



SH16 BRIGHAM CREEK TO WAIMAUKU SPEED REVIEW

Summary of the speed review consultation

WAKA KOTAHI NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

JULY 2020

1. BACKGROUND

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has reviewed speed limits on State Highway 16 between Brigham Creek and Waimauku in Auckland to make the road safer for all road users.

We reviewed the speed limits to make sure they are safe and appropriate for this road. No matter what causes a crash, speed is always a factor in the severity. Put simply, the speed of impact can be the difference between walking away or being carried away from a crash.

From 2009 to 2018 there were 449 crashes on SH16 between Brigham Creek and Waimauku, resulting in seven deaths and 57 people seriously injured.

SH16 is a rural state highway that is continually changing, with additional growth and housing in the wider area. SH16 provides a key connection for the north-west. Over 30,000 vehicles a day use the route between Brigham Creek and Kumeu, and 15,000 vehicles a day between Huapai and Waimauku. This road is also part of an alternative route to State Highway 1 between Wellsford and Auckland and used by long-distance travellers driving between the Northland Region and Auckland or beyond.

2. CONSULTATION PROCESS

Prior to undertaking the formal consultation process, we completed numerous steps, including a speed management technical assessment of the road. This identified the various existing speed limits on the road were not safe and appropriate for the current road characteristics and roadside environments along this state highway.

Over the last three years we have engaged with iwi, the local community and our road safety partners. Engagement provided us with feedback and local knowledge on how the community use the road, their concerns and how they felt about the current speed limits on SH16. This feedback, alongside our technical assessment, helped us decide what speed limits to propose for formal consultation.

On 29 October 2019, we commenced formal consultation on proposed new speed limits for SH16 between Brigham Creek and Waimauku. Formal consultation was open for four weeks and closed on 26 November 2019.

Consultation material provided evidence that supported the proposal and included current travel speeds and the characteristics of the road.

We informed people that formal consultation was underway through advertisements in the Northwest News, on the Waka Kotahi website, and through social media and other digital advertising. We also sent letters and emails to stakeholders such as the local board, NZ Police, Automobile Association and Road Transport Forum. People were able to make a formal submission using the electronic submission form, downloadable hard copy submission form or by email.

3. CONSULTATION QUESTION

We used the consultation phase to seek any additional information from stakeholders or the public that would help inform our decision about the proposed speed limit changes.

During formal consultation we asked the public the following question:

“Are there any other factors that we should consider when making our decision?”

We considered all factors raised during formal consultation when making our decision on new permanent speed limits.

4. SUMMARY AND RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

Across the four-week consultation period in October and November 2019 we received 200 submissions through Survey Monkey, emails and consultation forms. We would like to thank everyone who provided feedback.

Submissions raised a number of concerns around speeding and speed limits, including issues about driver behaviour, road condition, and traffic volumes.

The following table outlines the key issues and factors people raised in submissions, along with our responses to these concerns.

	Factors	Waka Kotahi comment
Driver behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern for dangerous driving, overtaking, tailgating, speeding. Slow drivers and lack of driver education causing frustration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving everyone's driving skills would have a positive impact on the speeds people travel and the harm done on our roads. Slow drivers are not significantly implicated as a cause in our crash stats. Speed is one risk that good drivers can minimise. While poor driving behaviour has resulted in crashes, more crashes are a result of mistakes and even the most experienced "perfect" driver among us drops the ball sometimes. These mistakes shouldn't result in loss of life or serious injury. Making speed limits safer is part of the Safe System approach that minimises mistakes resulting in loss of life or serious injury. The Safe System approach requires considering and strengthening all parts of system – roads and roadsides, speeds, vehicles and road use. To ensure that no one is killed or seriously injured on our transport network. By taking a system approach, if one part fails, other parts will still protect the people involved. Designing to protect people from crash forces means creating forgiving roads and roadsides; speeds where collisions are survivable; safer vehicles that prevent errors and protect the people inside and ensuring that all people on the road has the skill, knowledge and focus required to travel safely.
Road condition, road width, road markings and safety barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road needs maintenance (such as resurfacing), additional lanes and bypasses, and safety improvements rather than speed limit reductions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to making speed limits safer along this route we are also progressing safety improvements including flexible barriers, additional lanes, flush medians, wider road shoulders, a new roundabout at the SH16/Coatesville Riverhead Highway intersection, and a dedicated shared path for people on foot and on bikes.
Traffic volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased volumes due to growing population and new housing developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are investigating an alternative state highway and other initiatives to address growth in the area as part of the Supporting Growth programme.
Increase/decrease proposed speed limit or length of speed zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The section from Huapai to Waimauku should be 90km/h (or stay at 100km/h) not 80km/h. The small 60km/h section out of Huapai 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When setting a limit, Waka Kotahi or any other road controlling authority needs to consider a range of factors. Some of these are described in the Setting of Speed Limits Rule 2017, and include what the road is like, how it is used, how safe it is and what the risks are. Other considerations

