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6 August 2009

Wellington City Council
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Wellington



Attention Hanita Shantilal

Proposed 10km and 90 km per hour speed limits Wellington City Council

1. Introduction

The Wellington District of the New Zealand Automobile Association (AA) has 140,000 members and is represented by a District Council of 9 members. Most of our members are also pedestrians and often bicycle users and are therefore aware of the need to consider other road users and for driving speeds to match the conditions appropriate at a particular time. Speed limits are a tool to reduce speed for those motorists who have a disregard for other road users. However, international research has shown that for lower speed limits the only proven method of significantly reducing vehicle speeds in built up areas are traffic calming measures such as judder bars.

2. Proposed 10km per hour speed limit

The AA opposes the proposed 10 km per hour speed limit. The reasons for this are:

- A speed of 10km per hour barely registers on many car speedometers (photo enclosed). In a low speed environment it is more important for motorists to concentrate on the environment outside the car rather than trying to read a speedometer which is barely above the zero mark.
- As mentioned above, just putting up a speed limit sign has very limited effect on vehicle speeds in low speed environments. The installation of traffic calming devices such as judder bars is more effective and eliminates the confusion of multiple speed limits over short distances.
- Wellington Police (Richard Hocken) has advised that police car speedometers are only calibrated at speeds from 30km per hour upwards. Radar or laser guns could still be used.
- Of the 309 pedestrian injury accidents in Wellington City over the past 5 years only 4 occurred in off road areas. Two were in shop car parks (New World Wakefield Street and Lighting Direct Hutt Road). The other two were in petrol station forecourts. All of these accidents occurred on privately owned land over which WCC has no jurisdiction. No injury accidents to pedestrians occurred in any Council owned sports grounds, airport, beaches, botanical gardens etc.

Overall, we do not consider there is a need for a 10 km per hour speed limit in any Wellington streets.



AA
Rewards

3. Proposed 90km per hour speed limit

The AA also opposes this proposed speed limit for the following reasons:

- If a road is not suitable for 100 km per hour we see no point in having a 90 km per hour limit when the police tolerance prior to issuing a ticket would be a further 9 km ie back to 100km per hour.
- Our preference if a road is not suitable for 100 km per hour the speed limit should be lowered to 80 km per hour.

The Automobile Association wishes to nominate Councillor Alex Gray to present our submission orally to the Council Sub-Committee on 13 August.

Yours sincerely



J.C. **John Christianson**
Wellington District Chairman
New Zealand Automobile Association

