

Submission to Waka Kotahi - NZ Transport Agency

Reshaping Streets Proposed Regulation Changes

August – September 2022



19 September 2022

Introduction

1. The Timaru District Council welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Reshaping Streets consultation.
2. This submission is made by the Timaru District Council, 2 King George Place, Timaru.
3. The contact person regarding the submission content is Susannah Ratahi, Land Transport Manager, Timaru District Council, who can be contacted at suzy.ratahi@timdc.govt.nz
4. The Timaru District Council is a local authority in the South Island serving over 48,000 people in South Canterbury. The main settlement is Timaru, with other smaller settlements of Geraldine, Pleasant Point and Temuka.

Proposed Regulatory Changes – Overview

5. Timaru District Council is broadly supportive of the proposed regulatory changes, which include:
 - a. **a new 'Street Layouts' land transport rule** for local authorities, as road controlling authorities (RCAs), to use for changing street layouts, piloting street changes, restricting vehicles, establishing Community Streets and School Streets, and for deciding on other street changes
 - b. **amending sections in the *Local Government Act 1974 (LGA1974)*** covering pedestrian malls, transport shelters (like bus shelters), and temporary road closures
 - c. **changes to other rules and regulations** so that local authorities can reduce speed limits as part of pilots, trial Traffic Control Devices (TCDs) more effectively, and to make legislation more accessible.
6. Council supports the enabling, rather than prescriptive intent of the proposed changes, as this allows individual Councils to plan and engage with their own communities in a manner appropriate to particular communities and circumstances.

7. Council is pleased to note that the proposed changes align with government transport priorities, and recent funding opportunities for the transport sector, including Streets for People and Transport Choices.
8. Council wishes to emphasise the importance of retaining localised community engagement and subsequent decision-making.
9. In terms of localised community engagement we make the following points
 - i. The role of local Road Controlling Authorities (RCA), and their connections with local communities is of critical importance. Any proposed regulatory changes would need to ensure local Councils retain their current role of managing roads in their areas.
 - ii. The proposed changes align with the approach Timaru District Council is using in its CityTown Project and work programme, where a key driver is working with our community to design the future of our urban centre.