

Speed Limit Submission

for
Rotoiti East
to
RLC and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency
2021 Review of Rotorua District Speed Limits



One person killed after a truck and car collided at Hongi's Track - 29 March 2021



Truck & trailer rolls at Ruato Bay blocking highway for 16hrs - 6 April 2021



Speed Limit Submission from LRCA

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Introduction

The Lake Rotoiti Community Association Incorporated, (LRCA), welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to Rotorua Lakes Council and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's timely review of Rotorua district speed limits.

Our association is a long standing charitable organisation which takes a leading role in representing a large community of interest in the Lake Rotoiti area. We acknowledge the ongoing support of local and national bodies in support of the interests and welfare of our community and the public.

We note that the roads around the East and North of Rotorua, the West of Lake Rotoiti and beside Lake Rotoma all have reduced speed limits for populated areas to substantially increase the safety of road users.

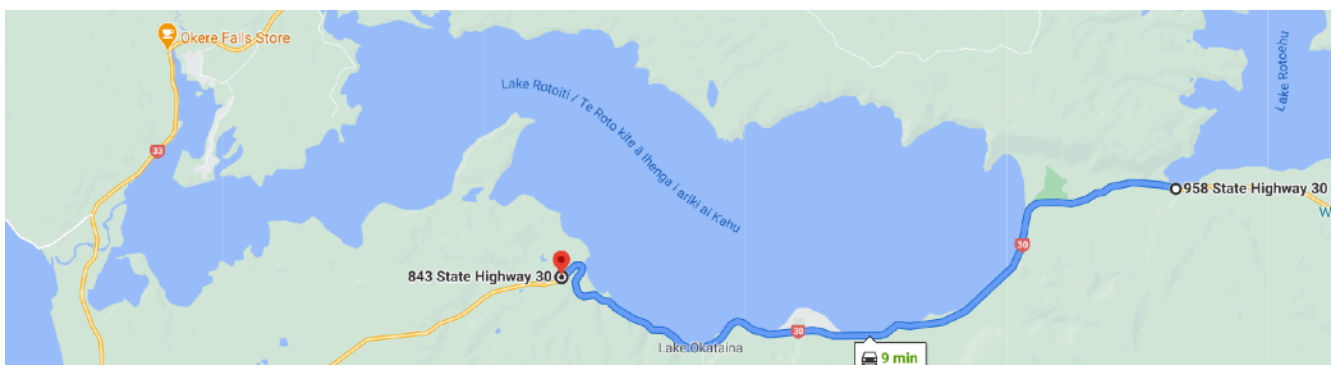
The road along the shore of East Rotoiti stands out as an exception which has not had it's speed limits lowered through it's dangerous and populated areas to improve safety.

Currently the speed limit for State Highway 30 is 100kph between Moose Lodge and Ruato Bay, 80kph from Ruato Bay to Tapuaeharuru Bay at the eastern end of Rotoiti and then 100kph through Hongi's Track.

The 2 serious accidents in the last month, one in which a person was killed and another in which a truck and trailer rolled blocking the road for 16hrs, serve to reinforce the need for change.

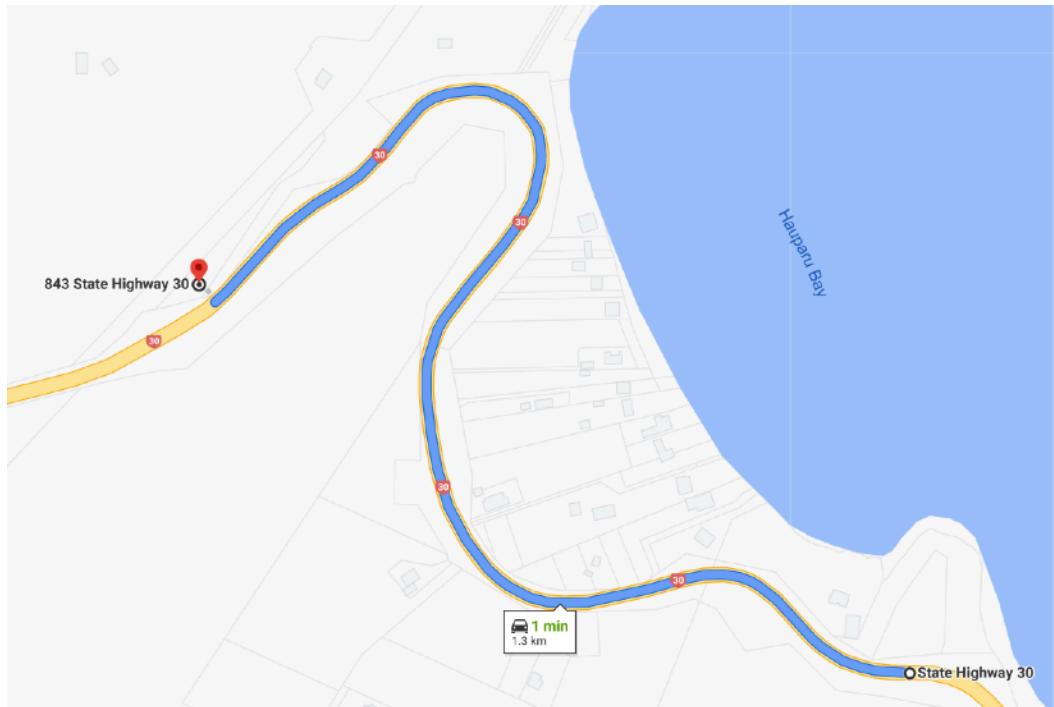
To Mitigate the significant Dangers faced by Road Users of this area, LRCA submits that the Speed Limit should be lowered to 60kph from Moose Lodge to the Eastern end of Hongi's Track. This would reflect the current road signage speed recommendations and the safety needs of the populated areas.

