

Waitomo District Council Consultation - Oparure Road Speed Limit Change

FORMAL SUBMISSION FORM

Submissions close at 4pm on Monday 2 March 2026

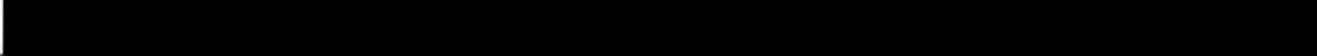
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23 FEB 2026
WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL

You can share your views by:

- Completing this submission form and returning it to us by:
 - o Visiting our Customer Services and Visitor Hub at 160 Rora Street, Te Kūiti
 - o Emailing it to: haveyoursay@waitomo.govt.nz (scan and pdf or take a photo)
 - o Posting to: FREEPOST 112498, Waitomo District Council, PO Box 404, Te Kūiti 3941
- Visiting our website: www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/haveyoursay/oparure-speed-consultation/ and fill in an online submission form

FULL NAME: Flora Beryl Bartholomew PHONE: 

ADDRESS: Tiroo Road, RDI, Te Kūiti

EMAIL: 

ORGANISATION (if responding on behalf of): _____

I wish to speak to Council about my submission Yes No

* Hearings will be held on 24 March 2026. Council will contact you with further details.

Do you agree with our proposal to change the existing 80km/h speed limit on a section of Oparure Road to 50km/h? (from 100m west of Fullerton Road to 600m west of Boddies Road intersections)

Yes, I agree No, I do not agree I'm not sure

Other comments:

I don't see the need for a reduction in speed
It is a slow road anyway especially with
all the large quarry trucks on it every
few minutes
for the majority of the hours of the day
the kura is closed. The parking at
the kura is extensive and the school
vans pick up the children away
from the road. There are wardens +
30km signs when a big function is held at
the Matae, very slow. It will just be an
inconvenience having it at 50 km.



What is road safety infrastructure?

Making roads safer isn't just about speed. There are other things we can do to make our roads safer. That may involve installing or improving the safety of the road, such as signage and line marking.

Council recently installed new **variable** speed limits outside 14 schools across the Waitomo District. These changes mean the existing speed limits outside schools are reduced over the AM / PM periods.

The consultation on Oparure Road is about setting a **permanent** speed limit outside the wharekura and marae.

What happens next?

- A consultation will be undertaken for six weeks from 19 January to 2 March 2026.
- We encourage the community to review the proposal and submit feedback via this Consultation Document or online, www.waitomo.govt.nz/council/haveyoursay/oparure-speed-consultation/
- Our Te Raangai Whakakaupapa Koorero committee will engage with the wharekura, marae and community.
- Once the feedback is in, we'll analyse comments and consider if changes should be made to our proposal.
- Councillors will review those changes and hear from submitters who wish to speak at a Council hearing on 24 March 2026.
- The final plan will be decided and approved by Council.
- The final plan will then be submitted to NZTA's Director of Land Transport for approval and implementation.

Some questions answered

1. *Why is Council consulting on a new speed limit for Oparure Road?*

The road outside Te Wharekura o Maniapoto currently has a speed limit of 80km/h. The first consultation under the old rule agreed to reduce the speed of Oparure Road outside the kura and marae to a permanent 50km/h speed limit. However, since the old rule was revoked by Central Government, implementation of the speed limit change has halted and WDC installed temporary speed limit restriction of 50km/h as a temporary solution until a final solution is implemented.

2. *Why does this consultation not focus on drivers?*

Even the most skilled drivers make mistakes. Speed limits provide the safest possible environment for drivers and their passengers and other road users. Council will continue to promote road safety, and that includes public education campaigns targeting drivers.

3. *Who will enforce the new speed limit?*

If the new permanent speed limit is accepted by NZTA, Police will enforce. (Policing is not the job of Council or Council staff.)

4. *If the new permanent speed limit gets approved, what happens next?*

By law, Council must submit the proposed change to the Director of Land Transport. If approved, Council will then start implementing the change. That will include installing new speed limit signs.

5. *If I have a concern about another road not included in this consultation, what can I do?*

Speed limits on all roads are now set by NZTA. Council undertook a consultation in 2023 regarding the setting of speed limits across the district, ahead of the 2024 Central Government regulation change. We are unable to consider your issue as part of this process, but we value your feedback and may look at it in future.