

HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON:

The Proposal to Raise the Speed Limit on 64km of the Waikato Expressway to 110km per Hour

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency



23 November 2021



**Hamilton
City Council**
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

Improving the Wellbeing of Hamiltonians

Hamilton City Council is focused on improving the wellbeing of Hamiltonians through delivering to our five priorities of shaping:

- A city that's easy to live in
- A city where our people thrive
- A central city where our people love to be
- A fun city with lots to do
- A green city

The topic of this submission is aligned to our '**A city where our people thrive**' priority.

As a city we want to have safe routes for people to move around our city, alongside efficient transport connections to connect Hamilton to other places.

Council Approval and Reference

This submission was approved (under delegated authority) by the Chair of Hamilton City Council's Infrastructure Operations Committee (as resolved at the 9 November 2021 Infrastructure Operations Committee meeting).

Hamilton City Council Reference D-3976322 - submission # 669.

Key Messages

1. Hamilton City Council is generally supportive of the proposal to raise the speed limit on 64km of the Waikato Expressway to 110km/h.
2. Hamilton City Council strongly encourages Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to urgently progress lowering the speed limits on other state highways where the infrastructure is such that the current speed limit of 100km/h is not safe and appropriate.

Addressing Safe and Appropriate Speed Limits

3. Hamilton City Council note that in late 2017, following consultation, the speed limit on the Cambridge section of the Waikato Expressway was increased to 110km/h. This has appeared to work well and while there have been crashes, the infrastructure in place has prevented these being death or serious injury crashes.
4. We note that the Huntly, Longswamp and Rangiriri sections of the Waikato Expressway have been designed and built to be safely operated at 110km/h. The Hamilton section, which is due to open in 2022, will also be able to be safely operated at 110km/h and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has undertaken to upgrade the remaining sections so that when finished, from Hampton Downs to south of Cambridge, the Waikato Expressway will meet the necessary design and safety standards for a 110km/h speed limit.
5. Hamilton City Council is in support of the proposed 110km/h on the Waikato Expressway section of State Highway One on the basis that a safe systems approach has been undertaken to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure is in place for this higher speed limit to be considered a Safe and Appropriate Speed.
6. We would however, request that urgency be provided to ensuring that appropriate mechanisms/legislative changes are progressed to enable more appropriate speed enforcement such as point-to-point cameras to be operational on the section of proposed 110km/h speed limit.
7. Some extreme speeds have been reported on the Cambridge section and while the infrastructure such as central wire ropes is very effective at preventing head on crashes, it does also mean that effective enforcement on this road is very hard for the New Zealand Police to complete safely.
8. Hamilton City Council also notes that there are a large number of state highways where the infrastructure is such that the current speed limit of 100km/h is not safe and appropriate.
9. Hamilton City Council strongly encourages Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to urgently progress lowering the speed limits on these routes.

Further Information and Opportunity to Discuss Our Submission

10. Should Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency require clarification of the submission from Hamilton City Council, or additional information, please contact **Robyn Denton** (Acting City Transportation Unit Manager) on 07 838 6910 or 021 971 127, email robyn.denton@hcc.govt.nz in the first instance.
11. Hamilton City Council would welcome the opportunity to discuss the content of our submission with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency in more detail.

Yours faithfully



Lance Vervoort
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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