



# SH8 TEKAPO SPEED REVIEW

Summary of the speed review consultation

WAKA KOTAHI NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

SEPTEMBER 2021

## 1. BACKGROUND

Tekapo is located halfway along the popular tourist route from Christchurch to Queenstown, and a destination in its own right. It is also a growing town, with further housing and business development underway and planned. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is aware the Tekapo community has been calling for changes to speed limits in their township as a result of the increase in traffic due to the growth in visitors: including campers, caravans, pedestrians and cyclists.

We spoke with locals, the council, community board, road user representative groups and others who use this road about their views on speed in Tekapo over several years. This told us that people were concerned about speed through the Tekapo township.

In the ten-year period between 2011 and 2020, there were 41 crashes on SH8 in Tekapo. Five people were seriously injured as a result, and four incurred minor injuries.

## 2. CONSULTATION PROCESS

**Between 10 August 2021 and 10 Sept 2021, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency consulted with the local community and road user groups on the safe and appropriate speed limit for State Highway 8 through Tekapo, in the Canterbury Region.**

We contacted NZ Police, Mackenzie District Council, the Automobile Association (AA) and the Road Transport Forum (RTF) to signal our intention to review the speed limit. We took the opportunity to find out if there was anything else we should know about this corridor to help make a decision, and to identify whether any other safety improvements might be needed. Local iwi were also involved.

Before undertaking the formal consultation process, we examined the corridor and identified the existing speed limits were not always safe and appropriate for the current road characteristics and roadside environment.

Consultation materials provided information that supported the proposed safe and appropriate speed limit. Consultation was undertaken across multiple channels, including newsletters to all post boxes in Tekapo, newspaper adverts, Waka Kotahi and Mackenzie District Council websites and database contacts.

The South Island was on Alert Level Four lockdown due to Covid-19 from 19 August until 1 September 2021 and Alert Level Three from 1 September 2021 to 7 September 2021. We believe the consultation process was not impacted by these restrictions.

People were able to submit their views through the electronic form, FreePost hard copy submission form and via email.

## 3. CONSULTATION QUESTION

This 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 the new speed limits and asked the public the following question “**Are 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 the new permanent speed limit.

## 4. SUMMARY AND RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

We received 39 submissions. We appreciated the response from the community and thanked all those who provided their feedback.

There were no submissions opposed to lowering the speed through Tekapo.

The feedback supports the proposed speed of 50km/h through the centre of the township however some submitters did ask for this to be lowered even further to 40km/ or 30km/h. There were also varying views on the locations for the change points to the east and west of the Tekapo 50km/h section.

Most people support reducing the speed in the western section past Godley Peaks Road, which is proposed to be 80km/h. Some people wanted an even lower speed and/or different change points.

The area with the most varied views was the eastern section past Hamilton Drive which is proposed to remain at 80km/h. There were a variety of views on the speed and where the speed change points should be.

The table below outlines and summarises the main factors people raised in their submissions about speed, and our comments in response.

Factors raised in submissions	Waka Kotahi comment
<p>There were no submissions opposed to lowering the speed through Tekapo.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This supports the proposal to reduce the speed limit on SH8 through Tekapo</li> </ul>
<p>Speed in the central area of Tekapo should be even lower than 50Kmh/h and the change points should be different.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The speed in the centre of Tekapo should be 40km/h or 30km/h</li> <li>extending the 50km/h zone further west to cover the turnoff into Cairns Ave.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 40km/h speed limit or lower in the central area of Tekapo is not supported within the current rules and guidelines for speed limits when considered in conjunction with the nature of the road environment in this area.</li> <li>When reviewing speed limits, we are careful to consider credibility. Compliance is greater when the speed limit is perceived to be consistent with that road’s function, design, safety risk and use, and therefore is judged to be justified and credible. Consistent credibility of speed limits is important so that drivers comply across all our roads.</li> <li>A lower speed limit to the west of the township would not be appropriate given the roadside environment. There are few features that reduce safety and also help drivers see this as a lower speed area - like driveways, vegetation, parking, wide verges etc</li> </ul>
<p>Speed and change points on the west side of Tekapo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower the speed limit on the west side of Tekapo</li> <li>Change point from 50km/h to 80km/h further to the west</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above, a lower speed limit to the west of the township would not be appropriate given the roadside environment. There are few features that reduce safety and also help drivers see this as a lower speed area - driveways, building close to the road vegetation, parking, wide verges.</li> <li>A lower speed limit to the west of the township would not be appropriate given the roadside environment. There are few features that reduce safety and also help drivers see this as a lower speed area – like driveways, vegetation, parking, wide verges etc</li> </ul>

Speed and change points on the east side of Tekapo

- Lower the speed limit on the east side of Tekapo to 60km/h
- Intersection at Lilybank Road is unsafe and needs to be slower

- The roadside environment of wide-open views and generous road geometry to the east of Tekapo does not lend itself to lower speeds. There are few existing features which would reduce safety and require drivers to travel at a lower speed.
- The intersection of Lilybank Road / SH8 has good sight lines and plenty of seal. The general environment is not conducive to a 60km/h posted speed limit. Our records show only one reported crash in the last ten years which resulted in a minor injury in this location.

## 5. DECISION

The table below shows the recommendations Waka Kotahi formally consulted on between 10 August and 10 September 2021.

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

The outcome of the speed review was in line with the proposed speed limit change, and the permanent speed limit outlined below will come into effect on **Friday 10 December**.

Stakeholders will be notified by letter and the public are being notified via email, media release, newspaper and newsletters ahead of the new speed limit signs being installed and the new speed limits taking effect.

When the new speed limit takes effect, VMS (variable message signs) will be on display and local police will be in the area to help alert and remind drivers. The area will be monitored to ensure the new permanent speed limits and supporting safety improvements are working effectively and to determine if any further changes are required.

The following new speed limit will apply from Friday 10 December 2021.

LOCATION	CURRENT SPEED LIMIT (KM/H)	NEW SPEED LIMIT (KM/H)
SH8 Tekapo		
From 152m southeast of Lilybank Road to 51m east of Greig Street	80	No speed limit change
From 51m east of Greig Street to 170m west of Lakeside Drive	60	50
From 170m west of Lakeside Drive, to 84m west of Tekapo Powerhouse Road	100	80

## Map showing the permanent speed limit



## 6. SUBMISSIONS

You can read all the submissions we received for this speed review by emailing [sh8tekapo@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:sh8tekapo@nzta.govt.nz)