

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

DRAFT TRAFFIC AND SPEED LIMITS BYLAW 2018

This Summary is made in accordance with section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act).

The Summary:

- Summarises the information in the Statement of Proposal to adopt the Draft Traffic and Speed Limits Bylaw 2018
- Explains how to access the full Statement of Proposal
- Outlines details of the period during which the Council will accept submissions on the proposal.

KEY POINTS IN THE STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

Under sections 158 to 160 of the Act, the Council is required to review all bylaws within five years of their adoption and every ten years thereafter.

Council staff have reviewed Part 12: Traffic and Speed Limits Bylaw 2008 and consider that while some sections are fit for purpose, other sections are outdated or constrain Council's ability to manage traffic within the District. The key changes that have been made are:

1. The existing bylaw is a part of the Consolidated Bylaw which means that some relevant information is contained in Part 1 (Introduction). The Draft Traffic and Speed Limits Bylaw is a stand-alone bylaw containing all relevant information.
2. The current bylaw is not aligned with the Land Transport (Speed Limits Validation and Other Matters) Act 2014, which came into force in July 2015. The draft bylaw has been updated to align it with the most recent legislation.
3. Technical revisions and new definitions have been added to correct a number of inadequacies in the existing bylaw identified by the NZ Police. These include restrictions prohibiting entry onto closed roads, turning, or entry into a no entry area.
4. The current bylaw does not prohibit parking on grass verges. A parked car or heavy vehicle can cause damage to infrastructure or utilities (e.g. water supply pipes) lying beneath the surface of the verge. The addition of a section prohibiting parking on grass verges will enable Council and the NZ Police to require a vehicle to be moved to prevent damage to underlying infrastructure.
5. Trucks can currently park anywhere in urban areas provided they display lighting. However trucks parked overnight in narrow urban roads create safety issues. Complaints are regularly received from members of the public concerning the disturbance caused by trucks idling in

the early morning for long periods of time. The draft bylaw prohibits all medium or heavy goods vehicles from parking on any road in urban areas unless the driver is staying overnight at a commercial registered accommodation facility.

6. Section 12.14 *Heavy Vehicle Restrictions* in the current bylaw restricts all heavy vehicles driving in Whakatāne and Ōhope urban areas unless they meet certain criteria. These exclusions are confusing and difficult to enforce. We wish to prevent long-haul heavy vehicle traffic using local roads as a short-cut to the address safety issues that concern local residents and because the local roading network is not engineered to carry large numbers of heavy vehicles. The Draft Traffic and Speed Limits Bylaw 2018 proposes a new permit regime which will allow trucks up to 12 tonnes (e.g. *Smiths City* trucks) to drive anywhere in urban areas, but prohibits heavy goods vehicles over 12 tonnes from driving through Ōhope unless they meet certain criteria or have a permit allowing them to do so. These restrictions are clear and easy for the NZ Police to enforce. They will improve road safety in Ōhope and reduce wear and tear on local roads.
7. The section 'Bus Routes' has been deleted because Council is not responsible for setting bus routes.
8. The speed limits on some roads have been updated to align it with the recently adopted New Zealand Transport Agency's Speed Management Guide. These are listed in Schedule 3.
9. The text of the existing bylaw is not always clear or easy to read. The wording has been updated, simplified and streamlined to make the bylaw easy to read.

Consultation and Submissions

The formal consultation process will take place between **23 January and 2 March 2018**. Council will hold a public hearing in early April 2018.

Any person or organisation is welcome to make a submission on the Draft Traffic and Speed Limits Bylaw 2018. The Council take into account all submissions when it decided on the final content of the bylaw.

Copies of the Statement of Proposal are available on Whakatane District Council's website <http://www.whakatane.govt.nz>

Hard copies are available from:

- Whakatane District Council 14 Commerce Street, Whakatane
- Whakatane Library 49 Kahahoroa Drive, Whakatane
- Edgumbe Library 38 College Road, Edgumbe
- Ohope Library 4 Harbour Road, Ohope
- Murupara Library / Service Centre Civic Square, 48 Pine Drive, Murupara

Formal submissions may be made:

Online: <http://www.whakatane.govt.nz>

Posted to: Traffic and Speed Limits Bylaw, Private Bag 1002,
Whakatane 3158.

Delivered to: Traffic and Speed Limits Bylaw, Whakatane District Council, 14 Commerce
Street, Whakatane.

Emailed to: submission@whakatane.govt.nz Attention Bylaw Review

Informal submissions can be made by commenting on our Facebook page at
<http://www.facebook.com/WhakataneDistrictCouncil>

Submissions close at 5pm on Friday 2 March 2018.

Submitters should not that their submission will be copied and made available to the public after the submission period closes.

Submission should include your name, address, telephone number and email address and should state if you wish to speak to Council in support of your submission. The Council will contact in writing, all submitters who wish to be heard to advise the confirmed time, date and venue of the hearing.