



SH6 LUGGATE SPEED REVIEW

Summary of the speed review consultation

WAKA KOTAHI NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

OCTOBER 2020

1. BACKGROUND

During October and November 2019 Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency consulted on a safe and appropriate speed limit on SH6 through Luggate, a small but fast-growing community 15km east of Wanaka.

Wanaka property is among the most expensive in the country making housing affordability a major issue. This is forcing many out of Wanaka to more affordable nearby areas. These include Luggate where there is a surge in residential developments, with this activity contributing to increasing traffic volumes on SH6 through the town including more large trucks. In 2018 the average daily vehicle count was 2,600 a day up 40% on 2014.

Highway speeds through Luggate have concerned locals and Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) for several years. Currently there is a mix of 70km/h and 50km/h highway speed limits in the town. In October and November 2019 Waka Kotahi publicly consulted on a 50km/h limit to replace the 70km/h limit, on a 450m section of highway on the northern approach into Luggate and a 350m section at the southern entrance to the town.

Ahead of formal consultation on this proposal we met with community representatives. All gave unanimous support to our proposal. They felt it would help address the safety risks posed by the current mix of 50km/h and 70km/h limits, especially with many more young families living in the town's new residential developments.

Waka Kotahi is committed to making this highway safer for everyone, so they get to where they are going safely. The best option for achieving this on SH6 through Luggate was to review the existing highway speed limit.

2. CONSULTATION PROCESS

Before starting the formal consultation process, we completed numerous steps, including a speed management technical assessment of this section of highway. This identified the existing speed limit on the road wasn't safe or appropriate for the current road characteristics and roadside environment.

Pre consultation engagement with the community and our transport partners provided good feedback and local insights on how people use the road and their main concerns. This helped us decide if a speed limit change was the best option to improve road safety on this section of highway, where new speed limits might start and end, and whether any other safety improvements could be needed.

During October/November 2019 Waka Kotahi carried out formal consultation on a proposal for a 50km/h highway speed limit through all Luggate instead of the current mix of 50km/h and 70km/h limits. Consultation materials provided evidence including current travel speeds and the characteristics of the road environment that supported 50km/h as a safe and appropriate speed limit for this section of highway.

The consultation was advertised and promoted through a variety of social and print media channels used by our target audiences. A news release went to local media about consultation starting, and this received wide coverage. Feedback could be made on this proposal either electronically or on hard copy submission forms. The latter were available from Queenstown Lakes District Council service centres and libraries, and local businesses. NZ Post delivered hard copy submission forms to all homes, businesses and PO Boxes within a 10km radius of Luggate.

3. CONSULTATION QUESTION

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

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

The factors that were taken into consideration when proposing the new speed limits are covered in this document.

4. SUMMARY AND RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

We received 60 submissions. We appreciate the response from the community and thank everyone who provided their feedback.

The relevant factors that were expressed in the feedback from the public are summarised in the table below

Waka Kotahi comment	
<p><u>Pedestrian and cycling facilities:</u> Because of the number of vehicles entering the town at high speed, several submitters wanted pedestrian and cycle facilities upgraded.</p>	<p>Waka Kotahi is aware of a request for a footpath at the southern end of the township. This is included in our low-cost low risk safety and will be advanced subject to funding approval. No cycle facilities are planned at this time.</p>
<p><u>Length of the speed review area:</u> A number of those who provided feedback asked or the speed review to be extended to include other built-up and residential areas near the town.</p>	<p>We acknowledge there is broad community support for further speed reductions beyond the existing township to encompass planned and future residential developments. Because of the largely rural environment in these areas, it wouldn't for many drivers, look and feel like a low speed environment, making driver compliance a real issue. If these residential developments are progressed then we would consider a lower speed limit for these areas.</p>
<p><u>Public Amenities and safety improvement:</u> Several submitters said public amenities in the town including bus stops, shops, restaurants, sports grounds and the town's carpark, put pedestrians at risk. Some wanted extra safety</p>	<p>One of the main reasons Waka Kotahi has progressed a highway speed limit reduction through Luggate is help improve pedestrian safety. Waka Kotahi won't be adding extra signage in the short term as there is already adequate signage in place. No further speed reduction is planned around the school bus. This is because motorists are legally required to travel at 20km/h past a school bus picking up or dropping off passengers. The Luggate school bus uses a car park area off the highway to make it safer for passengers to disembark.</p>

