

16 June 2017

Mapua & Districts Community Association
Attn: Mary Garner
C/- Mapua Hall
72 Aranui Road
Mapua 7005

Dear Mary

Re: Speed limits and parking in Mapua

Thank you for your letter dated 6 June 2017 in regards to speed limits and parking in Mapua village.

Speed limits

I would be interested in understanding whether residents are noticing speed-related problems or safety concerns in any particular areas.

Most drivers will travel at a speed that feels comfortable for them given the 'look and feel' of the road environment, for example road width, presence of roadside hazards, and presence of 'active' users such as pedestrians and cyclists. The safest roads are those where the speed limit is matched by a road environment which naturally encourages speed compliance by drivers.

The most recent traffic count on Aranui Road in March 2017, near number 105, showed average speeds of 45.7km/h at this location, with an 85th percentile speed (i.e. the speed that is exceeded by 15% of vehicles) of 52km/h. This suggests excessive speed is not a particular issue although some works would be required to make Aranui Road 'look and feel' like a place where drivers should be limiting themselves to 40km/h.

Higgs Road, being the other main entrance to Mapua village, would also require some engineering works to create a threshold point where a 40km/h limit would begin. Existing speeds on Higgs Road (at the Mapua Drive end) are higher than Aranui Road, with a mean of 52.7km/h and 85th percentile of 59.8km/h.

The Council have a project in its Long Term Plan (LTP) for streetscaping on Aranui Road, with a timing of 2020/21. This would be an ideal time to ensure the road environment on

Tasman District Council
Email info@tasman.govt.nz
Website www.tasman.govt.nz
24 hour assistance

Richmond
189 Queen Street
Private Bag 4
Richmond 7050
New Zealand
Phone 03 543 8400
Fax 03 543 9524

Murchison
92 Fairfax Street
Murchison 7007
New Zealand
Phone 03 523 1013
Fax 03 523 1012

Motueka
7 Hickmott Place
PO Box 123
Motueka 7143
New Zealand
Phone 03 528 2022
Fax 03 528 9751

Takaka
14 Junction Street
PO Box 74
Takaka 7142
New Zealand
Phone 03 525 0020
Fax 03 525 9972

Aranui Road is engineered to keep traffic speeds down and make the area more pleasant for non-motorists. It would also be a good time to include some works on Higgs Road, such that the entire village could be considered for a 40km/h zone and minimise the number of signs needed. I realise this is some time off, so if there are any specific safety concerns that need addressing in the meantime then we would need to consider those and I would welcome further discussion. Note there is a plan to install a pedestrian refuge island on Aranui Road near Higgs Road in 2017/18 which will make it easier for pedestrians to cross Aranui Road.

This approach of coordinating town centre streetscaping with speed limit changes is currently underway on Queen Street, Richmond.

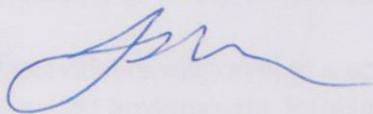
Traffic speeds on most other streets in the village are likely already 40km/h or less, so changing the speed limits on them will probably not achieve much other than needing a whole lot more signs installed.

Parking

The presence of roadside parking tends to help slow vehicle speeds by limiting road width, so reducing parking availability would need to be carefully considered. However, if there are particular safety issues that need addressing then we will look at those.

I would suggest making a time with our urban road engineer Steve Elkington (03 543 8575) to describe the issue and point out the problem spots to him.

Yours sincerely



Jamie McPherson
Transportation Manager

G:\Transportation\Speed\Letters\2017-06-16 - Speed Limits and parking in Mapua - reply to Mapua and Districts Community Association.docx