

Wairere Drive speed reduction consultation – FAQs

Is the speed limit reduction for all of Wairere Drive?

No, the reduction from 80kph to 60kph is only being proposed for a section of Wairere Drive, between the intersection of Arthur Porter Drive and Pukete Road.

Why are we wanting to lower the speed limit here, is it to do with crashes/accidents in the area?

A developer has been granted a resource consent to develop a site on the corner of Te Rapa Road and Eagle Way. As part of the resource consent, traffic lights would need to be installed at the intersection of Wairere Drive and Karewa Place, to enable a right turn into (but not out of) Karewa Place from Wairere Drive. For the traffic lights to operate safely and to meet the legal obligations for speed limits, the proposal is to reduce the speed limit on Wairere Drive, from Arthur Porter Road to Pukete Road, from 80kph to 60kph.

Why is the proposed speed limit reduction all the way up to Arthur Porter Drive, when it's the intersection of Wairere Drive and Karewa Place being affected?

There is legislation around speed limits that needs to be considered. The Land Transport Rule: Setting Speed Limits 2017 (Speed Limits Rule) requires a minimum length of 500m for a 60kph speed limit. The distance between Te Rapa Road and Pukete Road (where the traffic lights would be installed) is only 410m. The section of Wairere Drive between Arthur Porter Drive and Te Rapa Road is not suitable (narrow, no central median, no dedicated space for cyclists) for the existing 80kph to operate safely and a 60kph is considered a safer speed limit for this section of road. Because of this, the proposal is to reduce the speed limit on Wairere Drive from Arthur Porter Drive to Pukete Road, a distance of 1.2km.

Why does there need to be traffic lights installed at the intersection of Wairere Drive and Karewa Place? Won't this, and the reduced speed limit, cause traffic build-up along an already busy stretch of road?

The installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Karewa Place and Wairere Drive was considered as part of the resource consent granted for the development. This speed limit consultation does not revisit that decision and no further feedback is being sought on the installation of those traffic lights.

Our data shows the average travelling speeds on this 1.2km section of Wairere Drive are currently around 66kph, which indicates that reducing the speed limit to 60kph will have a minimal impact on travelling time.

If the resource consent has already been obtained, why does our feedback matter? If the speed limit isn't changed, will the development still go ahead?

While the resource consent has been granted, Council still needs to separately agree to reduce the speed limit for the development to go ahead. Council can't reduce a speed limit without consulting with our community first. This is why your feedback is important, as it will inform the final decision.

Who will meet the costs for implementing the intersection and speed limit changes? Does this fall on the rate payer?

No, the developer has agreed to pay for all works required by the resource consent as well as for new speed limit signs and road markings.

Will there be changes made to other intersections in this area?

No physical changes to the road layout are being proposed for the Wairere Drive/Pukete Road and Wairere Drive/Te Rapa Road intersections for the speed limit change, apart from new signs and road markings.

What are the benefits of making these changes?

Lower speed limits on Wairere Drive provide safety benefits for those on foot or bike trying to cross at these busy intersections, and for all road users trying to access the retail facilities in this area.

How do I give feedback?

Feedback is open now until Monday 27 September, you can share your feedback online at:

<https://haveyoursay.hamilton.govt.nz/city-transportation/waireredrive/>