

KAIKŌURA DISTRICT COUNCIL MEDIA RELEASE: COMMUNITY ASKED TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON CHANGING SPEED LIMITS ACROSS KAIKŌURA

As work continues to improve the Kaikōura road network, Kaikōura District Council is seeking community feedback on proposed changes to dozens of road speeds across the district.

Required by legislation to undertake a review of the speed limits on all its' roads, Council engaged Harrison Grierson (HGT2) to undertake an independent review under the guidelines of the NZTA Speed Limits Rules 2017.

Currently there is a 50km/hr speed limit within the district's urban areas, 70, 80 and 100 km/hr speed limits in the semi-urban area immediately inland of the Kaikōura township and 100 km/hr on many rural roads, excluding SH1 and rural roads around settlements.

As part of their review HGT2 held discussions with a small number of representatives of the community including school principals, the police and business representatives. Counts were made of children arriving and leaving schools, speed surveys were undertaken and NZ Transport Agency data on crashes and crash risk was reviewed.

Risk on roads can be measured in several ways. When measured by the number of serious and fatal crashes per kilometre, known as collective risk, all Council roads recorded low risk levels. However, when measured by the number of serious and fatal crashes per kilometre travelled, known as personal risk, several roads are medium or high risk. This includes Puhī Puhī Road, Blue Duck Valley Road, sections of Red Swamp Road, Rorrison's Road and Mount Fyffe Road, Avoca Street, Austin Street and South Bay Parade.

In response to the report Council is now proposing multiple speed changes aimed at slowing traffic through urban areas, around schools and on more at risk roads.

Discussing the changes, CEO Angela Oosthuizen said, "the proposals are about ensuring speed limits on our roads are safe and appropriate. Some changes, like the reduction of the West End to 30km also reflect how our traffic already behaves. In busier seasons and at times traffic along West End is around 30km anyway. Recent studies have shown that death from the impact a vehicle driving at 30km/hr is just 10% compared to 80% at 50km/hr so reducing the limit in this area just makes sense."

"Other changes such as looking at speeds around schools are things the community has been asking for a while. When you talk to parents, teachers and community members people understand the need to ensure children are safe around schools. As a parent myself I understand how much traffic around the school run matters and I'm pleased to be giving the community a chance to make sure speeds around our schools are fit for purpose."

"The final group of changes are those I think there will be the biggest range of opinions on. We're proposing changes that lower speeds on rural and semi-rural roads. These changes are in line with what the technical assessments indicate are safe and appropriate. We know from the police that reducing speed limits in some areas is unlikely to be popular and enforcement may be a challenge."



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“This is where the consultation is really critical. We’ve proposed changes so that people can tell us their views and final decisions will reflect those views. So if you’re someone who drives those roads and has a view, make sure you make a submission so your opinion is taken into account.”

Consultation is open until 5pm 16 August 2019. More information including maps of the proposals and an easy online submission form can be found at www.kaikoura.govt.nz. Paper submission forms can also be collected from the library or Council.

Notes for editors:

SH1 is controlled by NZTA and as such is outside the scope of the review.