

Backgrounder - Submission on Speed Management on SH25 – Making the Temporary Speed Reduction Permanent

NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) Waka Kotahi in Q3 2023 reviewed speeds on the SH25 network because of the closure of SH25A Kopu to Hikuai road.

For our community this resulted in the 70km/hr between Kingfisher Way and just beyond Hilldale Crescent being reduced to 50km/hr but with **“Temporary” speed signage** added

This achieved part of our objectives we have campaigned for over a long period and has been successful in reducing some speeds and mitigating the dangers of lack of a footpath over part of this section for the many walkers and cyclists.

However, this speed limit change is only Temporary and now that SH25A is complete and other SH25 recovery works are well underway. The threat is the new Government’s direction to agencies and local councils to restore reduced limits back “if it is safe to do so”.

This direction is likely for our Community to result in a return to 70km/hr. In our situation it is **certainly not safe to do so** and given our long campaign for speed reduction on SH25 through our community, making all our voices heard is key to making this 50km/hr permanent.

A recent well-attended 200 strong public meeting on the Thames Coast seeking the similar temporary reductions being made permanent was advised by NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) Waka Kotahi to make their voices heard by making submissions on safety grounds during the Ministry of Transport review of the Speed Limit Rules to inform NZTA Waikato submission. It was noted that strong community feedback will be a key consideration in the outcome.

We also need Waitaia Rd / Cemetery Lane speed limit to the Kuaotunu Village reduced from 70 km/hr to 50 km/hr to make this section of road without a footpath at least a safer speed zone for school children, walkers and cyclists. In our view this should have been done at the same time by NZTA (Waka Kotahi) in Q3 2023.

This could also be seen as an opportunity to re-ask for speed camera installation at Waitaia Road and Hilldale Crescent and number plate recognition for exceeding a certain journey time (average speed) between these two points and imposing fines where appropriate.

This technology is already in use on toll roads in Auckland and Tauranga.

The speed limit reductions were very welcome but would be more effective if enforced through the use of speed cameras. This could be used as a pilot for other communities around the Coromandel Peninsula who have similar concerns to ours.

This is also the stated objective by the new Government for this function to be transferred from the police to NZTA (Waka Kotahi) so it is possibly opportune to add this to your personal submission if you agree with this aspect of enforcement.