



SH60 PAINES FORD TO TĀKAKA SPEED REVIEW

Summary of the speed review consultation

WAKA KOTAHI NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

1 NOVEMBER 2020

1. BACKGROUND

In October and November 2019, we spoke with the community, local businesses and others about making State Highway 60 (SH60) between Upper Tākaka and Tākaka safer. We've heard from some community members that speed limits in this area feel too high to be safe.

There were 47 crashes on SH60 from Upper Tākaka to Tākaka between 2009 and 2018, which left 10 people seriously injured.

When we asked the community for their thoughts, people told us they were concerned about current speed limits, driver behaviour, driver education, and improving infrastructure and signage. We received requests from some people to conduct further speed reviews on other sections of SH60, and we also heard that people are concerned about the impact the Tākaka Hill repairs are currently having on journey times.

We are prioritising work to introduce safer speed limits between Paines Ford and Tākaka. This is a popular recreation spot with people parking near the road, and regular pedestrian and cyclist activity to and from Tākaka. Nearby is the Golden Bay Community Health Centre and intersections between SH60 and Central Tākaka and Dodson Roads.

Between 2009 and 2018 there were 10 crashes between Paines Ford and Tākaka, which left five people seriously injured. We have constructed a shared use path between Paines Ford and Tākaka to increase safety for cyclists and pedestrians. A section of this road is currently subject to a temporary speed limit of 80km/h over the summer peak. We proposed to make this section permanently 80km/h and also extend the 80km/h towards Tākaka.

Speed limits on the rest of the route between Upper Tākaka and Paines Ford will be consulted on once we have spoken to the community about speeds and safety on the remaining sections of State Highway 60 in Golden Bay, and once the Tākaka Hill repair works are complete.

2. CONSULTATION PROCESS

Before starting the formal consultation process, we completed numerous steps, including a speed management technical assessment of the road. This identified the various existing speed limits on the road were not safe for the current road characteristics and roadside environment.

In 2019, we engaged with local stakeholders including Tasman District Council, Tākaka Community Board, schools, the Automobile Association (AA) and other road user groups about changes to speed limits from upper Tākaka to Tākaka. These organisations provided us with feedback and local knowledge on how people use the road and their concerns. This helped us to decide: if a speed limit change was the best thing to do to improve road safety; where new speed limits could begin or end; and if any other safety improvements might be needed.

On 1 September 2020, Waka Kotahi started formal consultation on proposed new speed limits for the section of SH60 from Paines Ford to Tākaka. Consultation was open for four weeks and closed on 28 September 2020.

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 in local print publications and a media release was issued on 31 August 2020, resulting in online and print coverage. Hard-copy consultations forms were delivered to households and PO Boxes throughout Golden Bay, and information on the consultation was sent to key stakeholder groups and community representatives. People were able to submit their views through the electronic form, hard copy submission forms, via email or by phone.

3. CONSULTATION QUESTION

The purpose of the consultation phase is to seek 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 public the following question “**Please tell us if there any other factors that we should consider when making our decision?**”

We consider all factors raised during formal consultation when making our decision on new permanent speed limits.

4. SUMMARY AND RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

We received 121 submissions. We appreciate the responses from stakeholders and the community and thank all those who provided their feedback.

While several 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 or raised matters that were outside the scope of this speed review. These included issues about road surface condition, the one-way bridges, requests for speed reviews in other areas, improvements at intersections (such as installing roundabouts), the installation of more directional road signage.

The relevant factors that were expressed in the feedback from the public are summarised in the table below. The table outlines the main factors and/or concerns people raised in their submissions and our comments.

