



SH1 BACLUTHA SPEED REVIEW

Summary of the speed review consultation

WAKA KOTAHI NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

OCTOBER 2020

1. BACKGROUND

During October and November 2019 Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency consulted on 80km/h as a safe and appropriate speed limit on a 450m section of SH1 at Rosebank just south of Balclutha.

Our community engagement and consultation supported reducing the speed limit from 100km/h to 80km/h, which Waka Kotahi's speed review and assessment processes established as the safe and appropriate speed for this section of highway. This reflected the changed environment associated with the development of the Rosebank Industrial park and nearby residential developments.

Clutha District Council opened the industrial park in 2018 to attract new business to Balclutha. Several firms are now operating at the park with some attracting greater numbers of big trucks to this location. Earlier this year, a left-hand turn lane and right turn bay opened for traffic into the park. The site was jointly funded through the Provincial Growth Fund and included contributions from the Clutha District Council and Waka Kotahi. The design constraints required consideration of a lower speed limit past the access.

The mean average speed where we proposed an 80km/h limit, is 85-89km/h. This suggests drivers see the existing 100km/h limit as too high and are slowing down. Between 2009 and 2018 there were six crashes on this section of highway, one serious injury and two minor injury.

2. CONSULTATION PROCESS

Waka Kotahi formally consulted on extending the existing 80km/h speed limit from where it currently ends near McKay Road, 450m further south to just past the Rosebank industrial park. Consultation materials provided evidence including current travel speeds and the characteristics of the road environment that supported 80km/h as a safe and appropriate speed limit.

The consultation was advertised and promoted via a variety of social and print media channels used by our target audiences. A news release was distributed to local media about consultation starting and received wide coverage. People could provide feedback on this proposal either electronically or on hard copy submission forms. These were available from Clutha District Council service centres and libraries. NZ Post delivered submission forms to all homes, businesses and PO Boxes within a 10km radius of the speed review area.

3. CONSULTATION QUESTION

The consultation phase is used to seek any additional information from stakeholders or the public that will help inform the decision about this proposed speed limit change.

During formal consultation we proposed a new speed limit and asked the following question “**Are there any other factors that we should consider when making our decision?**”

The factors that were taken into consideration when proposing the new speed limits are covered in this document.

4. SUMMARY AND RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

We received 61 submissions. We appreciate the response from the community and thank everyone who provided their feedback.

The relevant factors that were expressed in the feedback from the public are summarised below

Issues / Concerns	Waka Kotahi comment
<p><u>Extend the Length of speed review area</u></p> <p>Several submitters wanted the 80km/h speed zone past the Industrial Park extended further south toward Clinton, and consideration given to an even lower limit of 70 or 60km/h speed limit.</p>	<p>Extending the speed review area further toward Te Houka Rd was considered but ultimately decided against due to the proximity of the passing lane. An 80km/h speed limit and not the lower ones some submitters were seeking, was identified as the safe and appropriate speed for this section of highway.</p>
<p><u>Driver Behaviour and Enforcement</u></p> <p>A number of those who provided feedback wanted a greater police presence on this section of highway to enforce any new speed limit, and to deal with what they saw as often dangerous driver behaviour.</p>	<p>We will discuss with the local road policing team the communities' desire for increased enforcement of the new speed limit.</p>
<p><u>Improved signage</u></p> <p>Several submitters were keen to see better and more visible signs as drivers enter the 80km/h speed zone They felt it would go a long way to reduce vehicle speeds on this section of highway.</p>	<p>Some repeater signs to help raise driver awareness of the new speed limit may be installed as part of Waka Kotahi's approach to implementing this new speed limit.</p>
<p>Some submitters felt the speed should be lowered further so heavy vehicles travel at safer speeds. They questioned whether 80km/h would achieve this and thought 70km/h would allow large trucks to slow to turn and pull out of the industrial park area.</p>	<p>We considered several factors in determining 80km/h as a safe and appropriate speed limit. These included the current average highway vehicle speed, the number and types of vehicles using the highway, pedestrian safety, driver behaviour and access on to the highway from driveways and side roads. There was also input from a range of technical and stakeholder experts.</p>

5. DECISION

This table shows the recommendations Waka Kotahi formally consulted on between October and November 2019.

	Current	Proposed new limit
Extending the existing 80km/h speed limit from where it currently ends near McKay Road, 450m further south to just past the Rosebank industrial park.	100km/h	80km/h

The consultation submissions didn't identify any issues that Waka Kotahi hadn't already considered. The speed review outcome was in line with the proposed speed limit change. The following new speed limit outlined below will apply from Friday, 4 December 2020:

SH1 Balclutha	Existing speed limits	New speed limit from Friday, 4 December 2020
An 80km/h speed limit from where the current SH1 80km/h speed limit ends near McKay Road, 450m further south to just past the Rosebank industrial park.	100km/h	80km/h

1 SH1 Balclutha new permanent speed limit



6. SUBMISSIONS

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