

ANNEX 1

WELLINGTON CITY CONSOLIDATED BYLAW 2008 PART 6 – SPEED LIMITS

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION IN THE STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

On 5 April 2004 central government formally passed to local city and district councils responsibility for setting speed limits on their roads. The various legal, technical and procedural requirements placed on councils as a result of these responsibilities are contained in the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2003 (the Rule) which was made by the Land Transport Safety Authority.

The Rule required the Wellington City Council (Council) to create a speed limits bylaw. The Wellington City Consolidated Bylaw 2008 Part 6 – Speed Limits (Speed Limits Bylaw) came into effect on 11 October 2004. The Speed Limits Bylaw is used to make changes to speed limits where the Council considers it to be appropriate.

The purpose of the Speed Limits Bylaw is to ensure that the risk to public safety is minimised and that the freedom of road users to travel on New Zealand roads at speeds that are reasonable and appropriate is protected.

The Speed Limits Bylaw is being reviewed because the Local Government Act 2002 requires it to be reviewed within five years of it coming into effect and the Rule has been amended.

The Speed Limits Bylaw in its current form:

- Designates urban traffic areas i.e. the geographical areas in which roads are subject to a 50km/h speed limit.
- Validates all existing legal speed limits other than 50km/h speed limits within a designated urban area and 100km/h speed limits on roads within a rural area.
- Provides for the Council, by resolution, to make additions or alterations to the Speed Limits Bylaw for any roads or areas covered by the Bylaw. The Council may set speed limits of 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, or 100km/hr on any road or area in its district.
- Allows for the Council by resolution, to make or alter bylaw speed limits for roads in “designated locations”. These include:
 - car parks
 - educational, scientific, health or residential facilities
 - camping grounds
 - sports facilities or other recreational areas

- botanical gardens
- port or wharf area
- airport
- beaches
- cemeteries
- defence facilities
- any other location approved by the Director of the Land Transport Safety

The Speed Limits Bylaw provides for changes to speed limits to be made by way of resolution, following the consultation processes laid down in the Rule.

It is proposed that the following amendments be made to the Speed Limits Bylaw as per the updated Rule to allow the Council to:

- set speed limits of 10km/hr in relation to roads or areas under its control in the district.
- set speed limits of 90km/hr on roads in rural areas.
- Update the 2004 approved plans to reflect changes made by resolution of the Council over the last five years.

The Council is keen to know what ratepayers and stakeholders think about the proposed amendments. Additional copies of this and the full statement of proposal is available online at www.wellington.govt.nz and at Council service centres and libraries. Copies may also be obtained by forwarding an email request to hanita.shantilal@wcc.govt.nz.

The Councillors will consider all the submissions on the proposed amendments before making a decision on whether to adopt the proposed Speed Limits Bylaw. For those who wish to make an oral submission, they will be heard by the Strategy and Policy Committee on 13 August 2009.

Please make a submission on line at www.wellington.govt.nz, email your submission to hanita.shantilal@wcc.govt.nz or fill in the attached submission form and send it to Hanita Shantilal, Freepost, Wellington City Council, PO Box 2199, Wellington.

Written submissions open on 30 June 2009 and close at 5.00pm on 7 August 2009.

