

THE DOMINION POST

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Five more Wellington areas at 30kmh and more streets likely to slow down

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FAIRFAX NZ

Five more Wellington suburban centres will have the speed limits reduced to 30kmh from February, bringing the total at the lower speed to 17.

It's a case of 17 down, four to go as the Wellington City Council cuts the speed limit in five more suburban centres.

The council voted in 2009 to work on changing the speed limits to 30kmh in all of its 21 "village hubs".

On Friday, five more were added to the 12 already done, and a clear message was sent to council officers: more go-slow zones should be on the table.





FAIRFAX NZ

Northland tunnel is not yet part of the proposed 30kmh speed limit change, but that is being reviewed.

Safer speeds subcommittee chairman Andy Foster said it was clear that communities wanted the restrictions.

The council received 391 written submissions on its proposals, with nearly 80 per cent in support of the 30kmh zones.

"Normally when we do proposals like this, it's 2:1 in agreement," Foster said. "This time it was more like 4:1. The people we heard from are saying, 'Go for it'.

"We have no reason to say no here. The safety aspects say yes, the people say yes, in fact many have signalled the areas should be extended."

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The subcommittee recommended on Friday that the full transport and urban development committee drop the speed limits from 50kmh to 30kmh through Berhampore, Khandallah, Ngaio, Northland and Wadestown shopping centres.

It has also recommended extending the 50kmh limit north on Happy Valley Rd to past Landfill Rd.

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More changes are likely, with councillors asking officers to do more work on the areas the public had highlighted as needing a 30kmh speed limit,

such as Garden Rd in Northland, near Berhampore School in Britomart St, and near the library in Ngaio.

"In an ideal world, people would see that they were coming up to an suburban centre and they would slow down. That doesn't happen, so we need to do things like this," councillor David Lee said.

The Northland residents' association was pleased the council had confirmed the limits would be lowered.

"This is the council working with the community and listening to the people who are using these roads on a daily basis and recognising the need for the speeds to be lower," Creswick Valley Residents' Association executive officer Wayne Newman said.

"The reasonable people will be driving at a reasonable speed, but if the limit is posted at 50kmh, that leaves room for the unreasonable people to be idiotic."

He was also happy to hear the council would be looking into the "sensible" extensions proposed by the public.

Unless the transport committee takes the unlikely step of rejecting the idea, the speed limit will come into effect from

February next year.

THE PROPOSED CHANGES

Happy Valley Rd: Dropping the speed limit from 70kmh to 50kmh from just north of the Landfill Rd intersection to just south of Murchison St intersection.

Berhampore: 30kmh through the shopping area, affecting portions of Adelaide Rd, Palm Grove, Luxford St and Herald St. Between 2007 and 2014, 28 injury crashes were reported in the area.

Khandallah: 30kmh through the shopping area, affecting portions of Ganges Rd, Dekka St and Agra Cres. Between 2007 and 2014, 7 injury crashes were reported in the area.

Ngaio: 30kmh through the shopping area, affecting portions of Khandallah and Ottawa roads. Between 2007 and 2014, 16 injury crashes were reported in the area.

Northland: 30kmh through the shopping area, affecting a portions of Northland and Garden roads. Between 2007 and 2014, 10 injury crashes were reported in the area.

Wadestown: 30kmh through the shopping area, affecting a portions of Lennel and Wadestown roads. Between 2007 and 2014, 7 injury crashes were reported in the area.

POSSIBLE EXTENSIONS

Berhampore: up Britomart St, past Berhampore School to Stanley St.

Ngaio: extend further south up Ottawa Rd to past the library.

Northland: down the full length of Garden Rd and also through the tunnel, and past the school.

Wadestown: extend east down the hill past the library and pedestrian crossing.

- Stuff