



SH1 ARA TŪHOHO – PŪHOI TO WARKWORTH SPEED REVIEW

Consultation Summary

WAKA KOTAHI NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

APRIL 2023

1. BACKGROUND

The new Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway will extend the Northern Motorway (SH1) from Johnstones Hill Tunnels to just north of Warkworth. See [here](#) for a link to more information.

The motorway will provide people travelling through this region with a separated motorway and vastly improve the safety, connectivity, and resilience of the network between Northland and Auckland, helping to boost the economic potential of the Northland region.

This will be achieved through easier freight movements and better access to major markets south of the region and to export ports at Auckland and Tauranga. The tourism sector will also benefit with improved journey times opening access to popular destinations in Northland and the Far North.



2. MĀORI PARTNERSHIP

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency have been working with Hōkai Nuku since 2010 when the partnership was originally formed to collaborate on the Ara Tūhono - Pūhoi to Wellsford. Hōkai Nuku continue to provide specialist cultural and environmental advice for this stage of the project.

Hōkai Nuku is the authorised voice of four Iwi and Hapū mana whenua – Ngāti Manuhiri, Ngāti Mauku/Ngāti Kauae of Te Uri o Hau, Ngāti Rango of Kaipara and Ngāti Whātua. Hōkai Nuku have been acting in the capacity of the ‘iwi advisor’ under the terms of the conditions imposed by the Board of Inquiry (BoI) in the consent and designation conditions that were granted for the project in 2016.

The relationship between the Transport Agency and Hōkai Nuku as Treaty partners has been formalised in a relationship agreement which includes for the provision of cultural services throughout the 25-year operating period.

3. CONSULTATION PROCESS

This speed review was consulted under the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2022, clause 3.9.

In anticipation of the new motorway opening in 2023, the speed limit proposals and Road Controlling Authority (RCA) boundary changes were included in the Interim State Highway Speed Management Plan (ISHSMP). This Plan was consulted on between 14 November and 12 December 2022. See [here](#) for further information on the ISHSMP and [here](#) for details on the Auckland region.

During public consultation on the ISHSMP, the public were asked to identify any other factors Waka Kotahi should consider in relation to the proposed speed limits.

Feedback was received from a wide variety of respondents, including local government (RCAs - city, district councils and transport groups), school principals, iwi/hapū representatives, directly affected and other interested communities, transport and active transport advocacy groups, residents and ratepayer’s associations, as well as the public who regularly travel on parts of the state highway network.

4. CONSULTATION QUESTION

The consultation phase is used to seek any additional information from stakeholders or the public that will help inform the decision about the proposed speed limit changes.

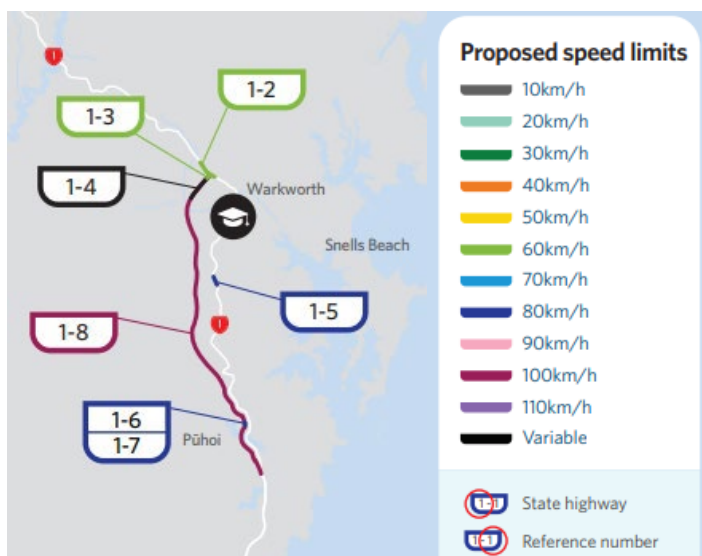
During formal consultation we proposed new speed limits and asked the public the following question “**Are there any other factors that we should consider when making our decision?**”

We consider all factors raised during formal consultation when making our decision on new permanent speed limits.

5. PROPOSED SPEED LIMITS

Below is a summary table and map of speed limits proposed for the Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway in the ISHSMP.

