



SH94 LUMSDEN SPEED REVIEW

Summary of the speed review consultation

WAKA KOTAHI NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

SEPTEMBER 2020

1. BACKGROUND

Strong growth in visitor numbers to both Queenstown and Milford Sound in the last five years has driven increasing traffic volumes on this section of SH94. In 2018 the average daily traffic count on SH94 between Gore and Lumsden was 2,630, a 16% increase on the figure for 2014.

These rises and associated road safety risk on the SH94 eastern approach into Lumsden have motivated several residents to request the speed limit to be lowered on this section of highway. They wanted to see an extension of the 50km/h speed limit on the SH94 eastern approach to the town.

Over the last three years our safety engineer has been in discussions with residents, the Southland District Council and Police about increases in speeds and traffic on this route and reducing the associated safety risk by making the current speed limit safer. During this period, we engaged with locals advocating for a speed limit reduction, along with the local primary and secondary schools and Lumsden Community Board. As a result of this dialogue, the issue of speed on this section of SH94 is well understood by most Lumsden residents.

2. CONSULTATION PROCESS

Before starting the formal consultation process, we completed numerous steps, including a speed management technical assessment of this section of highway. This identified the existing speed limit on the road wasn't safe or appropriate for the current road characteristics and roadside environment.

A lower speed limit has been discussed several times over the last five years with the Lumsden community including the local community board. Southland District Council endorsed extending the 50km/h limit on the SH94 eastern approach into Lumsden, as did the Police, AA and the Otago-Southland branch of the Road Transport Association.

Engagement provided us with feedback and local insights on how people use the road and their concerns. This helped us decide if a speed limit change was the best option to improve road safety, where new speed limits could begin or end, and what other safety improvements might be needed.

From 14 October to 15 November 2019 Waka Kotahi carried out formal consultation on a proposal to extend the existing 50km/h speed limit on the eastern boundary of SH94 into Lumsden 300m further east toward Gore. Consultation materials provided evidence that supported the 50km/h as a safe and appropriate speed limit for this section of highway. This included current travel speeds and the characteristics of the road environment.

The consultation was advertised and promoted via social media, a website dedicated to this review, the Southland Times and local community newspaper. In early October 2019 a media release about consultation starting received positive local media coverage.

People could provide feedback on this proposal through the electronic and hard copy submission forms. The latter was made available from locations such as Southland District Council service centres and libraries, and local businesses and the reception area at the two local schools. Hard copy submission forms were delivered by NZ Post to all homes, farms and PO Boxes within a 25km radius of Lumsden.

3. CONSULTATION QUESTION

The purpose of the consultation phase is to seek any 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 “**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 new permanent speed limits.

4. SUMMARY AND RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

We received 48 submissions. We appreciate the response from the community and thank everyone who provided their feedback.

The submissions we received covered a range of issues. These included signage, pedestrian safety, driver behaviour, safety and the growing number of large trucks and agricultural vehicles using this section of highway.

The table outlines some of the main factors people raised in their submissions and our responses.

	Factors	Waka Kotahi comment
Extend the proposed length of the 50km/h section	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Submitters felt the proposed 50km/h speed review corridor should be extended to further improve safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Waka Kotahi will consider extending the 50km/h to cover further houses and accesses to the cemetery and power substation. This will be looked at following a period of monitoring of the new speed limit and its effectiveness.
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Permanent reminder signs for drivers in advance of this new speed zone, plus additional signage to make the roads safer and improve driver behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As part of implementing this speed limit change, Waka Kotahi will install advance warning signs and relocate the existing driver feedback sign.
Pedestrian safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">About a quarter of submitters were concerned that current vehicle speeds put pedestrians at risk. Two submitters wanted new pedestrian facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The lower speed limit change will help make the road safer for pedestrians, as highway traffic will be travelling slower, giving pedestrians more time than they currently have to safely cross the road.Currently there are no pedestrian facilities apart from the grass berm. We do not expect to add pedestrian facilities such as footpaths as part of this speed review. Footpaths are the responsibility of the local council, who can apply for funding assistance from Waka Kotahi to build these.

5. DECISION

The table below shows the recommendation Waka Kotahi formally consulted on between 14 October and 15 November 2019.

The consultation 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 new permanent speed limit outlined below will come into effect on Friday 16 October 2020.

Stakeholders and the community will be updated via a news, advertising, and social media ahead of the new speed limits signs being installed and the new speed limits taking effect.

The implementation of the speed limit change will include installation of advance warning signs and relocating the current driver feedback sign.

The following new speed limit will apply from Friday 16 October 2020:

SH94 Lumsden	Existing speed limit	New speed limit from Friday, 16 October 2020
Extending the existing 50km/h speed limit on the eastern boundary of SH94 into Lumsden 300m further east toward Gore.	70km/h	50km/h

New speed limit on SH94 eastern approach to Lumsden:



6. SUBMISSIONS

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

www.nzta.govt.nz/sh94-lumsden