

FACT SHEET

Onkaparinga Hills Speed Limit Changes

Why reducing the speed limit is important

Tragically, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of people killed on South Australian roads this year. As of 18 October 2023, a total of 93 lives have been lost so far this year, compared to a total of 71 lives lost in 2022. Our community has been directly affected, with fatal crashes and other severe crashes occurring in our city.

Speed is the single greatest influence on the forces experienced by the human body in a crash and therefore speed management is a key factor in a safe road network. Research shows that even a small decrease in travel speeds will lead to significant reductions in crashes and trauma.

Lower speeds:

- allow road users more time to assess hazards and avoid a crash
- reduce both the reaction time and vehicle breaking distance
- make it less likely that a driver will lose control
- reduce the impact forces in the event of a crash and the crash severity.

The risk of a casualty crash approximately doubles with each 5km/h increase in speed on a 60km/h speed limited road, or with each 10km/h increase in speed on higher speed rural roads. Small increases in travel time can therefore help save lives and prevent injury.

The SA Government's Road Safety Strategy is 'Toward Zero Together'. This strategy advises that reductions in the average travel speed across the network is the most effective and swift way to reduce road trauma and would produce significant and immediate road safety benefits.

Reducing speed limits on roads within the Onkaparinga Hills

Our residents often approach us requesting speed limit reductions on the roads where they live, in particular on our rural roads in the Onkaparinga Hills.

These rural roads have curves, crests, intersections, concealed driveways and there are often hazards such as large numbers of trees or slopes in close proximity to the road.

Over time, increasing residential infill also increases traffic volumes on these roads as well as the concentration of people walking, cycling or riding horses.

Through speaking with residents and measuring the number and type of requests we receive, we considered the wider road network within the Onkaparinga Hills.

We then undertook a speed review to report on the performance of eight roads in the Onkaparinga Hills in relation to their operating speeds.

Overall, our review identified that on many of these roads the average speed of vehicles is lower, sometimes substantially lower than the existing speed limit. Lowering the speed limit will therefore have minimal impact on travel times while simultaneously enhancing road safety.

Calculating the average speed of vehicles

For our review, we collected traffic data using an innovative software platform called 'Mooven', which analyses location-based data where the movement of devices such as smartphones is detected and recorded.

This anonymous data allows useful insight into the movement of vehicles, especially when associated with vehicles moving along

a road. If enough devices are detected, the Mooven platform can report on the performance of a section of road, including measuring congestion by measuring the time delay for traffic, journey time and the average speed of traffic.

Approving new speed limits

In South Australia, approving speed limits is the responsibility of Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT). We therefore need to seek DIT's approval when changing the speed limit on our local roads.

DIT sets speed limits in accordance with Australian Standards and DIT guidelines as this provides a consistent approach across the road network.

When setting speed limits, DIT considers a range of factors, including the safety record of the road, the road's operating performance, the road and roadside infrastructure, the road geometry and roadside development.

Having assessed the eight roads within the Onkaparinga Hills, DIT subsequently approved the speed limit changes on these roads in September 2023.

Impact on travel times of reduced speed limits

Reducing the speed limit will only result in small increases in travel time on these rural roads.

One of the main reasons why this is the case is because these rural roads are not straight; they have curves, crests and are sometimes narrow which means vehicles do not travel at the speed limit for the entire trip. Other factors like encountering other vehicles and waiting for vehicles to turn at intersections also reduces overall travel times.

We have conducted practical drive through assessments measuring the increases in travel time at the current speed limits and at the new, reduced speed limits. The assessments have confirmed that the

increase in travel time is small. The increase in travel times range between as little as 4 seconds travelling on Easton Road up to 25 seconds travelling on Potter Road or Upper Penneys Hill Road.

The table provided overleaf shows the results of the eight roads we reviewed including the current speed limit, the average speed of vehicles we recorded using the Mooven platform, the new DIT approved speed limit and the increase in travel time recorded in practical drive through assessments.

Other road safety projects in the area

We have received \$1.55 million Australian Government Black Spot road safety funding to upgrade 700m Piggott Range Road, Chandlers Hill, in proximity of Easton Road. We anticipate this project will be completed in the 2023-24 financial year. Further information can be found on the [Your Say page](#).

We have received \$429,540 Australian Government Black Spot road safety funding to improve safety at the intersection of Piggott Range Road and Upper Penneys Hill Road, Onkaparinga Hills. Construction is scheduled to begin soon with the work anticipated to be completed in the 2023-24 financial year. Further information can be found on the [Your Say page](#).

Next steps

In November 2023, we intend to install the new speed limit signs together with temporary yellow 'Speed Limit Changed' signs which will be removed after 60 days.

Need more information?

If you have a question or would like further information, please contact us:

Email: yoursay@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au

Speed Limit Review Results

Location	Current Speed Limit	Mooven Average Speed Recorded	DIT Approved Speed Limit	Drive Through Increase in Travel Time*
Bains Road, between Piggott Range Road and Knox Drive	80km/h	70km/h	70km/h	18 seconds
Coxs Hill Road, between Panalatinga Road and Emu Creek Lane AND Coxs Hill Road, between Emu Creek Lane and Piggott Range Road	80km/h 80km/h	70km/h 75km/h	70km/h 80km/h retained	10 seconds N/A
Easton Road, between Piggott Range Road and Grants Gully Road	80km/h	60km/h	70km/h	4 seconds
Education Road, between, Piggott Range Road and Singer Drive	80km/h	60km/h	70km/h	9 seconds
Oakridge Road, between 260m and 720m east of Homestead Drive AND Oakridge Road, between Main Road and 720m east of Homestead Drive	80km/h 80km/h	60km/h 60km/h	50km/h 60km/h	7 seconds 10 seconds
Piggott Range Road, between Grants Gully Road and Bains Road AND Piggott Range Road, between Bains Road and Coxs Hill Road	80km/h 80km/h	70km/h 75km/h	70km/h 80km/h retained	13 seconds N/A
Potter Road, between Clarendon Road and Grants Gully Road	80km/h	60km/h	60km/h	25 seconds
Upper Penneys Hill Road, between Piggott Range Road and Craigs Road	80km/h	60km/h	60km/h	25 seconds

* note travel time may vary depending on prevailing traffic conditions.