.1, determines various options.

Figure 2.9.2.1 – Page Setup>Layout tab



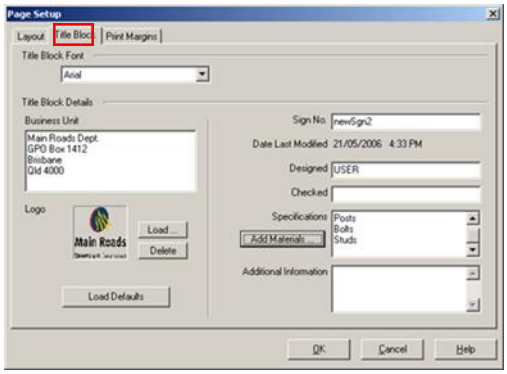
Options in **Layout** are:

- **Show Dimension Arrows**: Toggles arrowheads on drawing for clearer viewing and printing.
- **Drawing Size**: Sets a scale of either **Fit to Page** or **Custom** to determine the print size of the drawing on the page.
- **Print Patch Detail**: Enables all patch details to be viewed and printed separately.
- **Print Symbol Detail**: Sets a requirement for any symbol details on the drawing to be shown superimposed on a grid pattern, in the **Print Preview** or when printed out as an attachment to the sign drawing. When checked, a **Symbols per Page** box appears. This sets the number of symbols required to be set out on each additional page. As the number increases, the grid pattern size will change to suit.
- **Printer Setup**: Produces a **Printer Setup** dialogue box that enables the printer properties to be modified on a selected networked or local printer.

2.9.2.2 Title Block tab

The **Page Setup**>**Title Block** selection, as shown in Figure 2.9.2.2(a), gives access to areas that, when filled out, will be installed automatically in the title block of the drawing.

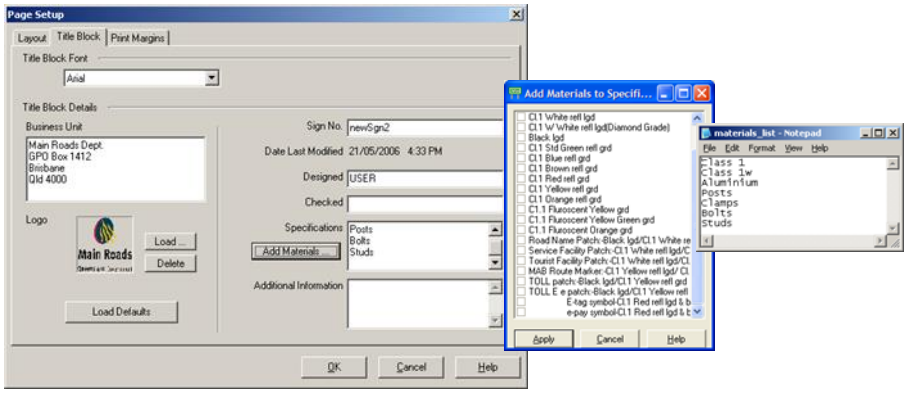
Figure 2.9.2.2(a) – Page Setup>Title Block selection



Options in **Title Block** are:

- **Title Block Font**: Sets the font that will be used throughout the entire title block.
- **Title Block Details**: **Business Unit** details are recalled from **Defaults** options (see Section 2.4.1.3). Details can be modified if required.
- **Logo**: Logo details are recalled from **Defaults** options (see Section 2.4.1.3). Logos can be replaced. using the **Load**, **Delete** and **Load Defaults** functions.
- **Sign No**.: The saved drawing record title.
- **Date Last Modified**: Time and the date drawing last saved.
- **Designed**: Usually the person completing the drawing.
- **Checked**: Usually an office supervisor.
- **Specifications**: Materials listed here are inserted within **Specifications** in the **Title Block** area.
- **Add Materials**: As shown in Figure 2.9.2.2(b), when selected, this option brings up a common list of materials that can be quickly selected and added to the **Specifications** area within the drawing title box. This materials list can be modified in any text file editor tool (for example, Notepad). The materials list file (materials_list.ini) can be found in the TraSiCAD directory (for default installations, C:\Program Files(x86)\TMR\TraSiCAD).

