



L Phillips Road (near Sheepworld) to Pūhoi speed review



Too many people are being killed and seriously injured in crashes on State Highway 1 between L Phillips Road (near Sheepworld) and Pūhoi, so Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has been reviewing speed limits on this road.

To help us fully understand the issues on the road, we asked locals to give us their views on current speed limits on this road. We also asked people's views on our proposal to lower speed limits from 100km/h to 80km/h between L Phillips Road (near Sheepworld) and Kaipara Flats Road, and between Warkworth south (near McKinney Road) and Pūhoi.

13 people lost their lives and 45 were seriously injured on this road between 2009 and 2018.

WHAT WE DID

- › We used multiple channels to engage with people and collect feedback including:
 - drop-in information sessions in Pūhoi and Warkworth
 - online feedback forms
 - email feedback
 - Facebook comments.
- › We also talked to the community, local board, iwi, local businesses and others including transport interest groups.
- › We delivered flyers to households and key businesses.
- › We emailed subscribers on our database.

WHAT WE HEARD

We heard from over 130 people and organisations and would like to thank everyone who gave us feedback. The main feedback themes were:

Speeds are too high for the current condition of parts of the road.



Our response: we agree that 100km/h is too fast for this stretch of road and recommend 80km/h as a safe and appropriate speed. We will now formally consult on reducing the speed limits between L Phillips Road (near Sheepworld) and Pūhoi.

Impact of new motorway, Ara Tūhono, on future speed limits between L Phillips Road and Pūhoi.



Our response: although a large amount of traffic will use the new Ara Tūhono motorway, we predict many vehicles will continue to use the original road. As the risk of head-on crashes will therefore remain, the proposed reduction in speed limit on this stretch of road would also need to remain. We want to ensure this road remains safe and in the future people can make a choice about which road they travel on.

Speed is not the issue, poor driver behaviour (such as overtaking, tailgating and slow driving) is what makes this road unsafe.



Our response: while poor driver behaviour has resulted in crashes, more crashes are a result of mistakes and even the most experienced 'perfect' drivers among us 'drop the ball' sometimes. These mistakes shouldn't result in loss of life or serious injury.

Slow driving is not significantly implicated as a cause in our poor crash statistics, whereas travelling too fast for the conditions contributed to the cause of about a third of all fatal crashes.

A large and credible body of international research indicates reducing speeds has a direct impact on reducing deaths and injuries. The most recent study from the International Transport Forum (2018) estimates that for every 5km/h reduction in average speeds, there is a 28 percent reduction in fatal crashes and a 26 percent reduction in serious injury crashes. The risk of an injury crash approximately doubles between 80km/h and 100km/h.

International Transport Forum study

Safety improvements required for some sections of the road like Kaipara Flats Road intersection.



Our response: we will continue to monitor the safety of this road and undertake maintenance. We have plans to upgrade the Kaipara Flats Road intersection as part of the Ara Tūhono - Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway project.

How do you work out travel time calculations? How could the potential change only add 10 seconds?



Our response: as part of our information, we calculated the estimated additional travel time if an 80km/h speed limit was introduced. We based this off the current average speed driven on this road, which is 82km/h. We acknowledge that parts of this road are driven over this speed and other parts are not (eg Schedaway's Hill).

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT?

We've read all the feedback and used these insights along with our technical data. Based on this, we will be formally consulting in May on proposed speed limit changes for this road.

Changing the speed limit is a legal process, and formal consultation is required under the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2017. Formal consultation gives locals, and others who are interested, an opportunity to let us know if there are any other factors that we should consider when making our decision on any new permanent speed limits.