



SH88 PORT CHALMERS SPEED REVIEW

Summary of the speed review consultation

WAKA KOTAHI NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

SEPTEMBER 2020

1. BACKGROUND

Port Chalmers is a busy town at the end of SH88 12km east of Dunedin. Over the last 10 years this major South Island shipping port has become a popular destination for cruise ships during spring and summer. SH88 which runs through the main street of Port Chalmers carries a lot of large trucks servicing the local port.

Over the last decade we've regularly engaged with the local community, Port Otago, the Dunedin City Council and Police on a safe and appropriate highway speed limit for Port Chalmers. The main reason the community wants a lower speed limit are safety concerns around the high number of heavy vehicles using this route, and protecting pedestrians, especially when there are large numbers of cruise ship passengers using the main street.

Historically, the town centre has been the subject of temporary speed reductions during the cruise ship season. Up until three years ago, we introduced as an interim measure a lower temporary speed limit of 30km/h in Port Chalmers over the cruise ship season. This ended for legal reasons.

In the last five years there have been two non-injury crashes and one minor injury crash on SH88 through Port Chalmers.

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 September/October 2019 Waka Kotahi carried out formal consultation on a proposal to reduce the existing 50km/h speed limit on the 600m section of SH88 between Wickliffe Terrace and the Beech Street rail crossing to 40km/h. Consultation materials provided evidence including current travel speeds and the characteristics of the road environment that supported 40km/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 was distributed 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 Dunedin City Council service centres and libraries, and local businesses. NZ Post delivered hard copy submission forms to all homes, businesses and PO Boxes within a 25km radius of Port Chalmers.

3. CONSULTATION QUESTION

The purpose of the consultation phase is to seek 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?”**

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

4. SUMMARY AND RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

We received 48 submissions. We appreciate the responses 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>Extend Scope of Speed Limit Changes:</u> Decrease the proposed highway speed limit through Port Chalmers to 30km/h</p>	<p>Waka Kotahi considered a lower 30km/h speed limit. After assessing the road environment and level of activity, particularly pedestrians over a full 24-hour period, this section of road didn't support such a reduction.</p> <p>To safely implement a 30km/h limit (either permanent or seasonal) would require engineering interventions including reallocating road space, removal of current vehicle parks and kerb build outs. These would significantly change the existing environment and compromise the full range of activities that the highway supports, including providing a critical road freight connection to the Port.</p> <p>In this context Waka Kotahi considered that a 30km/h limit is not appropriate and that a 40km/h limit is a safe and appropriate speed across both a full 24-hour period and annually.</p>
<p><u>Pedestrian Safety:</u></p> <p>Several people who made submissions said they believed pedestrian safety could be improved, if there were more pedestrian crossings on the town's main street.</p>	<p>Waka Kotahi will review pedestrian crossings in Port Chalmers and then prioritise this work for implementation. Pedestrian safety improvement work in the last three years has seen the installation of centreline bollards, wider edge and centre lines.</p>
<p><u>Public Amenities:</u></p> <p>Several submitters were worried the current highway speed puts pedestrians using the town's public amenities such as schools, parks and local businesses at risk from vehicles travelling to quickly into the town.</p>	<p>Over the last three years Waka Kotahi has invested in traffic calming measures to improve pedestrian safety on SH88 through Port Chalmers. Work has included centreline bollards, wider edge and centre lines in the last three years.</p>
<p><u>Heavy Vehicles and Traffic Volumes:</u></p> <p>Many submitters were concerns about increases in heavy vehicles using the highway and increasing traffic more vehicles using this road. They believe the speed limit should be lowered so that these vehicles travel at safer speeds.</p>	<p>That was one of the main drivers for Waka Kotahi proposing a speed reduction for this section of highway. In the last three years a digital traffic speed warning sign was installed on the SH88 western entrance to the town, to help slow traffic down. Port Otago also implemented during the cruise ship season a voluntary speed reduction for heavy trucks servicing the port.</p>

5. DECISION

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

	Current	Proposed new limit
SH88 between Wickliffe Terrace and the Beach Street rail crossing in Port Chalmers.	50km/h	40km/h

