



# **STATE HIGHWAY 3 NAPIER ROAD 50KM/H SPEED EXTENSION REVIEW**

Summary of the speed review consultation

WAKA KOTAHI NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

DECEMBER 2022

# 1. BACKGROUND

To build a land transport system where everyone is cared for and can move around safely, we need the different parts of the land transport system working together. We need a mix of solutions including safe speeds, road and street design, vehicles and behaviour.

That is why Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has been reviewing speed limits on State Highway 3 Napier Road from Palmerston North to Ashhurst.

Speed is a controllable factor – when speed limits are safe and people drive within the speed limits, crashes are less likely to occur, and the severity of crashes when they do occur reduces.

The 12 km road corridor that has been under review is predominantly two lanes with a passing lane in each direction and is well-travelled year-round by commuters and people travelling between Manawatū and Hawke's Bay. It is a regional route located south of the suburb of Kelvin Grove. The small community of Whakarongo is located approximately halfway along the corridor and Whakarongo School is located at the intersection of SH3 and Stoney Creek Road. The school entrance is located off Stoney Creek Road.

Between 2011-2020, reported crash statistics show a total of 159 crashes, of which three people were killed, 13 seriously injured and 67 walked away with minor injuries (CAS data extracted March 2022). Last year there were a further 12 crashes and 8 people obtained minor injuries. There has been a further two deaths along this corridor in 2022.

Safer speed limits are a key part of Road to Zero, New Zealand's road safety strategy for 2020–2030. This strategy sets us on a path to achieve Vision Zero, an Aotearoa where no one is killed or seriously injured on our roads.

It calls on all of us to make good choices when we travel but accepts that as humans, we make mistakes and crashes will happen. But these crashes should not result in us losing our lives or being seriously injured.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency consulted with the public and stakeholders on the safe and appropriate speeds for this 12km road corridor in April-May 2022 and some new safer speeds have been implemented:

- 80km/h from 20m north of Sutton Place in Palmerston North to 130m east of Stoney Creek Road
- 60km/h in the Ashhurst township from 350m east of Hacketts Road to 500m south of Cambridge Avenue
- 80km/h from 500m south of Cambridge Avenue to 160m northwest of State Highway 57

A variable speed zone has also been installed outside Whakarongo School, using electronic speed signs to activate a 60km/h speed limit during peak school traffic times to help keep tamariki and their whānau safe.

Waka Kotahi acknowledges Rangitāne O Manawatū as a project partner in support of safer speeds on SH3 Napier Rd.

## Additional consultation after public feedback

Through consultation feedback, it was suggested that the Palmerston North urban 50km/h zone could be extended further out on SH3 Napier Road to address the issue of the current speed limit feeling too high for an environment with vulnerable road users.

As a result of this, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is proposing that the SH3 Palmerston North urban 50km/h zone is extended past the Bupa retirement village (from 150m north of Sutton Place to 180m east of Macpherson Grove).

## 2. CONSULTATION PROCESS

*This speed review was consulted under the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2017, and is being completed under the transitional provisions of the Setting of Speed Limits 2022 Rule.*

Formal consultation on the 50km/h speed limit extension took place from Thursday 9 June to Monday 27 June 2022.

Letters outlining the decision on the SH3 Napier Road Palmerston North to Ashhurst speed proposal and the additional consultation on the 50km/h speed limit extension proposal were emailed to key national stakeholders including NZ Automobile Association (AA), NZ Police, and la Ara Aotearoa Transporting New Zealand. Information and an invite to provide feedback was also sent to local stakeholders including regional and local government, and all submitters to the wider 12km speed review were emailed. Letters were distributed to Bupa Riverstone Retirement Village residents and self-addressed prepaid envelopes were provided.

Information was added to the SH3 Napier Road Palmerston North to Ashhurst project webpage on the Waka Kotahi website, and an e-newsletter sent to email subscribers. Advertisements with information about the consultation were run in the Manawatū Standard and Manawatū Guardian and a media release containing the information was issued by Waka Kotahi on 9 June 2022.

