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Copy to Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health

Proposed new speed limits of 110km/h for Transmission Gully and Raumati Straights

Te Whare Piki Ora o Māhutonga : the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) is the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia. The Aotearoa New Zealand Trauma Committee is committed to preventing and mitigating the effects of fatalities and traumatic injury from road crashes.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal from the New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA) to increase of the speed limit from 100km/h to 110km/h for SH1 Transmission Gully and eventually for SH1 Raumati South (the Raumati Straights).

We have submitted through the NZTA online survey for each road, making three key points:

1. Increasing the speed limit on SH1 Transmission Gully to 110km/h must be conditional on maintaining:
 - ongoing compliance with the current Roads of National Significance design standards for a 110km/h road, including side barriers and off-road protection
 - the current 90km/h speed limit for heavy vehicles and towing vehicles
 - two lanes in each direction so other road users should be able to pass safely.

We recommend a review of all serious injuries and fatalities including external audit at two and four years with an acknowledged preparedness to reverse the 110km/h speed limit if deaths and serious injuries have increased.

2. The Trauma Committee **opposes** the proposed 110km/h speed limit on the Raumati Straights until further consultation following completion of safety improvements required to meet the Roads of National Significance design standards for a 110km/h road.
3. While potential increases in speed limits may facilitate better traffic flow, the paramount concern must be the safety of all road users. We urge that safety remain the primary consideration in this decision-making process and look forward to engaging further on this important topic to enhance road safety standards.

Our Commitment to Road Safety

RACS is committed to supporting initiatives focused on reducing road trauma, preventing deaths, and enhancing the quality of life for those impacted by road crashes. Only with due recognition of the burden of injury associated with road-related trauma can we expect to achieve generational and long-lasting change.

Yours sincerely

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Chair, Aotearoa New Zealand Trauma Committee

RACS represents more than 8300 surgeons and 1300 surgical Trainees and Specialist International Medical Graduates across Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia. We are the accredited training provider in nine surgical specialities.

