

Living Streets Aotearoa



Submission from Living Streets Aotearoa - Wellington Rules Reduction Taskforce - countdown clocks

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Submission

The present regulatory controls governing pedestrian countdown meters represent a major impediment to pedestrian safety and are an example of unnecessary regulatory control.

According to written advice dated 14 April 2014 from Hon Michael Woodhouse (Associate Minister of Transport) addressed to Murray Darroch, the question of

- what types of pedestrian countdown meters can be installed and used , and
- the circumstances of where pedestrian countdown meters can be installed and used

is governed by the Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices 2004.

The Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices 2004 absolutely prohibit pedestrian countdown meters that operate on a “time to wait” basis, and they severely restrict the placement of pedestrian countdown meters that operate on a “time to cross” basis. These provisions are onerous and unnecessary, and the Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices 2004 should be amended so pedestrian countdown meters can be installed in conjunction at any traffic light controlled pedestrian crossing-points across any road (other than a motorway or a state highway) where the local territorial authority (as the road controlling authority) considers it is necessary to have them to reduce the risk to pedestrian safety. Furthermore it is our submission that pedestrian countdown meters should be able to operate on a dual phase basis – ie “time to wait” and “time to cross”.

The matter of their placement and operation should be for the local authority to determine based on expert traffic engineering input and input from pedestrian and other user groups. In national jurisdictions (such as Denmark) pedestrian countdown meters operate on a both “time to wait”

and “time to cross” basis. The same should be permitted in New Zealand, and local authorities should have the regulatory tools to determine appropriate placement and appropriate operation based on local need.

About Living Streets

Living Streets Aotearoa is New Zealand’s national walking and pedestrian organisation, providing a positive voice for people on foot and working to promote walking friendly planning and development around the country. Our vision is “More people choosing to walk more often and enjoying public places”.

The objectives of Living Streets Aotearoa are:

- to promote walking as a healthy, environmentally-friendly and universal means of transport and recreation
- to promote the social and economic benefits of pedestrian-friendly communities
- to work for improved access and conditions for walkers, pedestrians and runners including walking surfaces, traffic flows, speed and safety
- to advocate for greater representation of pedestrian concerns in national, regional and urban land use and transport planning.

For more information, please see: www.livingstreets.org.nz