Factors		Waka Kotahi comment
	<p>will be confusing and difficult to enforce and should be 50km/h (extended from the 50km/h speed limit in Huapai township).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60km/h is too fast through Waimauku Village. 	<p>include the number of property's accessways, the volume of traffic, and the severity of crashes that have occurred along this section of highway. Having considered all appropriate factors our investigations support a speed limit of 80km/h between Huapai and Waimauku as being the safe and appropriate speed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The road and visuals advise the speed limit we propose and where speed limits should begin and end. Our investigations indicate that extending the 50km/h speed limit west through Huapai could be confusing to drivers as the peri-urban road environment lacks visual clues to drivers that the area is a 50km/h zone. It also risks becoming a speed trap and leading to increased overtaking in the area. Our investigations therefore concluded that 60km/h would be an appropriate speed limit west of Station Road. We will add repeater signage to reinforce the new speed limits and help drivers understand the change in limits. We will be working with police concerning enforcement of the new speed limits. Under New Zealand's Road to Zero Strategy 2020-2030, we will be adopting a new approach to safety cameras to reduce excessive speeds on our highest risk roads. A fundamental part of the new approach to safety cameras is the transfer of ownership and operation of cameras (and associated functions) from NZ Police to Waka Kotahi. As the main commercial area of Waimauku is located off the state highway (accessed via a couple of well-formed intersections), our investigations support a 60km/h speed limit as the safe and appropriate speed.
Intersections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dangerous intersections on this route are key contributor to safety issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intersections along this route are one of the factors we have considered when recommending the safe and appropriate speed limits. As part of our safety improvements on SH16 we are investigating building a roundabout at the SH16/Coatesville Riverhead Highway intersection.

5. DECISION

The table below shows the recommended speed limits that Waka Kotahi formally consulted on between 29 October 2019 and 26 November 2019.

The consultation submissions did not identify any issues that we had not already considered.

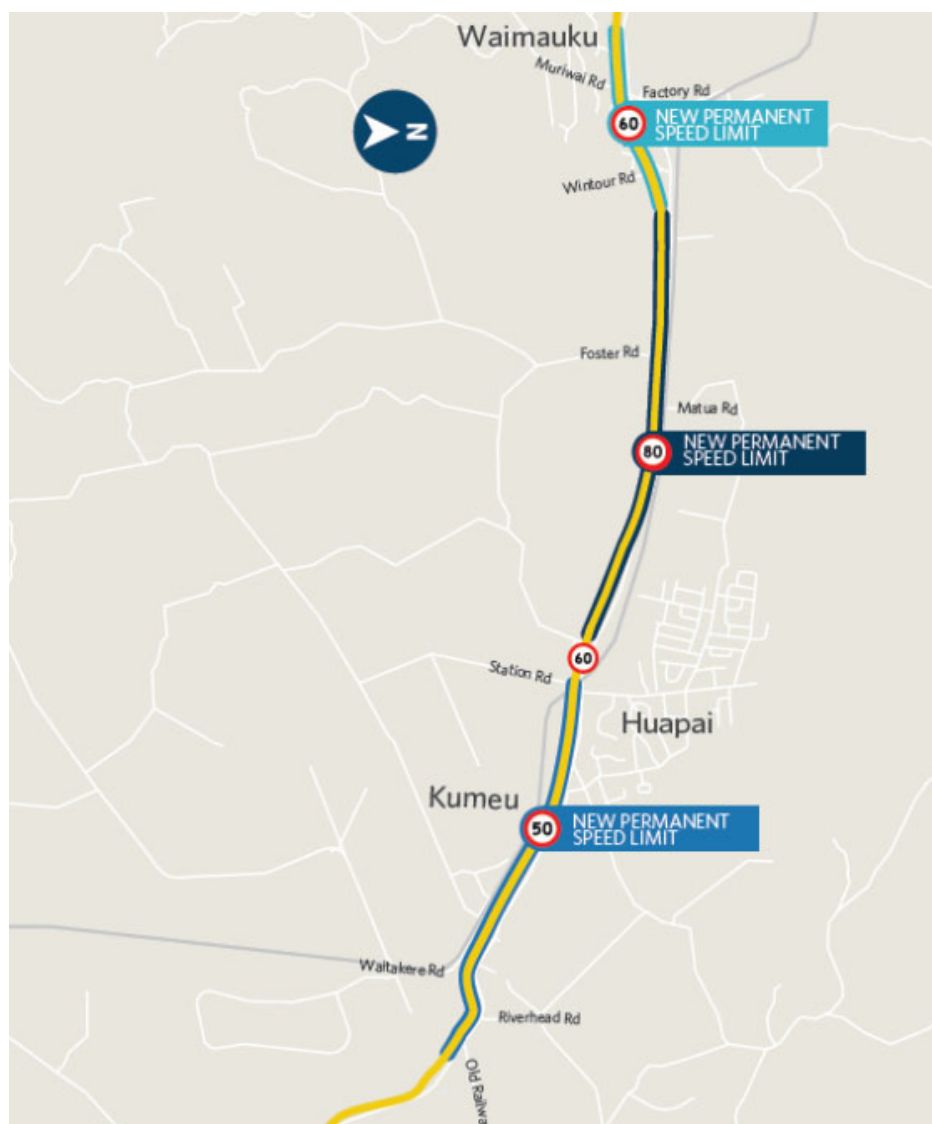
The outcome of the speed review was in line with the proposed speed limit changes, and the permanent speed limits outlined below will come into effect on Monday 7 September 2020.

We will notify stakeholders by letter and the public via media release, newspaper, email update and radio advertising, and social media ahead of the new speed limits signs being installed and the new speed limits taking effect.

The following new permanent speed limits will apply from Monday 7 September 2020:

SH16 Brigham Creek to Waimauku	Existing speed limits	New speed limits from 7 September 2020
SH16 Kumeu and Huapai - from 50m south-east of Old Railway Road to 10m north-west of Station Road.	60km/h	50km/h
SH16 Huapai - no change to speed limit from 10m north-west of Station Road to 260m north-west of Trigg Road.	60km/h	No change
SH16 Huapai to Waimauku - from 260m north-west of Trigg Road to 140m east of Wintour Road.	100km/h	80km/h
SH16 Waimauku - from 140m east of Wintour Road to 95m east of Mabbett Lane.	70km/h	60km/h

Map showing the new permanent speed limits:



6. SUBMISSIONS

To view the submissions, we received for this speed review visit
<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh16-brigham-creek-to-waimauku/>