

9.4. Review of Speed Limits Within Strathalbyn Town Centre - Community Engagement Results

C011/01/25

Moved Cr Margaret Gardner seconded Cr Peter Oliver

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the Community Engagement Results.**
- 2. Does not progress further with a formal application to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport for a speed limit change to 40kph within the Strathalbyn Town Centre area.**

CARRIED

9.4. Review of Speed Limits Within Strathalbyn Town Centre - Community Engagement Results

Decision Report

Responsible Officer: Alan Harvey (General Manager Infrastructure)

Report Author: Jon Smyth (Manager Assets) and Shaun Smith (Civil and Traffic Engineer)

Previous Decisions: December 23 - C23500, August 24 - C24397

Report Purpose

To receive the submissions and confirm community engagement outcomes from the Strathalbyn Town Centre proposal to reduce the speed limit down to 40km/h and to report on the next steps.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the Community Engagement Results.**
- 2. Does not progress further with a formal application to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport for a speed limit change to 40kph within the Strathalbyn Town Centre area.**

Background

Following the Council resolution (C23500) from the 18 December 2023 Council Meeting, Administration investigated the possibility of introducing a 40km/h speed zone within the Strathalbyn Town Centre. This investigation and recommendation to proceed to public consultation was presented to 19 August 2024 Council Meeting. At this meeting Council approved undertaking public consultation (C24397).

All speed limit changes require Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) approval, even those on roads under Council's care and control. Initial communications with DIT earlier in the year suggested that they would support 40km/h speed limits within the Strathalbyn Town Centre based on the traffic count data, however a final decision would be subject to the standard process including consideration of community consultation as per the Speed Limit Guidelines for SA.

The Speed Limit Guidelines sets out the process that must be followed when applying to DIT for any speed limit changes. The guidelines state that Council should consult with the local community that may be directly impacted by the change. Councils, as elected representatives of the local community, are then responsible for assessing the level of support for the proposal and deciding whether they proceed with an application for the proposed speed limit change. One of the main criteria to the success of the proposal for a change in speed limit is to ensure a high level of community support before implementing a lower speed limit.

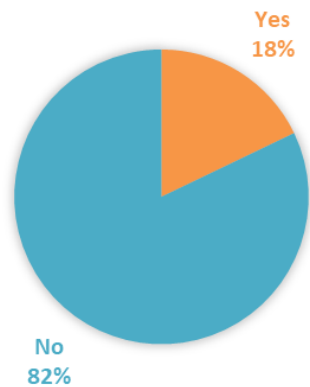
As such Council have undertaken consultation with the community to determine the level of support for the lowering of the speed limit to 40km/h.

Discussion

Public consultation on the proposed speed limit change for Strathalbyn Town Centre was held between 6 November to 30 November 2024. This was achieved through MySay Alexandrina and advertised in the local newspapers, on the MySay website, flyers on local pin up boards and Alexandrina social media platforms. Consultation results are provided in Attachment 1.

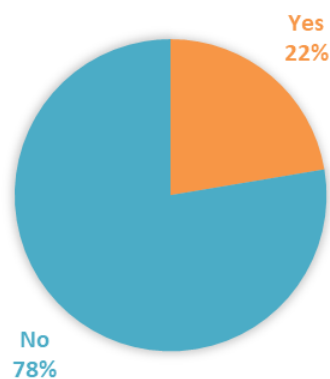
In summary Council received 331 responses to the consultation and of those respondents only 18% were in favour of Council formally applying to DIT to request a speed limit change within the Strathalbyn Town Centre.

DO YOU SUPPORT COUNCIL APPLYING TO DIT TO REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT IN STRATHALBYN TOWN CENTRE



Of the residents and business owners that reside within the proposed 40km/h precinct the result was slightly higher with 22% in support.

RESIDENTS/BUSINESS OWNERS WITHIN THE PROPOSED 40KM/H PRECINCT



A large majority of the residents that were against the proposal suggested in their feedback that the speed limit change was unnecessary and that with the average mean speeds already being below 40km/h that the speed limit change would provide little benefit.

It is noted that 19 August 2024 Council report provided details on traffic surveys within the proposed 40km/h precinct. It was stated within the report that *"These traffic counts have shown that the arithmetic mean speed of the area is 40.9km/h (inclusive of the DIT roads) and 38.5km/h (exclusive of DIT roads)"*.

The full community consultation report can be found on the MySay Alexandrina website.

With such low levels of support from the local community for this speed limit proposal and evidence that supports the feedback from the community concerning the current speed of traffic, the recommendation is to not proceed with the proposal.

Financial Implications

In accordance with the Alexandrina Council's Adopted Budget / Long Term Financial Plan, the financial implications of adopting this recommendation are considered Low as it is proposed that no further action be taken on the proposed speed limit changes within the Strathalbyn Town Centre.

Risk Implications

In accordance with Alexandrina Council's Risk Assessment Matrix, the risk of adopting this recommendation is considered Low as it supports the feedback received by the community.

However, if Council decides to proceed with the formal application to DIT for a reduced speed limit within the Strathalbyn Town Centre, this is seen as a Moderate risk of reputational damage due to the feedback provided by the community.

Attachments

Nil