

Speed Limit Review Guidelines

1 INTRODUCTION

This document has been developed to assist applicants seeking a review of speed limits on Council managed roads in the Kingborough municipality.

Speed limits need to provide a reasonable balance between traffic flow and local amenity. In order to be effective, speed limits need to be realistic and credible. Experience and research in Australia and overseas has demonstrated that arbitrarily low limits attract poor levels of compliance, even when subject to regular enforcement.

Speed limits also need to have consistency. For example, it is not appropriate to have changing speed limits along a section of road with localised safety hazards which are best treated with advisory warning signs.

2 TYPES OF SPEED LIMITS IN KINGBOROUGH

2.1 The default speed limits on Kingborough Council owned roads are:

- 50km/h - Built-up areas.
- 80km/h – Unsealed roads outside built-up areas.
- 90km/h – Sealed roads outside built-up areas.

2.2 Other typical speed limit applications on Kingborough Council owned roads are:

- 40km/h – School zones, high pedestrian activity zones, local area traffic management schemes.
- 60km/h – Urban arterial roads and main roads through rural towns.
- 70km/h – Low standard rural sealed roads with elevated crash history.

3 HOW ARE SPEED LIMITS SET IN TASMANIA?

3.1 Speed limits can only be changed by the Commissioner for Transport. If Council considers that a speed limit change is warranted, then a formal submission is made to the Commissioner for consideration/approval.

3.2 The submission needs to be supported by a report that demonstrates that the proposed change complies with the Australian Standards and Austroads Guidelines (see Section 5. References) and must include information on multiple road characteristics such as:

- safety concerns and crash history
- the condition of the road such as road width and alignment

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- the road function and traffic volume
- whether it is used by vulnerable road users such as cyclists and pedestrians
- the number of accesses and intersections
- compliance with Austroads and engineering guidelines.

4 REVIEW PROCESS

- 4.1 Upon receipt of a written application for a change of speed limit Council Officers will inspect the location and complete an assessment of the road characteristics to consider if the proposed change complies with the Australian Standards and Austroads Guidelines.

The speed limit review process needs to consider a speed limit that appropriately balances the road environment, road function and road safety of all road users such that speed limits are realistic, consistent and encourage voluntary compliance.

- 4.2 Council may then consult with the police, RACT, road users and local residents about any proposed change to the speed limit.
- 4.3 A report that demonstrates the proposed change is warranted, including feedback from the consultation process, is submitted to the Commissioner for Transport for review and consideration.
- 4.4 The Commissioner for Transport will notify Council of the outcome of any action required.

5 REFERENCES

- Department of State Growth Transport Services – Speed limits on Tasmanian roads
- Australian Standard AS1742 Manual of uniform traffic control devices
- Austroads Guide to Road Safety
- Austroads Guide to Traffic Management
- Austroads Guide to Road Design
- Austroads Safe System Assessment Framework

Application for Speed Limit Review

Applicant details

Name: _____

Business/Organisation (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Road details

Road name: _____ Locality: _____

Section of road

Start: _____ End: _____

Current speed limit: _____ Suggested speed limit: _____

Reason for request

Please email completed form to kc@kingborough.tas.gov.au