

Living Streets Aotearoa



www.livingstreets.org.nz

Submission to Upper Hutt City Council on Safer Speeds 2023

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the safer speed proposals for 13 Upper Hutt schools.

Living Streets Aotearoa strongly supports the introduction of safer speeds around all schools both so that children will be safer walking to schools and so that support for walking is encouraged and maintained.

There is good evidence that safer 30km/h speed zones significantly reduce the severity of impact of crashes on pedestrians and other at risk road users. The evidence shows that a reduction of speed to 30km/h will mean 90% of pedestrians would survive a crash impact, this is much better than the more than 50% of pedestrians who are killed in 50km/h crashes.

Safer speeds mean that vehicle drivers have more time to see what is happening along the roads they travel and to react to changing circumstances, e.g. children crossing the road.

Safer slower speed zones also allow people living along those roads to be able to cross the road more readily, this is important in creating community and a more pleasant environment. There is research to show that more neighbourly connections occur in places where it is easier to cross the road.

For the above reasons Living Streets support all safer speed zones being made permanent 24 hour zones.

To encourage children to set up healthy active patterns of travel and walk to school, the more roads that are easy for them to use the better. We support creating neighbourhoods with safer speeds and other traffic calming measures by extending safe speed zones more widely. This would encourage non-essential vehicle use to other areas.

Living Streets strongly support further measures to allow children to walk independently to school such as developing raised zebra pedestrian crossings for all primary schools as a priority. We note some schools do not have any pedestrian crossing facilities currently.

We recommend:

- Extending the 30km/h speed zone to Mangaroa Valley Road along to the corner on Flux Road would allow more households to be included in the safer speed zone.

- Heretaunga College – extend the safer 30km/h speed zone to Ferguson Drive and all the way along to Alexander Road
- Birchville Primary School – extend the safe 30km/h speed zone to start at the corner with and extend past more housing to Jasper Grove and including Amber Grove.
- Totara Park School – extend the safer 30km/h zone to Totara Park Rd at the roundabout and along California Drive to Brightwater Cres
- Pinehaven School- extend the safe 30km/h zone to both ends of Jocelyn Cres
- St Josephs – extend on Pine Ave to McParland St to include the pedestrian crossing
- Maidstone Intermediate and School – suggest the safer 30km/h speed zone should include all of the square around both schools, that is Fraser Cres, Redwood St and Clyma St. This would significantly increase the safety of children walking to these schools from all directions. There are many routes through the park to the schools from all these roads.
- Plateau School – suggest a pedestrian crossing on Plateau Road near Molloy St is needed

Alexander Road and Messines Road – Living Streets support the safer 50km/h speed limit to make this road consistent with other residential areas in Upper Hutt.

Moonshine Hill Road – Living Streets support the safer 60km/h speed limit on all of this road.

We would like to be heard in support of this submission.

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.