

13 July 2023

██████████  
████████████████████

REF: OIA-12802

Dear ██████████

**Request made under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of 31 May 2023 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) relating to speed reviews between Kaitoke and Masterton.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is managing two separate speed reviews within this corridor – the Masterton to Featherston Speed Review, and the Interim Speed Management Plan which includes proposed speed limit changes between Featherston and Kaitoke. I have provided a response to each of your requests below.

*Please provide the following information about SH2 between Kaitoke and Masterton:  
- consultation document about speed limit changes*

Proposed changes to speeds between Kaitoke and Featherston are encompassed within the Interim State Highway Speed Management Plan (ISMP). The following information is in scope of your request:

- The ISMP consultation draft can be accessed at:  
<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/Safety/docs/interim-state-highway-speed-management-plan/draft-ismp.pdf>
- The regional summary can be accessed at:  
<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/Safety/docs/interim-state-highway-speed-management-plan/ismp-consultation-overview-greater-wellington.pdf>
- For Masterton to Featherston, the consultation document can be accessed at:  
<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/sh2-wairarapa-highway-improvements/SH2-Wairarapa-safety-improvements-consultation-form.pdf>
- For Masterton to Featherston, full feedback can be accessed at:  
<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/sh2-wairarapa-highway-improvements/SH2-Masterton-to-Featherston-speed-review-feedback-submissions-January-2023.pdf>

I am refusing your request for these documents under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

*- your analysis of that feedback*

An analysis of feedback received on the draft ISMP including key themes, and our responses to those themes, will be included as part of the Interim Speed Management Plan decision documentation. This is currently being prepared and will be published on our website once final decisions are made and the ISMP has been certified by the Director of Land Transport. Information for this part of your request is therefore withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act as the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by Waka Kotahi.

*- copy of feedback or comprehensive summary of feedback*

The consultation feedback on received on locations 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 in the consultation draft ISMP is provided in *Attachment 1 - SH2 Kaitoke to Masterton ISMP consultation feedback*. These locations are:

- *Location 2.5 Featherston south* – west of Renall Street to northwest of Renall Street
- *Location 2.6 Remutaka Hill* – northwest of Renall Street to south of Marchant Road
- *Location 2.7 Kaitoke to Te Mārua (Upper Hutt)* – south of Marchant Road to northeast of Twin Lakes Road.

Certain information has been withheld from Attachment 1 under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. This section allows for the withholding of information to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

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.

*- formal cost benefit analysis*

Neither the draft ISMP nor the Masterton to Featherston Speed Review have had a Benefit Cost Ratio assessed. Instead, the benefits have been evaluated through assessment of expected reduction in deaths and serious injuries. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as the information requested is not held by Waka Kotahi, and there is no reason to believe that the information is held by another department or organisation.

*- decision document finalising speed limits*

No decision documents are available for the ISMP as final decisions have not yet been made. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

The decision documents for the Masterton to Featherston Speed Review have been released previously and can be accessed at:

- <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/About-us/docs/oia2-2023/oia-11852-response-letter.pdf>
- <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/About-us/docs/oia2-2023/oia-11852-attachment-12.pdf>

I am refusing your request for these documents under section 18(d) of the Act, as they are publicly available.

*- performance measures that will show whether or not those changes are successful*

For speed changes between Kaitoke and Featherston, no information is available on performance as no decisions or changes have been made. For Masterton to Featherston, as speed changes have not been implemented for long enough to measure improvement in safety over a meaningful period of time, no information about specific performance measures is available.

However, in term of performance measures in general, reducing speeds on specific sections of the state highway network has proven to be an effective measure with reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries (DSIs). We measure this by reductions in crash severity and frequency (i.e. reduced DSIs per year on the corridor), mean speed changes and compliance. Speed restrictions on this stretch of SH2 can thus make a difference with reducing the seriousness of when crashes occur.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold parts of this information and refuse parts of this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

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 us by email to [official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kinvig', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

**Mark Kinvig**  
National Manager, Infrastructure Delivery