Waka Kotahi comment

<p>improvements such as signage, or a further reduction in speed around school bus routes and drop off zones.</p>	
<p>Driver behaviour: Several submitters raised concerns about drivers speeding and their dangerous overtaking.</p>	<p>This will be the responsibility of Police. However, Waka Kotahi will make them aware of the communities' desire for greater enforcement of the new highway speed limit through Luggate.</p>

5. DECISION

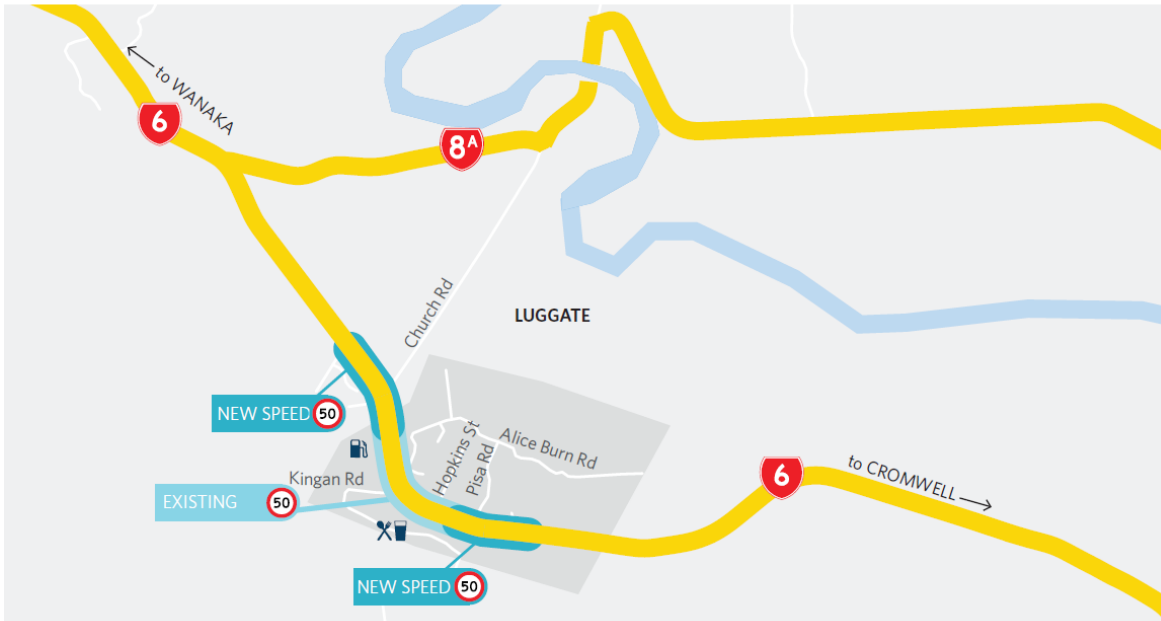
This table shows the recommendations Waka Kotahi formally consulted on between October and November 2019.

	Current	Proposed new limit
On SH6 through Luggate a 50km/h limit to replace the 70km/h limit from 160m north of Church Road to 300m south of Church Street, and from 110m south of Hopkins Street to 430m south of Hopkins Street.	70km/h	50km/h

The consultation submissions didn't identify any issues that Waka Kotahi hadn't already considered. The speed review outcome was in line with the proposed speed limit change. The following new speed limit outlined below will apply from Friday 13 November 2020:

SH6 Luggate	Existing speed limits	New speed limit from Friday, 13 November 2020
SH6 from 160m north of Church Road to 300m south of Church Street, and from 110m south of Hopkins Street to 430m south of Hopkins Street.	70km/h	50km/h

SH6 Luggate new permanent speed limits



6. SUBMISSIONS

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