Reference	Location	Existing speed limit	New speed limit
1-2	Wellsford North Northern entrance to Warkworth	80km/h	60km/h
1-3	Pūhoi to Warkworth mainline 60 End of motorway, for approach to roundabout – northbound only	N/A	60km/h
1-4	Pūhoi to Warkworth (VSL at north end of motorway) Variable speed limit to allow smart management of traffic to roundabout – northbound only	N/A	Various (30km/h, 40km/h, 50km/h, 60km/h, 70km/h, 80km/h or 100km/h)
1-6	Pūhoi northbound off-ramp	N/A	80km/h
1-7	Pūhoi southbound on-ramp	N/A	80km/h
1-8	Pūhoi to Warkworth mainline	N/A	100km/h



Variable speed limits (VSL) were proposed on the northern end of the northbound lane, where the new motorway joins the existing State Highway 1, to manage vehicle speeds on the approach to the roundabout during peak periods. This will improve capacity and reduce the risk of incidents.

A total of six VSL signs will be installed along the roadside. The signs will be automatically controlled by programmable logic controllers. These will adapt the speed limit to the current road conditions, making the motorway safer.

6. SUMMARY AND RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

A total of 66 public submissions were received through the ISHSMP for the Tamaki Makaurau region and 6 submissions were provided in relation to the Ara Tūhono - Pūhoi to Warkworth corridor specifically.

Waka Kotahi wishes to thank submitters for taking the time to provide their feedback. This feedback has been considered by the technical team and they have provided the following comments.

NB: Locations shown in the Response to Submissions table below correspond to locations shown in the 5. Proposed Speed Limits section above.

	Factors	Waka Kotahi comment
<p>1-2</p> <p>1-3</p> <p>1-4</p> <p>1-6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-2 supported by AA Northland due to development of new/busy roundabout here; however, AA Northland and AA Auckland want changes to 1-3 to 1-7 to support preferred 110km/h speed limit for 1-8 Pūhoi to Warkworth. Waka Kotahi undertaking works to strengthen the road; reducing speed limit implies the safety works are insufficient. Implement the proposed speed limit reduction from 80km/h to 60km/h (1-2) Adapt all proposed speed limits for on/off ramps (1-3 to 1-7) to support 110km/h on 1-8 Pūhoi to Warkworth mainline Retain the existing speed limits to justify the safety improvement works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing 80km/h posted speed limit on SH1, north of Warkworth is proposed to be reduced to 60km/h. This is the safe and appropriate speed for the intersection. This will allow for higher volumes of traffic and improved safety. There will also be a short section of motorway that will be set at 60km/h as the tie into the existing road network. The variable speed limit will allow traffic to be slowed if congestion or incidents occur.
<p>1-7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed speed limit on the ramp does not match the speed limit on SH1 that vehicles are about to join; believes this is inherently dangerous. Match the ramp speed limit to SH1 i.e. 100km/h instead of 80km/h. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The on and off ramps will be set at 100km/h with short sections as they tie into Pūhoi Road set at 80km/h, the local road posted speed limit.

Factors	Waka Kotahi comment
<p>1-8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AA Northland and AA Auckland support with changes to align speeds with Waikato Expressway and Waterview tunnel. • Road is of excellent condition on par with the Waikato Expressway. • Believe this section was designed/built and publicised for a 110km/h speed limit. • Consider 110km/h for SH1 mainline Pūhoi to Warkworth and 100km/h through Johnston Hill Tunnels only. • Increase speed limit to 110km/h for whole section instead of 100km/h to match Waikato Expressway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mainline section of motorway will default to a speed limit of 100km/h as per cl 2.1(1)c of the rule. To set a speed limit of 110km/h the road controlling authority (RCA) must request and obtain the Director’s approval under cl 4.4(1) of the rule. This requires a technical review that satisfies the Director that the road has been designed and constructed, and will be managed and operated, to the standard necessary to safely support 110 km/h travel speeds. This review is currently underway, and the outcome will be communicated in due course.

5. DECISION

The table below shows the recommendations Waka Kotahi formally consulted on between 14 November 2022 and 12 December 2022.

The submissions did not identify any issues that Waka Kotahi had not already considered.

The outcome of the speed review was in line with the proposed speed limit changes, and the permanent speed limits outlined below will come into effect on the day SH1 Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway opens.

Stakeholders will be notified by letter and the public are being notified via media release, newspaper advertising and social media ahead of the new speed limits signs being installed and the new speed limits taking effect.

