

SPEED LIMITS AND ROAD SAFETY IN REGIONAL NSW

Organisation: Wollondilly Shire Council

Date Received: 1 July 2022

Current Speed Limits

Speeding in Wollondilly Shire is identified as a contributing factor for crashes. The Transport for NSW crash statistics 2015-2019 shows 20% of casualties in Wollondilly LGA where speed contributes to crashes compared to 16.9% for NSW.

Wollondilly Shire has 870+ km of road network. A large proportion of our roads are non-speed sign posted hence it has the default State speed limit of 100kph. The roads are mainly typical of rural roads characteristics being narrow and winding with unsealed/no road shoulders. There are many locations with mature trees lining the road edges and close to steep embankments. Inadequate sight distance due to poor vertical road alignment with many dips and crests on each road. Wildlife is regularly sighted within the road corridor in close proximity to the roadway.

Our Shire is growing and changing rapidly. With forecast growth in Wilton and expected future growth in Appin identified as the MacArthur Growth Area, Wollondilly's population is estimated to double to approximately 100,000 or possibly triple to 150,000 in the next 20 years. The growth has already commenced and the pace of growth is expected to accelerate significantly over the next few years, with substantial population increases likely within 10 years.

The Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act 1999 enables the TfNSW to set speed limits for vehicles through traffic regulations. TfNSW is the only agency authorised to administer the speed zones on all roads (State, regional and local) in NSW. However, there is scope for stakeholders (e.g. local council, members of the public and road safety experts) to make requests to them for changes in speed zones.

Council receives requests from members of the public to review speed limits on regional and local roads on a weekly basis. As Wollondilly is growing and changing the need to be able to review and manage speed limits is becoming a constant burden on Council to be able to keep up with the ever changing road environment. Unfortunately, we do not have the delegation to be able to review safety concerns with existing long standing speed limits, many of which were set decades ago when the Wollondilly landscape looked very different. Speed limits are a constant moving entity that requires close monitoring and action as road conditions change. Unfortunately, all we as Council can do is to request a review through the centre for Road Safety Website and encourage our residents to do the same via <https://www.saferroadsnsw.com.au/haveyoursay.aspx>

Variable Speed Limits

Wollondilly do not have any variable speed limits on roads under our care and control.

Current Speed Limits – are the still suitable?

Council receives requests from members of the public to review speed limits on regional and local roads on a weekly basis. As Wollondilly is growing and changing the need to be able to review and manage speed limits is becoming a constant burden on Council to be able to keep up with the ever changing road environment. Unfortunately, we do not have the delegation to be able to review safety concerns with existing long standing speed limits, many of which were set decades ago when the Wollondilly landscape looked very different. Speed limits are a constant moving entity that requires close monitoring and action as road conditions change. Unfortunately, all we as Council can do is to request a review through the centre for Road Safety Website and encourage our residents to do the same via <https://www.saferroadsnsw.com.au/haveyoursay.aspx> Recommendation from Council:

Road Safety

Contrary to safe driving practice, it is perceived by many drivers that if a road has a default State Limit of 100kph or signposted at another speed limit then the road should be able to be driven at

that speed, rather than driving to the conditions of the road. The large rural road network under Councils care and control and the relatively low rate income per km of road is a huge problem for council to be able to maintain the road network to the standards expected by today's motorists.

Recommendations from Council:

1. Review the process for Local Government to be able to review speed limits to keep up with the changing conditions due to development.
2. Increase the number of Police tasking speeding drivers.
3. Request State Government to reclassify major connecting roads including Silverdale Road, Remembrance Driveway, Menangle Road and Montpelier Drive to allow Council to focus funding and maintenance on local roads.
4. Increase opportunity to secure funding to improve rural road environment for safer driving conditions.

Thanks you for taking the time to consider Councils response.

Regards,

Norma



Norma Toweel

Acting Manager Assets, Transport & Engineering

T
A
E
W

[REDACTED]
P.O. Box 21 Picton, NSW, 2571

[REDACTED]
<http://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au>

