

MOVEMENT

SAFE JOURNEYS for ACTIVE KIWIS

Media Release: 10am, December 15, 2017

Calling on Councils to implement safer rural speed limits

National groups representing pedestrians, horse-riders, cyclists, and users of mobility devices are calling on Councils across the country to implement safer rural speed limits.

The **attached** letter has been posted to the CEO of every Council in New Zealand and is endorsed by:

- The New Zealand Cycle Trail
- Cycling New Zealand
- Living Streets Aotearoa
- Visually Impaired Aotearoa
- NZ School Speeds
- Cycling Action Network
- NZ Horse Network

Transport planner Bevan Woodward says "New Zealand's rural roads are often highly dangerous and intimidating for people wanting to get about on foot, horse or bicycle. It need not be this way. We've looked overseas at what comparable countries have done to improve their rural road safety and it's clear that safer traffic speeds are a key part of the solution.

Typically this means 80 km/h or less on undivided rural roads. Safer speeds are the most cost-effective and immediate treatment for improving road safety."

Safer speeds reduce both the number of crashes, and their consequences, says Patrick Morgan, Cycling Action Network spokesman. "Everyone makes mistakes sometimes, so we need to make sure that no-one is seriously harmed as a result. Safer speeds are a matter of life and death."

Lucinda Rees, NZ School Speeds says "Safer speeds give New Zealanders more transport options. This is significant because New Zealand is one of the most car dependent countries in the world, resulting in a wide range of issues such as obesity, pollution, traffic congestion and the expense of vehicle ownership."

ENDS

Online: <http://www.movement.org.nz/campaigns/safer-rural-speed-limits/>

For active modes a third of deaths occur on 100 km/h roads, which is significant given most walking/cycling activity still occurs in urban areas (>90%). Approximately 75% of motor vehicle fatalities occur on 100km/h roads.

NZTA Road Death statistics year to date: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/road-deaths/toll.html>

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Safer Journeys for all Active Kiwis www.movement.org.nz

14 December 2017

{First Name} {Second Name}

Chief Executive

{Council}

{PO Box Number}

{Town} {Post code}

Dear {First Name},

Deadly rural speed limits

Many of New Zealand's rural roads are unforgiving and leave no room for mistakes¹, yet the speed limit is typically 100km/h. For people walking, cycling or horse riding, rural roads with a speed limit of 100 km/h, and without mode separation, can create a particularly daunting road environment.

Hence, we are writing to request that your Council considers implementing safer traffic speeds, such as 80km/h or less, on the rural roads in your region used by:

- **Te Araroa Trail**
- **New Zealand Cycle Trail 'Great Rides' and connecting roads**
- **New Zealand Cycle Trail 'Heartland rides'**
- **Tour Aotearoa**
- **Horse trekkers**
- **School bus routes**

NZTA understands the need for safer traffic speeds on roads that do not provide safe facilities for active transport users such as cyclists: **"A road connecting to a NZ cycle trail should have travel speeds of 80km/h or less if there is no mode separation or sufficiently wide shoulders."**²

Police Superintendent Stephen Greally has recently been in the media responding to the worsening road toll with the warning that some of our speed limits, especially on rural roads, were set too high.

¹ Superintendent Stephen Greally, National Manager of Road Policing. Media release 15 January 2016.

² Harry Wilson, NZTA's National Road Safety Director

We appreciate that there may be concern from some members of the public who do not support reducing traffic speeds to improve road safety. However NZTA's research shows that the majority of New Zealanders agree that our roads would be safer if we all drove a little slower, and they understand lower speed limits reduce road trauma³.

Hence we encourage you to demonstrate the leadership necessary to save lives (75% of New Zealand's road fatalities are occurring on undivided rural roads with a 100km/h speed limit) and improve the range of transport options for New Zealanders.

Maps of the roads in your region that are used by Te Araroa Trail, NZ Cycle Trails, Tour Aotearoa, NZ Horse riders network, Heartland rides and/or serve as connecting roads to the NZ Cycle Trail Great Rides can be found at www.movement.org.nz/campaigns/safer-rural-speed-limits/ However we would encourage you to take an area-wide approach to safer speed limits, especially to encompass community facilities, bush walks, visitor attractions, etc.

This letter has been endorsed by: **The New Zealand Cycle Trail, Cycling New Zealand, Living Streets Aotearoa, Visually Impaired Aotearoa, NZ School Speeds, Cycling Action Network and NZ Horse Network.**

Movement is an umbrella campaign seeking safe active transport for all kiwis, see our manifesto for safe, efficient and sustainable transport in NZ by 2030 here: www.movement.org.nz/manifesto/

We welcome your response to this letter. We will be in contact with you in the New Year to learn what progress you have made in response to our request above.

Best regards,



Bevan Woodward

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CC: Harry Wilson, Road Safety Director, NZTA
Superintendent Steve Greally, National Manager Road Policing
Brent Johnston, Manager, Mobility & Safety, Ministry of Transport

³ NZTA research report 563: Safer speeds: public acceptance and compliance (December 2014)