Figure 2.9.2.2(b) – Add Materials option

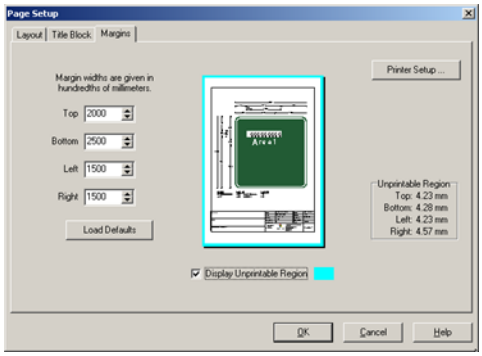


- **Additional Information**: Information listed here is inserted into the title block within the drawing area and below the sign.

2.9.2.3 Margins tab

The **Page Setup**>**Margins** selection, as shown in Figure 2.9.2.3, allows the setup of the drawing margins with independent sizing of all boundaries or installation of set defaults (see Section 2.4.1.3).

Figure 2.9.2.3 – Page Setup>Margins selection



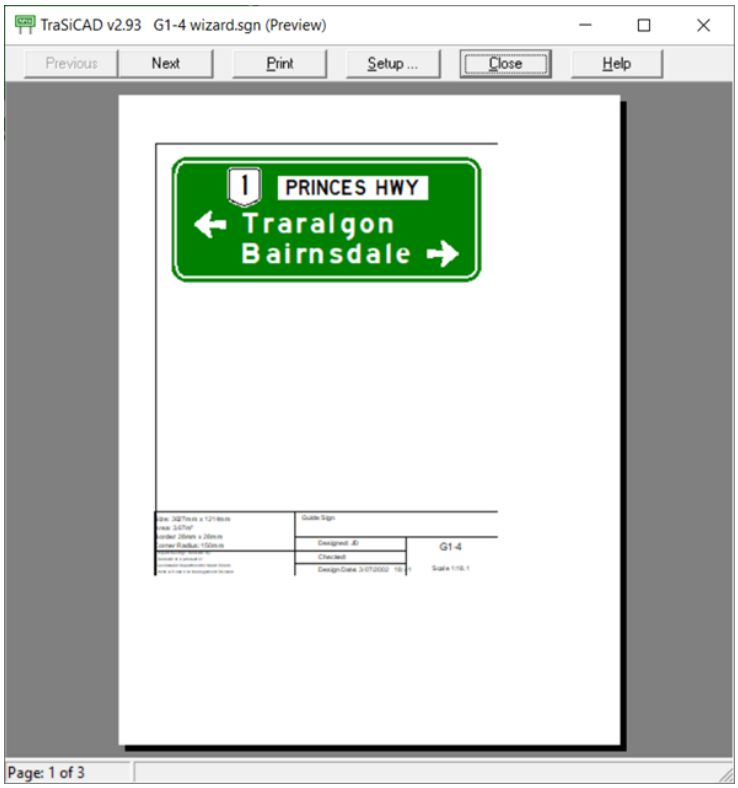
Options available in the Margins selection are:

- **Display Unprintable Region:** Displays the actual printable area (in blue colour) along with unprintable region measurements, and
- **Printer Setup.**

2.9.3 Print Preview

The **Print Preview** option, as shown in Figure 2.9.3, enables the designer to preview the active drawing to view its details as a printed output. This dialogue box gives five options to aid **Print Preview**, plus a **Help** function for on-screen assistance.

Figure 2.9.3 – Print Preview selection



The options available by selecting Print Preview are:

- **Previous**
- **Next**
- **Print**
- **Setup**, and
- **Close**.

