

Submission



SH76/SH1 Christchurch Southern Motorway speed limit review

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SUBMITTED TO: NZTA Waka Kotahi
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Introduction / background

1. Ashburton District Council (Council) welcomes the opportunity to submit feedback on SH76/SH1 Christchurch Southern Motorway speed limit review 2024 consultation. This submission has been prepared by the Council.
2. Ashburton District is located in the middle of Canterbury, an hour's drive south of Christchurch and an hour's drive north of Timaru. More than 36,800¹ residents live in our district. Approximately 50% of our residents live in the main town of Ashburton, with the rest of our residents living rurally or in smaller towns or villages across the district.

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3. We support NZTA's overarching commitment to deliver state highways so people and freight can move quickly and safely.
4. We acknowledge that Christchurch Southern Motorway is a key transport corridor which enables the movement of freight, goods, produce, forestry, and services between Christchurch and areas South of Christchurch.
5. In Ashburton District's case, it is an essential strategic link to get goods and services particularly to Lyttleton Port and Christchurch Airport for international export and domestic transfer throughout New Zealand. It is also a key link to central Christchurch for Ashburton district businesses and residents.
6. Council supports initiatives to enable improved efficiency of movement and as a result increased productivity.
7. Council supports the proposed 110km/hr speed limit for Christchurch Southern Motorway from east of Curletts Road interchange, Addington to west of Weedons Road interchange, Rolleston. This road is designed and constructed to the standard, including safety features that can safely support this increased speed limit.

8. We also support NZTA's intent to undertake safety improvements from Barrington Street to Halswell Junction Road prior to the implementation of any speed limit changes.

9. Council note that increasing speed limit may lead to increased mean speeds on adjoining on and off ramps and could potentially negatively impact road safety. We would like to make following suggestions:
 - i. if the speed limit is to increase, it must be accompanied by increased enforcement policing in the proximity of relevant on and off ramps, interchanges and junctions.
 - ii. enhanced signage indicating the change in the speed limit as well as clear warning of merging to a single lane must be ensured on the northern approach to Rolleston.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on this proposal.

ⁱ Statistics New Zealand Estimated Population 30 June 2023