

Land Transport Rule Setting of Speed Limits 2024

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the Government making a new Rule for setting speed limits?

The Government is committed to reversing the previous government's blanket speed limit reductions.

The Government will ensure that economic impacts, and the views of road users and communities, are considered alongside safety implications when speed limits are being reviewed.

What is different between the 2022 Rule and the draft Rule?

The most significant differences proposed under the draft Rule are:

- Road controlling authorities (RCAs) are required to undertake cost-benefit analysis on proposed speed limit changes.
- Roads outside school gates will need variable speed limits during drop-off and pick-up times by 31 December 2027.
- The consultation requirements are strengthened, while acknowledging local authorities are also bound by the principles in the Local Government Act. The draft Rule includes a requirement for RCAs to use reasonable efforts to consult specified groups, including persons that use the roads for which speed limit changes are proposed.
- Speed limit ranges for different types of roads are included the draft Rule.
- Making it easier to set speed limits of 110km/h on certain expressways
- The draft Rule requires speed limit reductions on certain types of roads to reverse by 1 July 2025.

Is there funding available for RCAs to implement the draft Rule?

RCAs will be able to seek funding for implementing these changes through the processes for seeking funding from the National Land Transport Fund.

What happens to speed management plans that are currently under development?

Speed management plans developed under the current Rule will need to be revisited to meet the requirements of the draft Rule. This is to ensure the proposed speed limits align with the new classifications schedule, that economic and safety impacts are considered, and that the views of the local community are carefully considered before final decisions are made on speed limit changes.

How does the draft rule support safety around schools?

The draft Rule promotes a consistent approach to speed limits around schools. By the end of 2027, all roads outside school gates will need to have variable speed limits in place during standard school travel times (8-9.30am and 2.30-4pm). This is designed to keep students safe as the enter and leave schools while allowing traffic flow at other times.

How does the new rule fit within the Minister's focus on road safety?

Safety is a key priority in the draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 (GPS). The Government is focused on improving road safety by targeting the highest contributing factors in fatal road crashes, such as alcohol and drugs, and directing investment toward road policing and enforcement, which is one of the most important tools for improving road safety.

The Government will rebalance the Safe System approach, particularly around resetting the approach to speed to ensure a more targeted approach that considers economic impacts and the views of local communities.

You can find more information on the Government's safety priorities in the GPS on the Ministry of Transport's website: www.transport.govt.nz. There will be further updates on the new road safety objectives later this year.

How do I submit on the draft Rule?

Consultation is open from 13 June 2024 to 11 July 2024. You can submit by filling out the online survey or emailing speedrule@transport.govt.nz.