2.9.3.1 Previous

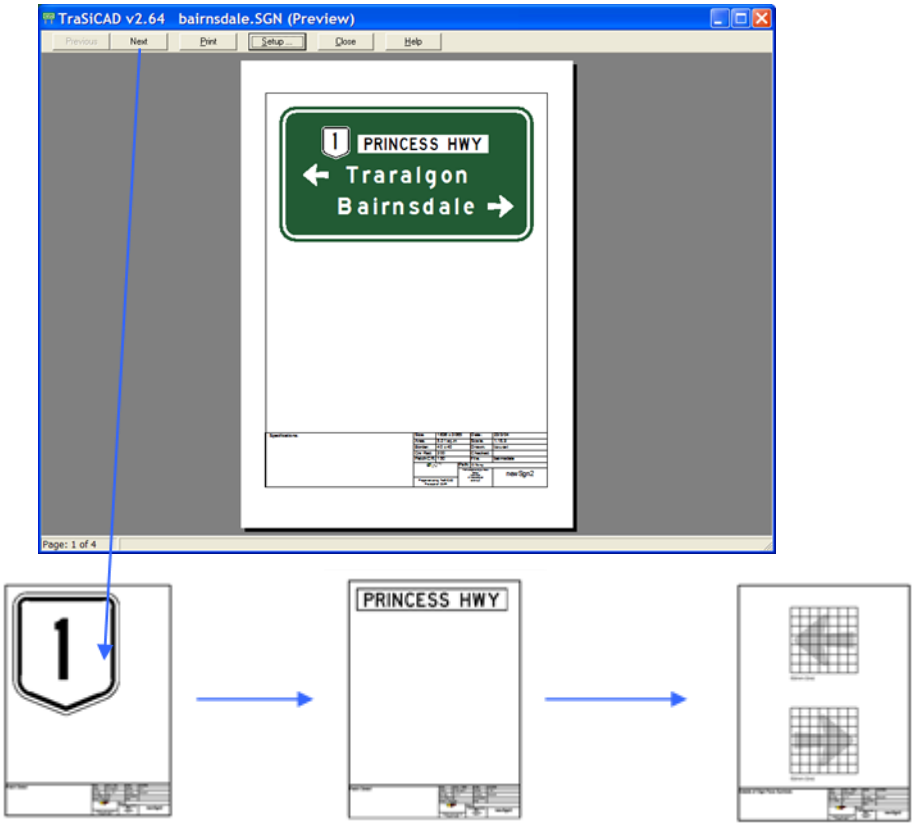
The **Print Preview**>**Previous** option allows scrolling backwards to view previous pages where the drawing contains arrows, roundabouts, diagrammaticals, route markers or road name patches (the **Print Symbol Details** or **Road Patch Details** boxes are to be checked in the **Layout** tab of **Page Setup**. See Section 2.9.2.1).

Note: The **Print Details** box in **Sign Properties** also has to be selected if a sub-sign (road name patch or route marker) is to be printed.

2.9.3.2 Next

The **Print Preview**>**Next** option acts as a forward scrolling button to access other pages in the drawing, as shown in Figure 2.9.3.2.

Figure 2.9.3.2 – Print Preview>Next option



2.9.3.3 Print

The **Print Preview**>**Print** option starts the printing process through a print box where print settings can be checked and modified.

Note: Where available to the user, prints can be made to Adobe PDF files as well as printers

2.9.3.4 Setup

The **Print Preview**>**Setup** option reverts to the **Page Setup** box. See Section 2.9.2.1.

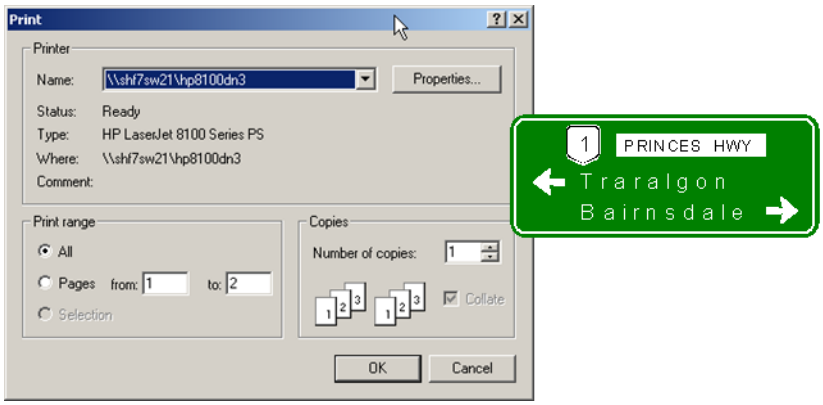
2.9.3.5 Close

The **Print Preview**>**Close** option closes the print preview and reverts to the screen view of the drawing.

2.9.4 Print

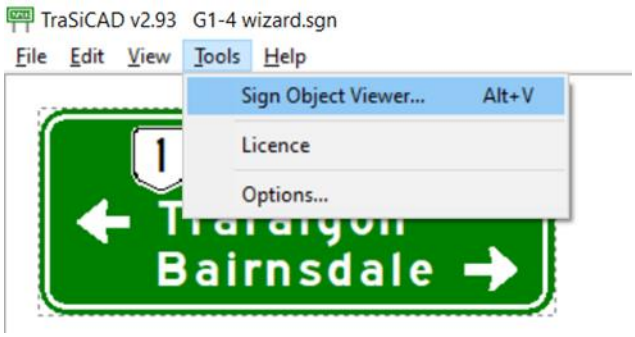
The **Print** option, as shown in Figure 2.9.4, starts the printing process through a print dialogue box. At this point, print settings can be checked and modified before committing to the nominated Adobe PDF or hard copy print.

