

WAITAKERE CITY COUNCIL SPEED LIMITS BYLAW



SPECIAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION Have your say on speed limits in Waitakere

Submissions close 5pm Monday, 29 March 2010

OVERVIEW

Vehicle speed is the leading cause of road crashes and fatalities in New Zealand. It is a well known fact that reducing the speed vehicles travel reduces the severity of crashes.

Council is seeking the community's views on a review of the Waitakere City Council Speed Limits Bylaw 2005. Over the past three years council has liaised with the New Zealand Transport Agency and the New Zealand Police to look at how the safety of pedestrians and road users around a number of school entrances and high speed sections of some roads across the city can be improved. The result is a proposed reduction of speed limits in these areas.

Council has determined that a bylaw is the most appropriate means to impose maximum speed limits on roads, for the purpose of protecting, promoting and maintaining public health and safety.

Council has drafted a bylaw in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002) and the Land Transport Rule 54001: Setting of Speed Limits 2003. The bylaw sets maximum speed limits that will apply to each road or section of road under the control of Waitakere City Council. The changes to be made from the 2005 bylaw are detailed in a Statement of Proposal.

The draft bylaw identifies 40kph, 70kph and 80kph restricted areas for a number of locations across Waitakere, predominantly in rural areas that border residential suburbs.

The maximum speed limits under the bylaw are only applicable where a lesser speed limit is not imposed or implied by the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 due to other factors such as:

- » the class of vehicle being driven;
- » the available stopping distance;
- » road geometry;
- » road conditions and/or weather conditions; or
- » the requirement to comply with other traffic controls (signs and road markings).

The proposed changes also call for a variable speed limit near schools to increase pedestrian safety during high traffic periods. The reduction from 50kph to 40kph is expected to apply for a maximum period of:

- » 35 minutes before the start of school;
- » 20 minutes at the end of school, beginning no earlier than 5 minutes before the end of school; and
- » 10 minutes at any other time when at least 50 children cross the road or enter or leave vehicles at the roadside.

Where a school zone contains more than one school and their start/end times differ the operating times of the zone may exceed the stated figures that are the maximums for an individual school. This is in line with variable speed restrictions for schools in other parts of the region.

The bylaw will be enforced by the New Zealand Police.

MAKING A SUBMISSION

It is important that everyone with an interest in road safety in Waitakere has the opportunity to tell council what they think. Now is the time for you to provide feedback by making a submission to the council during the consultation period that runs from 15 February until 5pm on 29 March 2010.

You can make an electronic submission by visiting the council's website, alternatively a written submission form can be collected from the council's offices, any Waitakere public library, community centre or Citizen's Advice Bureau. You can also request a submission form or copy of the Statement of Proposal be sent to you by calling the council's 24-hour call centre on (09) 839 0400.

Please state clearly on your submission if you wish to appear before council representatives at a public hearing.

Further information is available on the council's website, www.waitakere.govt.nz/HavSay/index.asp

Submissions must be received at the council's offices by 5pm on Monday 29 March 2010.