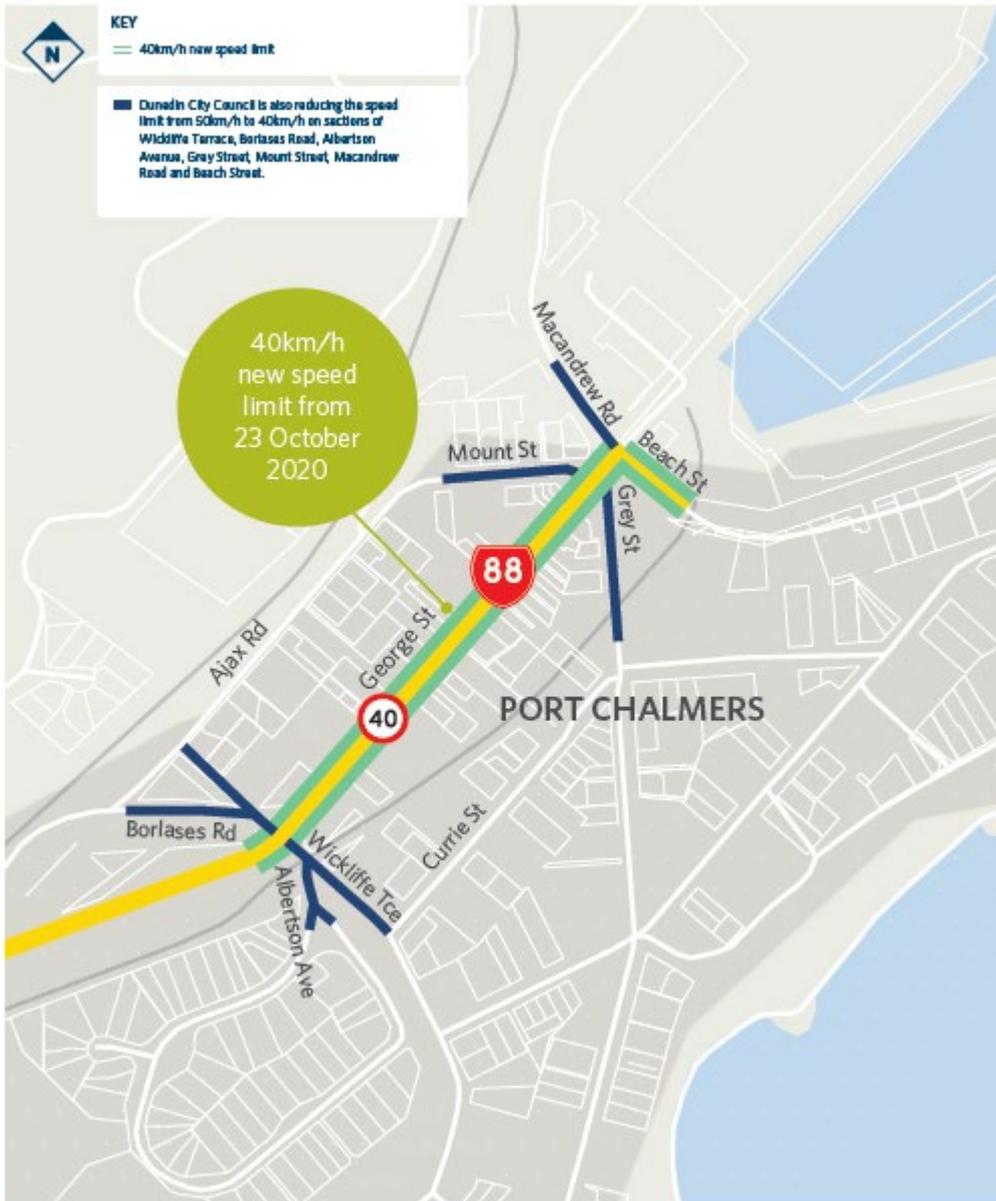
The consultation submissions didn't identify any issues that Waka Kotahi hadn't already considered. The outcome of the speed review was in line with the proposed speed limit change, and the new permanent speed limit outlined below.

The following new speed limit will apply from Friday 23 October 2020:

SH88 Port Chalmers	Existing speed limit	New speed limit from Friday, 23 October 2020
SH88 between Wickliffe Terrace and the Beach Street rail crossing in Port Chalmers.	50km/h	40km/h

Map showing the permanent speed limits

Port Chalmers new speed limit



6. SUBMISSIONS

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