Figure 2.9.4 – Print selection



2.9.5 Sign Object Viewer

Figure 2.9.5 – Sign Object Viewer selection



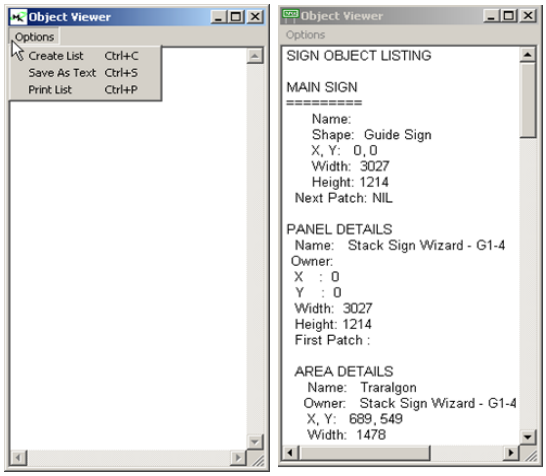
The options available in **Sign Object Viewer** are:

- **Create List**
- **Save As Text**, and
- **Print List**.

2.9.5.1 Create List

The **Create List** option found in **Sign Object Viewer** as part of **Tools \ Options**. As shown in Figure 2.9.5.1, **Create List** allows screen viewing of a created list of parts associated with the active sign design. Details of every element on that sign can be viewed in this list.

Figure 2.9.5.1 – Sign Object Viewer>Create List option



2.9.5.2 Save as Text

The **Sign Object Viewer**>**Save as Text** option allows the **Object** list to be saved as a text file for exporting to other documents.

2.9.5.3 Print List

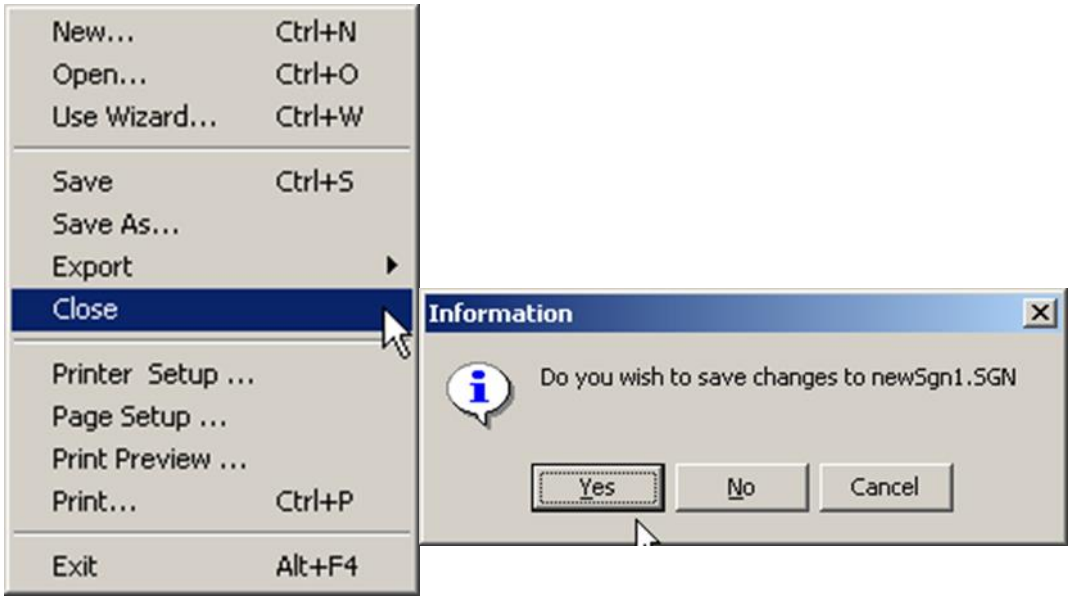
The **Sign Object Viewer**>**Print List** option prints out a copy of the **Object** list directly from TraSiCAD to the nominated printer.

2.10 Closing a drawing

On completion of the drawing. select **File**, **Close** as shown in Figure 2.10. When a dialogue box appears to confirm your decision:

- select **Yes** for the drawing to be either:
  - saved in the current working file (if the drawing has already been nominated a file name previously), or
  - a file directory dialogue box will appear, allowing selection of an appropriate file name in a preferred directory, or
- select **No** for the drawing to be closed without saving last changes.

