

REPORT 8
(1215/12/IM)

RATIFICATION OF TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD SUBMISSION TAWA SPEED LIMITS

It is recommended that the Tawa Community Board:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Ratify the Tawa Community Board submission to the Tawa Speed Limits*

Attached is the Tawa Community Board Submission to the Tawa Speed Limits.

Submission – Tawa Speed Limit Reduction

The Tawa Community Board does not support the proposal to lower the Legal Speed Limit (50km/h) within Tawa.

We believe that a blanket reduction of the speed limit to 40km/h will not deter those drivers inclined to ignore the limit, but will merely frustrate the majority of drivers which may result in some drivers taking unnecessary risks in their driving, potentially resulting in an increase in accidents.

We believe that there may be justification to reduce the speed limit to 40km/h around schools between 8-9am and from 2.30 – 3.30pm Monday to Friday, in particular in the vicinity of St Francis Xavier and around Tawa College and Intermediate, however we note that the usual speed of traffic through these areas of Tawa during these hours seldom breaches 40- 50km/h.

We have seen a great deal of improvement in driver behaviour since the engineering changes have been implemented and this has resulted in the accident rate in the Tawa area remaining static which goes against the trend across the city of a general increase in accidents. We acknowledge that there was a good deal of opposition to the engineering changes, however as residents and road users have become accustomed to the alterations we have noticed a general improvement in driver behaviour and an overall awareness in the speeds in which motorists are travelling.

We believe that a more appropriate response to speeding within our community would be to instigate **zero tolerance** (or as near to as is legally permitted) to exceeding the speed limit within the community of Tawa. The emphasis must be placed on advising ALL motorists that “should you be caught travelling over 50km/h in Tawa you will receive a warning or be ticketed”.

We recommend Wellington City Council consider:

- Installing signs at both the Northern and Southern ends of Tawa, advising motorists of zero tolerance.
- Encourage the local Police to enforce the speed limit of 50km/h within the suburb.
- Installing additional speed checking devices in Tawa in particular Oriel Avenue and Woodman Drive.
- In conjunction with the local Police run a three month campaign to introduce a zero tolerance policy, ensuring all residents are aware of the policy including:
 - Employment of a staff member to report road safety breaches within the area or empower a volunteer group within the community to report to the Police road safety breaches.
 - Reporting to the community the numbers of speeding infringements and consider the naming and shaming of multiple offenders.

It is our opinion that the rationale of the proposal has been lost since it was originally floated. It is our understanding that the reason for the proposed reduction of the speed limit to 40km/h was to bring vehicles back to the speed limit of 50km/h making the roads in Tawa safer. The majority of submitters and what we believe the majority of

residents are far from convinced that this outcome will result. We believe that any benefits from a reduced speed limit will be far outweighed by the sheer frustration to the average driver of having to travel at such a “slow speed” on the main through fares.

Tawa Community Board

Ngaire Best (Chair)

Robert Tredger

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