

11 August 2020

Brent Page
Chair
Kuaotunu Residents & Ratepayers Association
kuaotunuresidentsandratepayers@kuaotunu.nz

REF: NZT-5195

Dear Brent

Thank you for your letter of 25 September 2019 requesting that Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency consider reducing the speed limit from 70km/h to 50km/h on State Highway 25 (SH25) at Kuaotunu. Your letter has been referred to me for reply as the design of the integrated transport system falls within my responsibility as Senior Manager, System Design.

Firstly, I would like to apologise for the delay in responding to your letter. It has recently come to my attention that your correspondence was not forwarded to the appropriate team at the time it was received, resulting in your query remaining unanswered for an unacceptable amount of time. Waka Kotahi places great emphasis on delivering high quality customer service, which includes an expectation that all correspondence will be responded to as effectively and efficiently as possible. This has not occurred in this instance and rest assured, it has been raised with the appropriate Manager to ensure such situations do not occur in future. I am sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Road safety is one of the Government's top priorities and Waka Kotahi is currently working with local councils to implement a new approach to speed management across New Zealand through the *Tackling Unsafe Speeds* programme. The key initiatives of the programme are to:

- improve how councils and Waka Kotahi plan for, consult on, and implement speed management changes.
- transition to lower speed limits around schools to improve safety and encourage more children to walk and cycle to school.
- Adopt a new approach to safety cameras to reduce excessive speeds on our highest risk roads.

To prepare for this, Waka Kotahi is currently working on a national speed management programme for the state highway network. The initial priority is to target the highest risk sections of state highway where speed management will have the greatest benefit in reducing deaths and serious injuries. We are working towards having this programme completed by the end of 2020.

I am pleased to advise that SH25 Kuaotunu falls in one of the corridors Waka Kotahi has identified for speed management, and we are aiming to start the speed limit review process in the first quarter of 2021.

If you have any further queries, please contact Steve Mutton, Director Regional Relationships (Upper North Island) at steve.mutton@nzta.govt.nz.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns with Waka Kotahi.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robyn Elston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robyn Elston
Senior Manager System Design