Figure 2.10 – Close selection



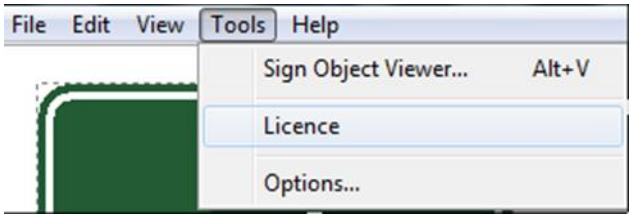
3 Licensing

Warning! TraSiCAD is protected by a registered software protection locking system. Any attempt to bypass this lock licensing software will result in the permanent closing down of the TraSiCAD program.

3.1 Licensing details

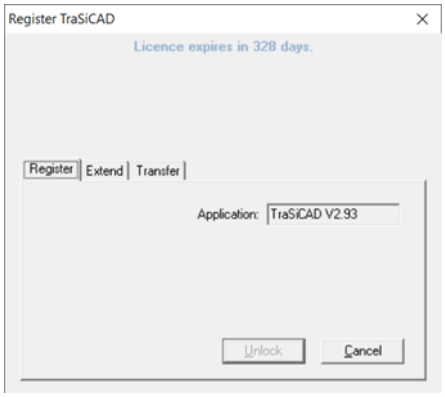
All licensing details and options to extend or transfer the licence of the TraSiCAD program can be found in the **Tools**, **Licence** directory as shown in Figure 3.1(a).

Figure 3.1(a) – Licensing details



Selection of the **Licence** option will initiate a **Register TraSiCAD** dialogue box, indicating the number of days left until the licence expires, as shown in Figure 3.1(b). For the initial evaluation installation, the number of registered days will be 1–30 days. The fully licensed version range will be 1–365 days. TraSiCAD indicates it is fully licensed when the **Register** tab indicates only an **Application** window and shows the **Licence expires in** [number of] **days** exceeding 0.

Figure 3.1(b) – Register TraSiCAD selection



Note: After expiry of the licence, TraSiCAD will show a dialogue box message indicating TraSiCAD has not been registered and will run in demonstration mode, as shown in Figure 3.1(c). In that mode, no wizard or printing functions will be available. The serial number will be required when requesting a new or extended licence **Unlock** code.

Figure 3.1(c) – Unlock TraSiCAD

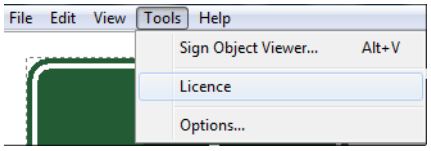
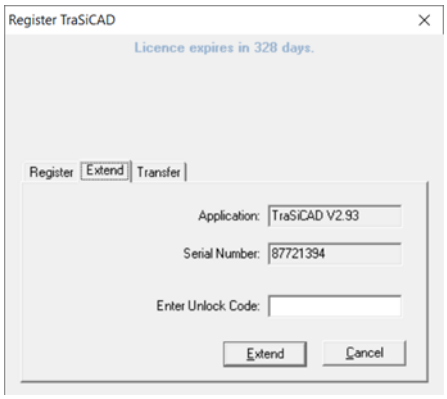
Application for the purchase or extension of a TraSiCAD program licence must be preceded by payment of the appropriate fees. Payment and enquiries should be directed to:

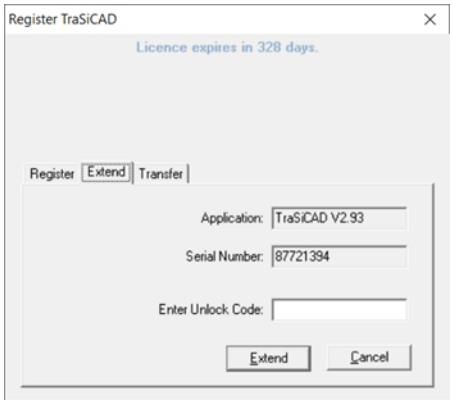
Email: TrafficEngineering.Support@tmr.qld.gov.au.

3.2 Extension of licence

On submission of a registration form (including the serial number of the TraSiCAD program) and payment of appropriate licensing fees, an unlock code will be issued to the user. This code may be used by following the process shown in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 – Unlock Code process

Process step	Screen illustration
Select **Tools, Licence**	
If the program is already licensed or still in the evaluation period, the serial number will be found in the **Extend** tab.	