Comment	Waka Kotahi response
<p>The road between Paines Ford and Tākaka does not support retaining a higher speed limit due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume of people travelling through the area to reach key destinations (hospital/medical centre, recreation centre, housing subdivisions, school, campground, swimming hole and rock-climbing • number of busy intersections • road contour • narrow bridge/s • lack of footpaths. 	<p>These comments are aligned to our proposal to reduce the speed limit to 80km/hr between Paines Ford and Tākaka. This speed is more suited to the nature of the State Highway in the area.</p> <p>The Tākaka to Paines Ford shared path is now complete and provides active mode users with a safer route, off the State Highway. Together with a reduced speed limit, this will make SH60 safer for everyone.</p>
<p>A lower speed limit is more appropriate because of vulnerable people in the area (school children elderly) and/or volume of walkers and cyclists that will be attracted by the new shared path</p>	<p>Construction on the new walking and cycling path in Tākaka is now complete. This provides a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists to access local attractions and necessities that is off the State Highway.</p> <p>Together with a reduced speed limit, this will make SH60 safer for everyone.</p>
<p>Extend scope of speed limit changes: Lower the speed limit to 70km/hr or 60km/hr</p>	<p>Construction on the new walking and cycling path in Tākaka is now complete. Pedestrians and cyclists now have a separate and safer path to travel that is off the state highway.</p>

Comment	Waka Kotahi response
<p>Speed limit reduction is not effective way to make roads safer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • driver behaviour is the problem. • lowering the speed limit will cause more accidents through driver frustration. • One-waying and upgrading the roads is a better way to make the road safer. 	<p>Due to this new pathway and the environment surrounding this road, 80km/h is the safe speed for this stretch of highway.</p> <p>While the road system needs to keep us moving, it must also be designed to protect us.</p> <p>Even when speed doesn't cause the crash, it's what will most likely to determine whether anyone is killed, injured, or walks away unharmed from that crash. As your speed increases you have less time to react. When speeds are safe for the road, simple mistakes are less likely to end in tragedy.</p> <p>We want everyone who uses our roads to get home safely. Making sure the speed limit is safe for the road is still one of the best ways to save lives on New Zealand roads.</p>
<p>Review is unnecessary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • too few accidents, the road and current arrangement in summer works sufficiently well • new yellow lines prevent parking and make the road safer. • walking and cycling is safer with the new shared path so speed limit can be retained. 	<p>This section of State Highway 60 runs past the popular Paines Ford recreation area and the Golden Bay Community Health Centre. We've heard from the community that they are worried about the safety of the elderly, young children, tourists and visitors. We also know that people are regularly crossing the highway with limited visibility in places, making it harder to judge approaching traffic speeds.</p> <p>Ensuring the speed limit is safe for everyone will help more vulnerable road users, walkers, cyclists, and elderly and young people. It will also help people accessing the state highway from side roads or driveways, ensuring they can safely turn on and off the road.</p>
<p>It is not appropriate to lower speed on major corridors</p>	<p>Please see comment above.</p>
<p>Object to consultation of speed reviews because outcome predetermined /ability to influence limited.</p>	<p>The purpose of the consultation phase is to seek additional information from stakeholders or the public that will help inform the decision about this proposed speed limit change.</p> <p>During formal consultation we proposed a new speed limit and asked the public the following question "Please tell us if there any other factors that we should consider when making our decision?"</p> <p>We consider all factors raised during formal consultation when making our decision on new permanent speed limits. Setting safe speed limits are key so we can achieve the Road to Zero vision for New Zealand where no one is killed or seriously injured in road crashes.</p>

5. DECISION

The table below shows the recommendation Waka Kotahi formally consulted on in September 2020.

The outcome of the speed review was in line with the proposed speed limit changes, and the permanent speed limits outlined below will come into effect on 5 May 2021.

The new permanent speed limit of 80km/h will mean the summer season temporary speed limit is no longer required.

With the Tākaka to Paines Ford shared path now complete, active mode users have a safer route to travel on, off the state highway. Together with a reduced speed limit, this will make SH60 safer for everyone.

The following new speed limit will apply from 5 May 2021:

SH60 Paines Ford to Tākaka	Current speed limit	New speed limit
From 100m southwest of Paines Ford Bridge to 270m south of Motupipi Street.	100km/h (with seasonal 80km/h)	80km/h

6. SUBMISSIONS

You can view the submissions we received for this speed review on our website.

www.nzta.govt.nz/painesford