

15 May 2024

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████████████████████

REF: OIA-15195

Dear ██████████

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 19 April 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I've been enquiring about why the Waitara town speed limit was lowered to 30kph when the SH1 Waitara by-pass was closed over Xmas January break.

I can make no sense of it and believe the increased traffic volumes through Waitara would taken care of speed issues.

All this did was increase frustrations of motorists.

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) worked closely with New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) and the Waitara Community Board to undertake the accelerated works on State Highway 3 (SH3), between Bayly Road and Nelson Street, during a portion the 2023-24 summer maintenance period. It was important for all of the organisations involved that safety on the detour route was prioritised because of increased vehicle volumes travelling along McLean Street and North Street through Waitara.

Risks to pedestrian and motorist safety were identified because of the numerous intersections, crossing points, schools and other public amenities along the detour route. Angle parking in Waitara township also raised the need to allow motorists adequate time and space to reverse and re-enter the traffic flow in a crowded environment. This was achieved by reducing the speed limit temporarily to a safe and appropriate speed of 30 kilometres per hour.

The temporary speed limit reduction was approved by NZTA and NPDC, and was supported by the New Zealand Police, the Waitara Community Board and heavy transport organisations.

If you would like to follow the progress of the project, particularly for work undertaken during the road's closure during the summer season, further information – including the ability to subscribe to receive regular updates – is available on the project's webpage at www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/sh3-waitara-to-bell-block/.

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

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact us by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

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

Mark Kinvig
National Manager, Infrastructure Delivery