Process step	Screen illustration
If the licence has expired, the serial number will be found on the **Register** tab or the **Unlock** tab	
With the serial number displayed, enter the supplied unlock code, provided by the supplier, into the **Enter Unlock Code** box.	
The licence expiry date will be upgraded showing **Licence expires in … days**	

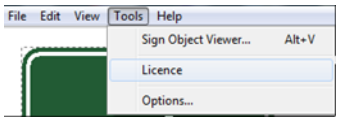
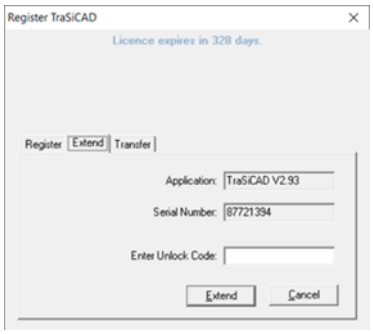
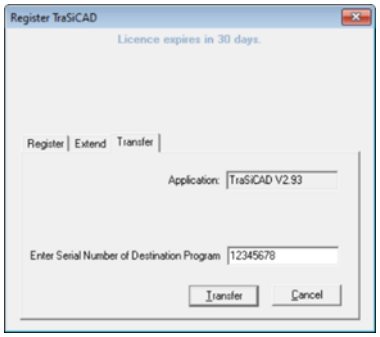
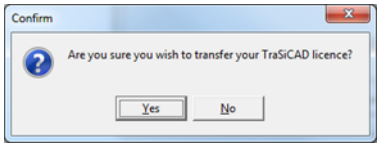
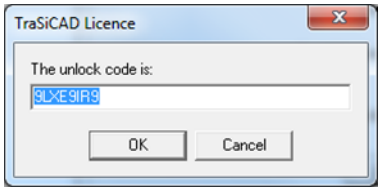
3.3 Transfer of licence

If necessary, a TraSiCAD program may be transferred to another personal computer (PC).

Note: Only the balance of the unused time of the licence is transferred and the host PC then becomes unlicensed. Any transfer will require the destination PC to have an evaluation copy of the TraSiCAD program installed (see sections 2.1 and 2.2).

The process to transfer a TraSiCAD program is provided in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3 – Transferring TraSiCAD process

Process step	Screen illustration
Go to the destination PC (where the program is to be transferred to and an evaluation copy has been installed). Select **Tools**, **Licence**.	
Select the **Extend** tab and record the serial number of that installed program.	
Return to the licensed PC (from which the program is to be removed). Select **Tools**, **Licence**, **Transfer** tab. Enter the previously recorded serial number (from the destination PC) in the **Enter Serial Number of Destination Program** box.	
Click the **Transfer** button, A dialogue box will appear to confirm your intention to transfer.	
A new dialogue box will appear on your confirmation, displaying an eight-digit, alphanumeric unlock code. Record the code.	
Return to the destination PC and enter the recorded unlock code into the **Register** or **Extension** tab as appropriate. Refer to sections 3.1 and 3.2 for instructions on these. Note: Ensure entry is in capital letters and that the alphanumeric sequence is entered correctly (beware of the number '5' and letter 'S', the number '1' and letter 'I', the number '0' and letter 'O').	

3.4 Frequently asked questions

Some frequently asked questions relating to installing and using TraSiCAD are provided in Table 3.4.

Table 3.4 – Frequently asked questions

Question	Instruction
Where can I find my serial number?	Go to **Tools**>**Licence**>**Extend.**
How can I register my copy of TraSiCAD?	See Section 3.1 *Licensing Details.*

Question	Instruction
How can I extend my licence?	Before your yearly licence is about to expire, you need to apply for an extension by sending an email to TrafficEngineering.Support@tmr.qld.gov.au to receive advice about the necessary action.
I received the unlock code to extend my licence. How do I proceed to extend it?	Go to **Tools**>**Licence**>**Extend** and enter the unlock code in the **Enter Unlock Code** field.
How do I transfer my licence?	See Section 3.3 *Transfer of Licence.*
I want to register my licence, but I don't see the serial number?	Uninstall and install TraSiCAD again or ask an Administrator to do that if you do not have administrative rights.
I registered my licence but TraSiCAD still runs in demo mode?	An Administrator should uninstall and install TraSiCAD and run the newly-installed TraSiCAD software first. The program will generate a serial number which should be emailed to TrafficEngineering.Support@tmr.qld.gov.au to receive an unlock code. After receiving the unlock code, the Administrator should register the software, exit the program, and log off. The user then should log in with their user account and run TraSiCAD.

For further information or matters relating to TraSiCAD not covered in these frequently asked questions or this *User Manual*, please email TrafficEngineering.Support@tmr.qld.gov.au.