



# SH1 WAIHOLA SPEED REVIEW

Summary of the speed review consultation

WAKA KOTAHI NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

SEPTEMBER 2020

# 1. BACKGROUND

Over the last decade there have been regular discussions with residents, the local council and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency about the increasing highway speeds and traffic volumes on SH1 through Waihola and the associated safety risk. In 2018, the average daily traffic count was 7,500 an increase of 15% over 2014.

The local resident's association has campaigned for several years for a lower 50km/h speed limit in place of the existing 70km/h limit. Waka Kotahi engaged with the local community ahead of moving to formal consultation during September and October 2019 to understand what they considered a safe and appropriate speed limit for SH1 through their town. All those we spoke with supported a 50km/h limit. Many were worried about the safety of both elderly residents and school children crossing a wide and busy highway with a 70km/h speed limit.

Most of the town's residential area is over the highway from the town's shops, cafes and local postal agency, meaning people need to cross the highway to access these businesses. A number of those we talked with wanted a pedestrian crossing or refuge to provide safer access across the highway.

Several business owners were worried about the growing number of near-misses involving vehicles trying to access the highway from local road intersections or from parks on the highway shoulder. They felt many drivers under-estimated the speed of approaching highway traffic and close call incidents were now common, and that it was a miracle there hasn't been a serious crash.

# 2. CONSULTATION PROCESS

Waka Kotahi consulted as per the *Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2017*.

[www.nzta.govt.nz/speed-limits-2017](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/speed-limits-2017)

Consultation ran for four weeks from 6 September 2019 to 7 October 2019.

Consultation materials provided information outlining the proposed speed limit. This included current travel speeds and the characteristics of the road environment.

The consultation was advertised through social media, on the Waka Kotahi website, Otago Daily Times and the Clutha Leader. A media release was issued on 20 August 2019 and resulted in good online and print media coverage.

People were able to submit their views through an electronic form or hard copy submission forms which were available from locations such as Clutha District Council service centres and libraries, local businesses and the Waihola school. Hard copy submission forms were delivered to all homes, farms and PO Boxes within a 25km radius of Waihola.

# 3. CONSULTATION PROPOSAL AND QUESTION

This table shows the proposal Waka Kotahi consulted on between 6 September and 7 October 2019.

Location	Current	Proposed
SH1 Waihola from 80m north of Titri Road to 60m south of Castle Street	70km/h	50km/h

The consultation phase was used to seek submissions on the proposal from stakeholders and the public that would help inform the decision about this proposed speed limit change.

During formal consultation we proposed a new speed limit and asked the public 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 158 submissions.

All submissions were taken into consideration when deciding on a safe and appropriate highway speed limit for Waihola.

The themes/factors that were expressed in the submissions from the public are summarised in the table below. The table outlines the section of the road, along with the main factors people raised in their submissions, and our response after fully considering the submission.

Themes/Factors	Waka Kotahi comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We think this is a good decision (50k) but could there be a 70km/h lead in section before the 50km at both ends? This would allow a slowing period which we feel would increase safety”.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 70km/h speed limit on the approaches to a town (known as a buffer zone), have been found to be ineffective in reducing speeds in townships. Speed monitoring will be undertaken to ensure speeds in the township are in line with the speed limit.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“If possible, installing a highway pedestrian crossing would be helpful in the middle of Waihola.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 70km/h speed limit on the approaches to a town (known as a buffer zone), have been found to be ineffective in reducing speeds in townships. Speed monitoring will be undertaken to ensure speeds in the township are in line with the speed limit.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“I support the reduction in speed limit. Will there be a buffer zone either side of the 50km/h zone to slow traffic from 100 to 70 or 80 first? Will other measures be taken to encourage a reduced speed e.g. build-outs, better signage, etc?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buffer zones are ineffective, post speed limit implementation monitoring will be under taken and other measures installed if appropriate.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would like the limit reduced to 60km/h. 50km/h is too low and affects the traffic flow.</li> <li>When turning onto the highway from the park I have never had an unacceptable wait time.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waka Kotahi considers 50km/h to be the safe and appropriate speed for this township. The lower limit is considered appropriate because of the pedestrians and cyclists on the highway corridor and the level of residential and commercial development within the town.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“I think 60km/h would be a better idea, or even digital signs that change at peak times e.g.50-60 from 7am-7pm then back to 70. As in at 3am when there’s no one around could still be 70km/h.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally, Waka Kotahi’s policy is for a permanent speed limit with variable signs only used in special circumstances.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Sometimes traffic especially trucks going past my home in Waihola, are going so fast it shakes our house, we can certainly tell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vehicles not slowing for legal signage is an enforcement issue. Waka Kotahi will need to consider what changes including changes to the road environment may be required to achieve greater</li> </ul>

