

8. CHRISTCHURCH CITY PROPOSED NEW SPEED LIMITS

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment
Officer responsible:	Manager Transport and Greenspace
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's support to relocate the 50/80 km/h speed limit change on Gardiners Road south of Johns Road and on Innes Road east of Briggs Road (see attached).

BACKGROUND

2. Board members may recall that a briefing was given at a Council seminar on 1 August 2006 on proposals to change certain speed limits on roads within the city.
3. The Council is responsible for setting speed limits on those roads within its district in respect of which it is the road controlling authority. The authority for the Council to do this is contained in the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2003, Rule 5004 ("the Rule") and the Christchurch City Speed Limit Bylaw 2005 ("the Bylaw").
4. In setting speed limits the Council must comply with the requirements of the Rule. It requires the Council to apply to "Speed Limits New Zealand" for the setting of speed limits. "Speed Limits New Zealand" contains guidelines for setting speed limits and procedures for calculating speed limits. They are set out in Schedule 1 of the Rule. The Rule also prescribes the consultation that is required to be carried out for any proposed speed limit change.
5. The Council may set a speed limit that differs from the calculated speed limit under Speed Limits New Zealand. However, in this case there is provision in the Rule that must be complied with.

"A speed limit different from the calculated speed limit is the safe and appropriate speed limit for a road with regard to the function, nature and use of the road, its environment, land use patterns and whether the road is an urban traffic area or a rural area".

6. Once the provisions of the Rule have been complied with in relation to determining an appropriate speed and undertaking the necessary consultation the Council may set that speed limit by passing a resolution under Clause 5 of the Bylaw. The new speed limit will then be recorded in the Council's Speed Limit Register.
7. At the Council meeting of 21 September 2006 consent was given to carry out the consultation process as required by the Rule.
8. This report forms part of the consultation process which will be reported back to Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gardiners Road

9. It is proposed to reposition the 50/80 km/h speed limit to a more appropriate position in the section of Gardiners Road from the intersection of Johns Road (State Highway 1) southerly generally, to a point measured 50 metres south of Wilkinsons Road.
10. Reasons for change:
 - To shift the speed limit change to the rural/residential boundary.
 - To shift the speed limit signs further away from the intersection so that they are not missed by motorists when they enter from Johns Road.
 - Because Johns Road is 80 km/h it is not appropriate to introduce a short length of 70 km/h road in isolation. To be consistent 80 km/h is proposed.

Innes Road

11. It is proposed to shift the 50/80 km/h speed limit change on Innes Road further east from Briggs Road.
12. Reasons for change:
 - To improve the safety of students being dropped off and picked up at Mairehau High School.
 - New subdivision being developed on the northern side of Innes Road east of Briggs Road.
13. The proposed speed limit for these two changes have been evaluated as prescribed by Speed Limits New Zealand by a consultant, namely Antoni Facey of Facey Consultants.
14. No additional roads are to be considered in this round of consultation. Additional roads can be considered in subsequent reviews once they have been evaluated against the Speed Limits New Zealand guidelines. It is intended that speed limits be reviewed on a bi-annual basis.
15. The proposed time table for the process is:
 - 1 August 2006 - Council Seminar
 - 21 September 2006 – Report to Council seeking consent to consult
 - October 2006 – Report to Community Boards seeking support for proposed changes
 - October 2006 – Consultation with:
 - The required parties
 - Directly affected properties owners
 - Residents' Groups
 - News media.
 - 20 October 2006 – Closing date for consultation responses
 - 30 November 2006 – Report to Council on consultation feedback and request that the new speed limits be set.
 - December 2006 – Arrange for sign changes and to update Speed Limit Register, Map and Council Web site.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

16. The cost of new signs and the relocation of existing speed limit signs is within existing budgets.
17. That the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2003, Rule 5004 requires the Council to apply the guidelines of Speed Limits New Zealand for the setting of speed limits and the procedures for calculating speed limits.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Board recommend the following speed limit changes to Council:

- (i) That the speed limit on Gardiners Road from Johns Road (State Highway 1) southerly, generally, along Gardiners Road to a point measured 210 metres from Johns Road, be set at 80 km/h.
- (ii) That the speed limit on Gardiners Road, from a point measured 210 metres from Johns Road (State Highway 1) southerly, generally, to a point measured 50 metres from Wilkinsons Road, remain at 50 km/h.
- (iii) That the speed limit on Innes Road from a point 175 metres measured north-easterly, generally, along Innes Road from Briggs Road to Queen Elizabeth II Drive, remain at 80 km/h.
- (iv) That the 80 km/h speed limit on Innes road commencing at a point 50 metres from Briggs Road and extending in a north-easterly direction to a point 125 metres from Briggs Road, be uplifted.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendations be adopted.