When the new speed limits take effect, the area will be monitored to ensure the new permanent speed limits and supporting treatments are working effectively and to determine if any further changes are required.

The following new speed limits will apply from the day SH1 Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth motorway opens.

SH1 Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth	New speed limits
<p>Wellsford North Northern entrance to Warkworth</p>	<p>60km/h</p>

Pūhoi to Warkworth mainline 60

End of motorway, for approach to Pukerito roundabout – northbound only

60km/h

Pūhoi to Warkworth (VSL at north end of motorway)

Variable speed limit to allow smart management of traffic to Pukerito roundabout – northbound only

Various
(30km/h, 40km/h, 50km/h, 60km/h, 70km/h, 80km/h or 100km/h)

Pūhoi northbound off-ramp

80km/h

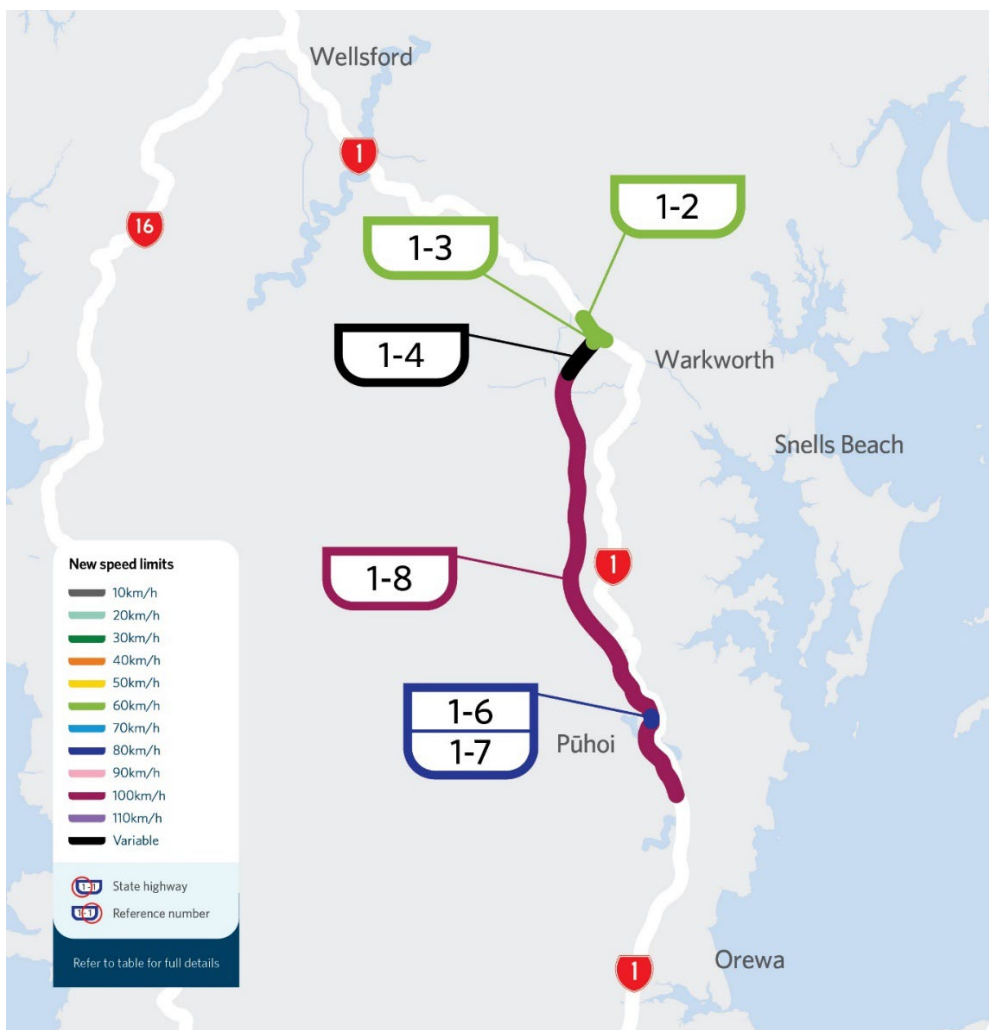
Pūhoi southbound on-ramp

80km/h

Pūhoi to Warkworth mainline

100km/h

Map showing the permanent speed limits



6. SUBMISSIONS

You can view the submissions we received for this speed review [here](#).