

19 July 2022

Justin Hu
Digital Reporter
1 News
justin.hu@tvnz.co.nz

REF: OIA-10373

Dear Justin

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 20 June 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I'd like to please request for a copy of any reviews or "technical engineering assessments" of road safety or speed limits that look at State Highway 1 between Picton and Blenheim – that have been produced in 2019, 2020, 2021, or 2022.

Please find enclosed with this response a technical assessment and internal review completed for this corridor in anticipation of a potential speed review. The personal details of consultants have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. As we did not receive a response to our email of 20 June 2022 asking if you needed Waka Kotahi staff names and contact details as part of this request, we have considered that these are not required and have been removed as out of scope.

With respect to the information that has been withheld, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold this information. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

A speed review is currently being considered, and the documents released to you show consensus towards a lower posted speed limit based on the current environment. We note however that this is one of a number of inputs into deciding on a speed limit that is appropriate, including input and feedback from our Māori and local government partners, key stakeholders and the community. Given the public interest in this corridor, we will keep the wider community and interested stakeholders informed throughout and once decisions are made.

The crash of 19 June 2022 has had and will continue to have a devastating impact on the families and the wider communities of all those who died and were injured. Our deepest sympathies are with them at this incredibly difficult time.

These tragic events remind us that crashes can occur anywhere and at any time and reinforces the importance of the work being undertaken by New Zealand's Road Safety Strategy, Road to Zero. We know there is not a single solution that will solve the level of harm experienced on our roads, and by taking a system-wide approach, we can tackle the many issues across our whole transport system.

This involves ensuring our roads and streets are posted with safe and appropriate speed limits, implementing safety infrastructure such as median barriers, roundabouts, raised pedestrian crossings, strengthening road policing (including the coming introduction of roadside drug testing and rolling out additional safety cameras), encouraging people to buy safer vehicles, strengthening road safety penalties, and improving access to driver training.

In line with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Felix Marwick, Media Manager, by email to felix.marwick@nzta.govt.nz

Yours sincerely



Dave Van Staden
Programme Director Speed and Infrastructure Programme