Submissions were accepted on hard copy forms and by email to the Waka Kotahi project inbox (pn2ashhurst@nzta.govt.nz)

### 3. CONSULTATION QUESTION

The purpose of formal consultation is to share a detailed proposal with people and to ask for any additional information that might have an impact on the final decision.

In proposing the extension of the 50km/h speed limit past the Bupa Retirement Village entrance to 180m east of Macpherson Grove, we asked:

**“Are there any other factors that we should consider when making our decision regarding this proposed speed limit change?”**

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

## 4. SUMMARY AND RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

Across the two-week consultation period, a total of 9 submissions were received, including:

- 8 email submissions.
- 1 letter posted in the mail.

Stakeholder submissions were received from NZ Police and the Palmerston North City Council.

Submissions provided specific feedback on the proposed speed limit extension as well as general feedback on other sections of the Palmerston North to Ashhurst 12km corridor. Submissions contained opinions and views on the proposed speed limits previously consulted on, future residential growth and its impact on traffic volumes, safety concerns entering and exiting SH3, safety concerns for pedestrians crossing SH3 and comments around the proposed Roberts Line / SH3 intersection improvements.

We acknowledge the time and effort that went into these submissions and thank every person and organisation who contributed to the speed review process.

Within the submissions, the proposed 50km/h speed limit extension was unanimously supported. The key themes from the submissions are detailed below.

	Themes	Waka Kotahi comment
Palmerston North to past the Bupa retirement village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reduced speed limit will enhance safety for vulnerable road users.</li> <li>• A reduced speed limit will address increased traffic volume / vehicle speeds.</li> <li>• Access onto and off SH3 Napier Road is currently difficult and dangerous.</li> <li>• Continued residential growth between Palmerston North and Ashhurst is expected.</li> <li>• A reduced speed limit will support the proposed traffic lights at the Roberts Line intersection.</li> <li>• A reduced speed limit will create a safer environment for residents to cross the road.</li> <li>• Further extension of the 50km/h urban speed limit to the Roberts Line intersection should be considered to both improve safety at the future signalised intersection while allowing for residential development to proceed in the Napier Road Residential Extension Area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 80km/h speed limit is currently the appropriate speed for the section of SH3 between the Bupa retirement village entry and the Roberts Line intersection. Reducing the speed limit along this section is likely to result in enforcement issues in the area as most drivers will not see the urban speed as being fitting for the current rural environment.</li> <li>• Future speed limit changes will be considered as part of future improvement to the signalisation of the SH3 Napier Road/Roberts Line intersection. The future safe and appropriate speed limit will be installed in line with the future infrastructure.</li> </ul>
Proposed infrastructure improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for the proposed infrastructure improvements along the corridor.</li> <li>• Proposed traffic lights at Roberts Line will result in backed up traffic on SH3.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SH3 Napier Road is evolving in use and is transitioning from a rural road environment to a more residential environment. The possible traffic queues that may be created are not out of context in this space.</li> </ul>
Roberts Line intersection to Whakarongo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The speed limit should be lower than the proposed 80km/hr e.g., 60km/hr because of continued residential development between Palmerston North and Stoney Creek Road.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As the development starts to be built on, the speed limit will be reviewed.</li> </ul>
Whakarongo School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need for increased safety around Whakarongo School through a speed reduction and variable speed limit.</li> <li>• The speed limit should be further reduced outside Whakarongo school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We note that the school pedestrian activity is not on the state highway and therefore the 60km/h speed limit is expected to be sufficient. Additionally, the variable speed limit, and the electronic speed limit signs, will reinforce driver expectations of the likely</li> </ul>

Themes	Waka Kotahi comment
	<p>presence of children if they enter Stoney Creek Road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Palmerston North City Council is the road controlling authority for Stoney Creek Road. We will work with PNCC if any future review is planned.</li></ul>

## 5. DECISION

The table below shows the recommendations Waka Kotahi formally consulted on between 9 June 2022 and 27 June 2022.

The submissions did not identify any issues that Waka Kotahi had not already considered.

The outcome of the speed review was in line with the proposed speed limit changes, and the permanent speed limit outlined below will come into effect on Friday 16 December 2022.

