



Submission on Proposed Speed Management Plan – Early Engagement

To: Waikato District Council
Private Bag 544
Ngaruawahia 3742
consult@waidc.govt.nz

Submitter: **Tamahere Community Committee**
Contact: Charles Fletcher
Address for Service: Tamahere Community Committee
TamahereCommunity@gmail.com and charlesnz@me.com
Phone: 021 964 000
Email: TamahereCommunity@gmail.com

Submission on: **Speed Management Plan – Early Engagement**
Closing date for Submission: **1 December 2023**
Project number:
TCC **does wish to be heard** in support of this submission (if required).
TCC is making this submission as a Community organisation.

The Tamahere Community Committee [TCC] was established by the Waikato District Council [WDC] to support the Councillors representing the Tamahere Ward, being part of the new Tamahere-Woodland general ward. TCC members are publicly elected triennially and governed by the Council protocols for Community Boards and Committees.

This submission is made by TCC representing the wider interests of the Tamahere Community and its population of approx 9,000 living in a rural/country living environment. Tamahere Ward ratepayers make up approx. 10% of all ratepayers



in the Waikato District and are the largest financial contributors to rating income to the Council, other than rural farmers.

Introduction

Waikato District Council reviewed and adopted its Speed Limits Bylaw 2022 on 4 July 2022, with over 300 changes to speed limits to roads in the district.

The previous Government directed Council to replace its Speed Limits Bylaw with a “Speed Management Plan” for all of its local roads, under the *Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2022* (latest version published 21 August 2023) under the guise of “road safety”. The result is a proposed general reduction in speed across the road net work with 80kph being the “normal” speed on local open roads (previously 100kph) and 30 or 40kph on urban roads (previously 50–60kph).

The Labour Government introduced **Road to Zero** as a strategy to guide improvements in road safety in New Zealand over the 10 years from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2029. This strategy provides a “map for change, with a vision of a New Zealand where no one is killed or seriously injured on our roads”.

General Election – Change of Government

As at the date of this submission, the new coalition Government has made it clear that the public of New Zealand seeks a major change in direction.

The first 100 day plan expressly specifies:

14. Stop blanket speed limit reductions and start work on replacing the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2022.

TCC submits Waikato District Council must now immediately abandon its Speed Management Plan – Early Engagement consultation. Failure to do so constitutes a prodigious waste of Council resources funded by ratepayers.

The current Waikato District Council Speed Limits Bylaw 2022, adopted on 4 July 2022, is the result of many hours work and consultation and remains “fit for purpose”, unless the Council is now of the view that ‘it got things all wrong’ only 16 months ago.



In which case; can we have confidence that the current Council staff will make any difference with yet another expensive review?

“Road to Zero” repealed

- Land Transport, RMA, Three Waters and Local Government legislation are to be majorly reformed or reversed completely.
- The Road to Zero will be cancelled.

TCC submits:

1. This “early engagement consultation” is redundant and should be abandoned by the Council immediately.
2. In consultation with NZTA and the Council (roading), TCC has had long-term ongoing engagement and community consultation over roading and safety issues. This consultation has resulted in:
 - a. the construction of the SH21 underpass at Tamahere,
 - b. route considerations for the Te Awa Cycleway in and through Tamahere,
 - c. changes to the Tamahere Interchange for the Waikato Expressway,
 - d. light controlled crossing (primarily for children) at the start of the Expressway on-ramp to the Expressway alongside Devine Road/Tamahere Drive,
 - e. SH21 design changes at Tamahere,
 - f. changes to Devine Road outside the Tamahere Model Country School, to enable the safe movement of children and the safe put-down and pick-up of children at the start and end of school hours,
 - g. addressing issues for road access to the Tamahere Village,
 - h. discussions for bus stops at Tamahere Village,
 - i. provision for a round-about to be constructed at the SH21-Wiremu Tamihana Drive intersection
 - j. provision for a round-about to be constructed at the Devine Road-Birchwood Lane intersection,
 - k. completion of construction of Birchwood Lane as a link road,
 - l. Tauwhare Road changes between the Expressway and Woodcock Road,
 - m. Closure of Annebrook Road at SH1 pending construction of the Expressway,
 - n. Closure of Newalls Road at SH1 and SH21 pending construction of the Expressway



- o. Numerous other roading considerations (e.g. Southern Links) and reports.
 3. TCC has a passionate interest in all matters which impact on the safe and enjoyable liveability in the Tamahere Ward.
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TCC seeks the following response from the WDC:

1. Immediate cancellation of the Council's current **Speed Management Plan – Early Engagement** consultation.
 2. Engagement on all issues where the Council seeks changes to its Plan, Bylaws or matters which may impact or affect the ratepayers of Tamahere.
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This submission is filed electronically with the WDC on 30 November, 2023

Charles Fletcher – Chair

Tamahere Community Committee

