



SH3 WHANGANUI TO WESTMERE

Summary of the speed review consultation

WAKA KOTAHI NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

1. BACKGROUND

Between 15 November and 19 December 2019, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency consulted with the local community and road user groups on the safe and appropriate speed limits for State Highway 3 (SH3). The formal consultation focused on proposed speed limit changes for the 2.7km section of SH3 from just south of the Turere Place/Great North Road (SH3) intersection to just north of the Blue Skin Road/Great North Road (SH3) intersection.

Waka Kotahi reviewed the speed limits on this route as it was one of the highest risk roads in the region. We wanted to ensure speed limits are safe and appropriate for this road. 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.

Between 2009 and 2018, there were 21 crashes, where two people died and three were seriously injured. There are approximately 8500 vehicle movements per day on this road with increasing volumes over the last five years. There has also been extensive urbanisation on the corridor over this period

The Whanganui District Council (WDC) wrote to Waka Kotahi on 12 March 2019 requesting that speeds in this area be reviewed in response to submissions they had received during consultation on local roads. There has also been a petition from local residents requesting a speed review.

Those who live in Whanganui and the surrounding suburbs rely on SH3 for supermarket goods, building and farming supplies, medical and emergency services as well as regional travel to jobs, schools and recreational facilities.

2. CONSULTATION PROCESS

Prior to undertaking the formal consultation process, we completed a speed management technical assessment of the road. This identified if the current speed limits on the road were safe and appropriate for the current road characteristics and roadside environments along this corridor.

On 15th November 2019 we commenced formal consultation on proposed new speed limits for a section of SH3 from just south of the Turere Place/Great North Road (SH3) intersection to just north of the Blue Skin Road/Great North Road (SH3) intersection. Formal consultation was open for five weeks and closed on 19th December 2019

We consulted with the public and received formal submissions from Whanganui AA, NZ Police, Whanganui District Council, Whanganui Rural Community Board, Westmere Presbyterian Church, Cycling Action Network, Whanganui Cycling Club, Whanganui Bicycle Users Group as well as local residents.

Consultation materials provided evidence that supported the proposed safe and appropriate speed limits. This included current travel speeds and the characteristics of the road.

The consultation was advertised on radio stations, through social media and on the Waka Kotahi website. A media release was issued on 15th November and resulted in online and print media coverage.

People were able to submit their views through electronic format; hard copy submission forms which were available from locations such as the local dairy, local council offices, via email or by ringing 0800 44 44 49. Submissions were also received at the drop-in sessions held in the major communities off SH3.

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 the proposed speed limit changes.

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

We considered all factors raised with the submissions we received and have documented these factors in the next section of this document.

4. SUMMARY AND RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

We received a total of 886 submissions. We appreciated the response from the community and thank all those who provided their feedback.

While a number of submissions did include factors that were taken into consideration when setting the new permanent speed limits, a proportion of the submissions expressed only a general opinion about speed reviews. These included issues about driver behaviour, traffic volumes and enforcement.

The relevant factors that were expressed in the feedback 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 comments.

Factors	Waka Kotahi comment
<p>Intersections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People were concerned about safety at intersections along this highway. • People suggested upgrading intersections or further reducing the speed along these sections. • Intersections mentioned included Rapanui Road, Blueskin Road, Pickwick Road and Virginia Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure improvements to the Blueskin Road, Rapanui Road and Virginia Road intersections will need to be considered outside the speed review programme • The lower speed limit will help improve safety at the intersections.
<p>Higher/lower speed limit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People felt that the speed limits may need to be made lower than those proposed or that the area covered by the proposed limit should be extended. • People suggested that the proposed 50km speed limit should be extended to include Pickwick Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed speed limit reductions are considered the safe and appropriate speed. This is because of the lack of housing density in sections like Pickwick Road as well as the road alignment and openness of the road.
<p>Additional Lanes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People mentioned the need for additional lanes on this corridor, and some felt that additional lanes, such as slip lanes or right-hand turning bays, would improve the safety of intersections and give frustrated drivers a safe place to overtake. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure improvements to the highway and intersections will need to be considered outside the speed review programme as they are primarily ways to improve efficiency as opposed to safety.
<p>Extend scope of speed review (longer section of road)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People suggested that the length of the proposed 80km/h speed review corridor should be extended north of Blueskin Road • People suggested that the proposed 50km/h be extended to Rapanui Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The section of highway mentioned is located on a high priority speed review corridor and will likely form part of a future review. • A 50km/h speed limit is an urban speed limit. Motorists expect to be surrounded by areas of significant residential development including footpaths and street lighting. At this stage the area north of the proposed change point does not have these features.

5. DECISION

The table below shows the recommendations Waka Kotahi formally consulted on between 15 November and 19 December 2019.

The submissions did not identify any issues that Waka Kotahi had not already considered.

The outcome for the speed limit changes for Whanganui to Westmere was in line with the proposed speed limit changes, and the permanent speed limits outlined below will come into effect on 18th December 2020

Stakeholders will be notified by letter and the public are being notified via media release, project update newsletter and social media ahead of the new speed limits signs being installed and the new speed limits taking effect.

When the new speed limits take effect, the area will be monitored to ensure the new permanent speed limits and supporting treatments are working effectively and to determine if any further changes are required.

The following new speed limits will apply from 18th December 2020

Location	Current speed limit	New speed limit From 18/12/2020
From 30m south of Turere Place/Great North Road (SH3) intersection to 200m north of Tirimoana Place/Great North Road (SH3) intersection.	70km/h	50km/h
From 200m north of Tirimoana Place/Great North Road (SH3) intersection to 100m north of Blue Skin Road/Great North Road (SH3) intersection.	100km/h	80km/h

Map showing the permanent speed limits



6. SUBMISSIONS

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