Stakeholders will be notified by letter and the public are being notified via media release and newspaper advertising ahead of the new speed limit signs being installed and the new speed limit taking effect.

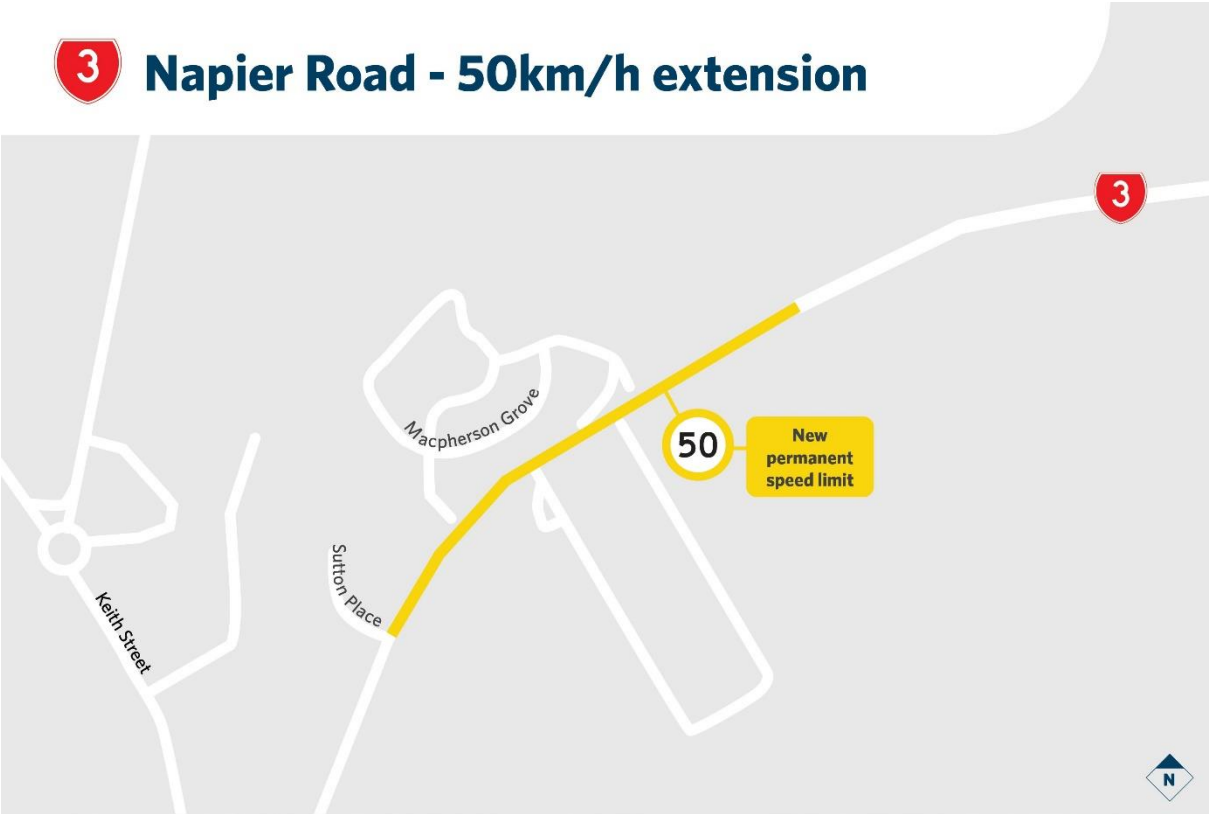
When the new speed limit takes effect, the area will be monitored to ensure the new permanent speed limit and supporting treatments are working effectively and to determine if any further changes are required.

The following new speed limit will apply from Friday 16 December 2022:

Approximate location	Existing speed limit	New speed limit from 16 December 2022
SH3 Napier Road from 20m north of Sutton Place to 180m east of Macpherson Grove (beyond the Bupa Riverstone Retirement Village access).	80km/h	50km/h

Map showing the permanent speed limit

### 3 Napier Road - 50km/h extension



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## 6. SUBMISSIONS

You can view the submissions we received for this speed review [here](#).