



# SH10 AWANUI TO KAINGAROA SPEED REVIEW

Summary of the speed review consultation

WAKA KOTAHI NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

SEPTEMBER 2020

# 1. BACKGROUND

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has reviewed speed limits on Northland's State Highway 10 between Awanui and Kaingaroa to make the road safer for all road users. No matter what causes a crash, speed is always a factor in the severity. Put simply, the speed of impact can be the difference between walking away or being carried away from a crash.

State Highway 10 passes through several villages, including Awanui, Kaingaroa and Kareponia, and past two marae. It has a mix of regular commuter traffic (from local areas into Awanui and Kaitaia), large amounts of leisure and tourist traffic and high (and increasing) volumes of heavy vehicles.

Over the last the last ten years (2009-2018) there have been 92 crashes on this stretch of road resulting in three deaths and six people being seriously injured.

## 2. CONSULTATION PROCESS

We used the formal consultation phase to seek any additional information from stakeholders or the public that would help inform our decision about proposed speed limit changes on SH10. Before undertaking formal consultation, we completed a number of steps including a technical assessment of the road to understand if the current speed limit is safe and appropriate for the road.

In July 2019, we engaged with the community and stakeholders to get feedback on current and proposed speed limits on SH10 between Awanui and Taipa. The feedback we received indicated people thought the road between Kaingaroa and Taipa is safe at 100km/h and that lower speeds were justified between Awanui and Kaingaroa. Some feedback suggested the proposed 80km/h speed limit would not be low enough for Kareponia and Kaingaroa, and that 50km/h or 60km/h would be better in these villages.

We used this feedback alongside our technical assessment to help determine the proposed speed limits we would formally consult on. We proposed new speed limits for a shorter length of SH10, between Awanui and Pukewhai Road at Kaingaroa, but not for the section between Pukewhai Road and Taipa where our investigations indicated 100km/h as safe and appropriate.

On 29 October 2019, we commenced formal consultation on these proposed new speed limits for SH10 between Awanui and Kaingaroa. Formal consultation was open for six weeks, closing on 10 December 2019.

Consultation material provided evidence that supported the proposal and included current travel speeds and the characteristics of the road.

We advertised our formal consultation in the Northland News, Northland Age and the Bay Chronicle, on local radio stations, and on Waka Kotahi's website. We also sent an e-newsletter to a distribution list that included members of the public from the community to encourage them to have their say. A media release was published on 31 October.

People were able to make a formal submission using the electronic submission form, downloadable pre-paid submission form or by email.

## 3. CONSULTATION QUESTION

We consulted on speed limit changes at six locations along SH10, as shown in the following map and table, asking the following question:

**“Are there any other factors that we should consider when making our decision?”**

When making our decision on setting new permanent speed limits, we consider all factors raised during formal consultation.



LOCATION	CURRENT SPEED LIMIT	PROPOSED NEW SPEED LIMIT	CURRENT AVERAGE SPEED
① Existing 100km/h area from 455m southwest of Pukewhai Rd to 610m northeast of Duncan Road.	100km/h	80km/h	82km/h
② Existing 100km/h area through Kaingaroa from 610m northeast of Duncan Road to 360m southwest of Duncan Road.	100km/h	60km/h	82km/h
③ Existing 100km/h area from 360m southwest of Duncan Road to 570m southwest of Pairatahi Road.	100km/h	80km/h	82km/h
④ Existing 100km/h area through Kareponia from 570m southwest of Pairatahi Road to 300m west of Godinovich Road.	100km/h	60km/h	82km/h
⑤ Existing 100km/h area from 300m west of Godinovich Road to 405m west of Kumi Road.	100km/h	80km/h	82km/h
⑥ Extending the existing 50km/h area by 180m east of Awanui.	100km/h	50km/h	82km/h

## 4. SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

Across the six-week consultation period we received 113 individual submissions through Survey Monkey, emails and consultation forms, with a total of 538 submissions across the six proposed speed limit changes. We would like to thank everyone who provided feedback.

While some respondents indicated they felt current speeds on SH10 between Awanui and Kaingaroa are too fast and supported the proposed lower speeds, many respondents did not support lower speed limits stating driver behaviour rather than speed is the main cause of crashes.

The following table outlines the key factors people raised in submissions:

Key factors raised in formal consultation	
Driver behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driver behaviour is more of a problem than current speed limits</li> </ul>



Key factors raised in formal consultation	
	eg. dangerous overtaking and non-compliance with current speed limits
Increase or decrease proposed speed limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns that proposed speed limit of 50 or 60km/h is too low; 70 or 80km/h would be preferable.</li> </ul>
Road condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Money better spent on improving road surface than reviewing speeds.</li> <li>Road surface/corners no worse than other NZ state highways so no reason to reduce speed limits.</li> </ul>
Consistent speed limit along the route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple speed limits will be confusing for drivers – keep the speed limit consistent.</li> </ul>
Additional lanes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address lack of passing opportunities with additional lanes.</li> <li>Lack of passing opportunities will be exacerbated with lower speed limits, particularly in areas where vehicles can currently overtake safely.</li> </ul>

[View the submissions we received for this speed review](#)

## 5. NEXT STEPS

We consider all factors raised in consultation feedback when we work through our decision on what speed limits are best for this road. After considering all the feedback we received, and making further investigations, we found that creating a permanent 60km/h speed limit along (nearly) 4kms of State Highway 10 between Mahimaru marae and Kareponia marae will not provide the best safety outcome for road users.

We have refined our proposal to include variable speed limits past the marae, and will reconsult on this amended proposal for new speed limits on SH10 between Awanui and Kaingaroa.