

Formal Submission –

Subject: Road Safety Improvements Requested – 308 Oparure Road (Retention of 50km/h Speed Limit)

Tēnā koutou,

As Principal of the kura located at 308 Oparure Road, I am formally raising concerns regarding road safety for our tamariki, kōhanga reo children, staff, and whānau accessing our site.

We wish to clearly state that we support retaining the current 50km/h speed limit. However, additional safety measures are necessary to ensure this environment is safe within that speed setting.

Current concerns include:

- Limited advance warning signage identifying the presence of a school and kōhanga reo sites
- Increased traffic movements during drop-off and pick-up times
- Restricted visibility when turning into the kura driveway
- No safe turning space available for school buses

A significant safety issue is that buses must travel to Bodies Road to turn around before returning to enter the school driveway to drop off students. This creates additional heavy vehicle movements and increases congestion and risk during peak times.

Visibility when turning into the kura driveway is also restricted. Drivers exiting or entering the driveway have difficulty seeing oncoming traffic in sufficient time to make safe decisions. This creates avoidable risk for staff, whānau, and bus drivers.

As Principal, I have a duty of care to ensure that all reasonably practicable steps are taken to protect those attending our kura. We believe practical improvements can significantly reduce risk while maintaining the existing 50km/h limit.

We respectfully request that Council:

- Install clearly visible school and kōhanga reo warning signage
- Consider high-visibility or electronic school warning signs
- Undertake a formal traffic safety assessment of 308 Oparure Road
- Investigate safe bus turning solutions
- Install a roadside convex traffic mirror to improve visibility of oncoming vehicles before turning into the kura driveway
- Consider road markings such as “SLOW” approaching the entrance

We are not seeking a reduction in the permanent speed limit, but rather targeted safety improvements that support safe access for our tamariki and wider community.