Themes/Factors	Waka Kotahi comment
during the night that most traffic doesn't bother slowing down."	driver compliance with the new speed limit. Any changes will be regularly monitored after they have been introduced, and if necessary additional speed reducing measures considered to help ensure drivers stick to the new speed limit through Waihola.

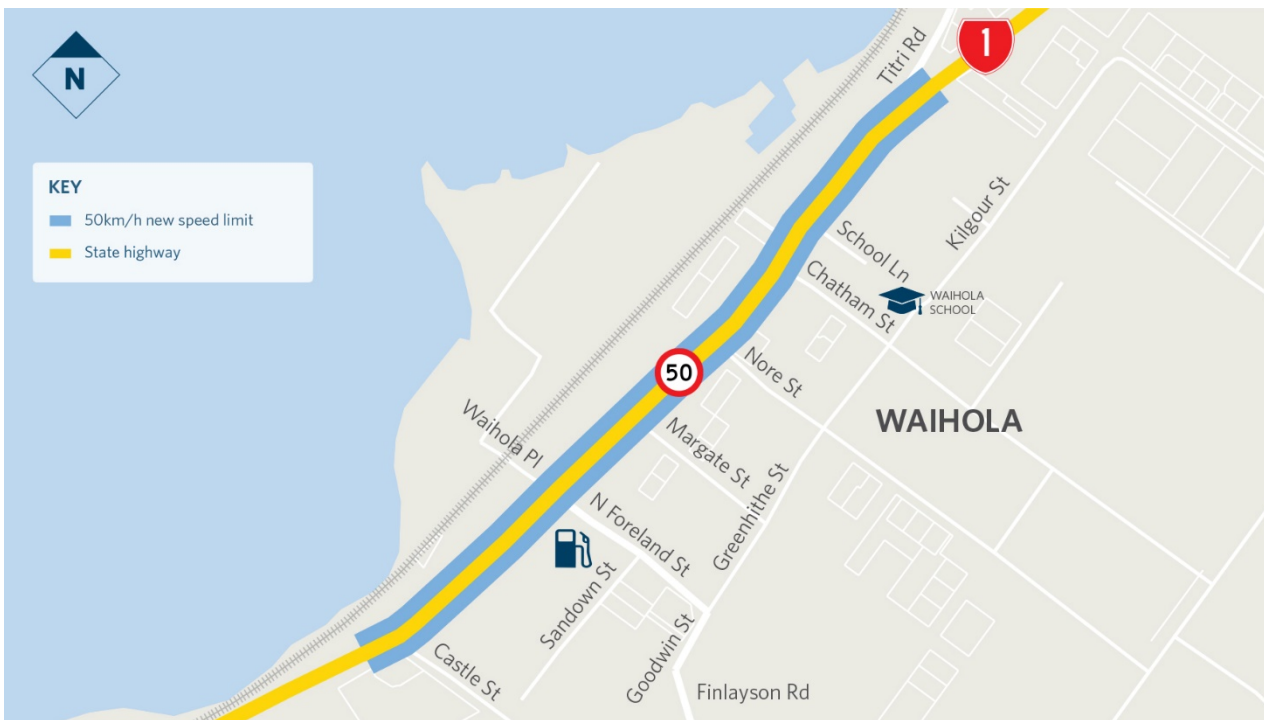
## 5. DECISION

Following consultation and consideration of the submissions Waka Kotahi made the following decision regarding the safe and appropriate speed limit.

### The new speed limit:

SH1 Waihola	New speed limits from Monday, 5 October 2020
From 80m north of Titri Road to 60m south of Castle Street Waihola.	50km/h

### Map showing the permanent speed limits:



## 6. SUBMISSIONS

The submissions we received for this speed review can be viewed on our website:

[www.nzta.govt.nz/sh1-waihola](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/sh1-waihola)