



Hamilton City Council sets speed limits for city roads, and the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) sets them for the state highways.

A speed limit can be changed, following review and consultation, if a different limit would be safe and appropriate according to the nature, function and use of the road. Safe speed limits take into account the amount of roadside development (schools, houses, shops) and reflect the nature, design, function and use of the road.

We are able to set speed limits from 10 to 100km/h, in increments of 10km/h. We are also able to set variable speed limits eg 40km/h variable speed limits outside schools. In urban areas a permanent speed limit lower than 50km/h may be set where the road has been engineered so that travel speeds are not more than 5km/h over the lower limit.

Legislation requires council to consult local communities that are affected by a proposed speed limit change.

Here are some things we take into account when setting speed limits:

- **Speed limits must make sense to drivers.** Motorists are less likely to comply with speed limits that are seen as too low for the road. Realistic and credible limits are observed by most drivers, and are more effective in regulating speeds and reducing crashes.
- **Lowering a speed limit does not always lower vehicle speeds.** If speed limits are in place but not observed by many drivers, it can provide a false sense of security for other road users, particularly pedestrians. Reducing a speed limit has some impact on driver speeds, however the main factors influencing a driver's choice of speed are the road environment and the traffic and journey conditions.
- **The 'speed limit' and a 'safe speed' may differ.** The speed limit is the maximum legal speed for a driver on the road in perfect conditions. Drivers should adjust their speeds to the conditions, including weather, traffic congestion, pedestrians on the road and activity from roadside areas such as schools, shopping centres and leisure facilities.
- **The speed limit should support what the road is used for.** Different roads can have different functions depending on who is the primary user eg pedestrians, cyclists, cars, buses, or heavy vehicles.

Further information on speed limits, how they are determined and set can be found in the Setting of Speed Limits Rule 54001

<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/rules/docs/setting-speed-limits-2003.pdf>

Further information on related topics can be found in the following flyers:

- Variable speed limits for schools
- Safe Speed Area's

For further information:
Phone: 07 838 6999
E-mail: roads@hcc.govt.nz