



Mapping speed changes

Changes to speed limits can be controversial. In order to gauge public feedback to potential speed changes, Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council decided to consult on four urban options and four rural options for all the local roads in the region.

Whilst the Speed Setting Rule initially had a focus on safe speeds around schools, previous community engagement had shown demand for speed changes for different road types across the district. In a changing political environment, in late 2023, the two Councils decided to take the innovative approach of providing a wide range of options in its Speed Management Plan to gauge feedback. This included four options for rural roads based on road typology and four options for urban roads based on proximity to schools, tourist areas and town centres. The options created were based on the Safe and Appropriate Speeds framework and overlaying local knowledge.

The GIS team provided support to create a map of what the different urban and rural options would look like when applied to our roads. A GIS model was created to provide a scalable, repeatable mechanism to reflect the options and provide reasons for the change e.g. School Road under Rural Option 1 drops from 60km to 30km because it is adjacent to a school. The model formed the base for content offered through the Shape Tasman/Nelson website via both an interactive and PDF maps. The maps provide people with the ability to look at any road in the district and see the specific information pertaining to each option.