Recommended speed limit review between Moose Lodge and Hongi's Track



Road & Roadside Hazards which need to be Mitigated

Moose Lodge & Hauparu Bay



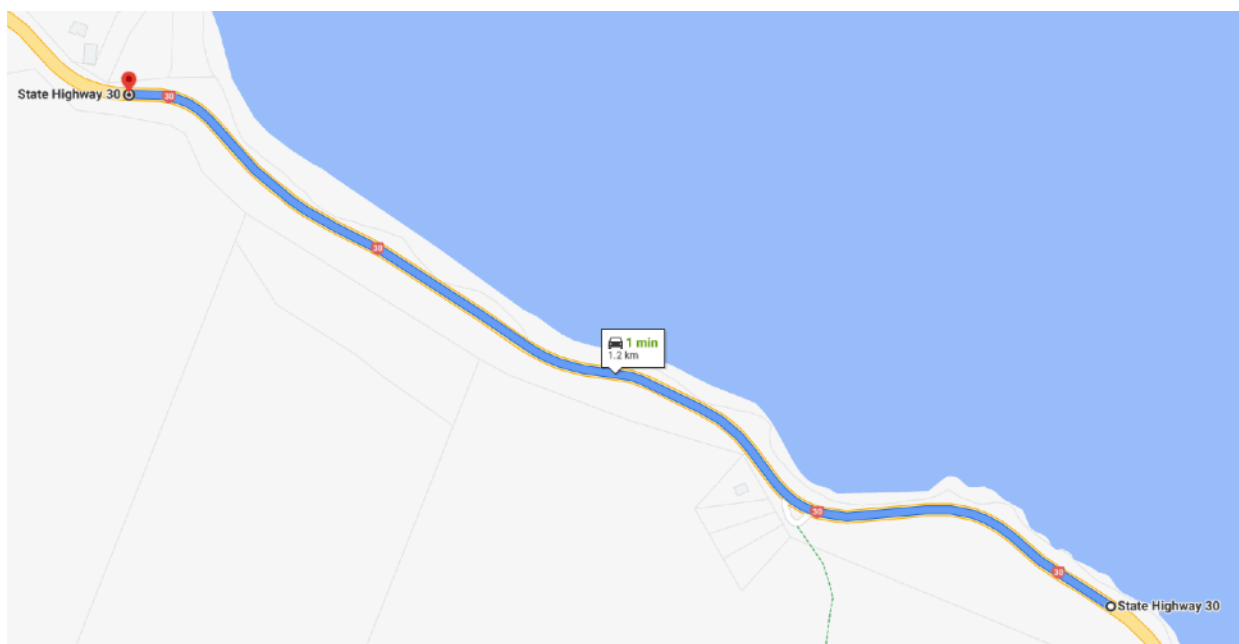
1.2km of windy road from Moose Lodge heading East past Hauparu Bay

Hazards

1. Many concealed driveways with very limited road vision either way particularly at Hauparu bay - and
2. A Burial site
3. Over just 1.2km there are 4 cautionary speed limit warning signs for going round corners, windy road and pedestrians:
 - 1) 45kph,
 - 2) 55kph
 - 3) and 55kph and a
 - 4) Warning sign to watch out for pedestrians

Road & Roadside Hazards which need to be Mitigated (Cont.)

Hauparu Bay to Ruato Bay



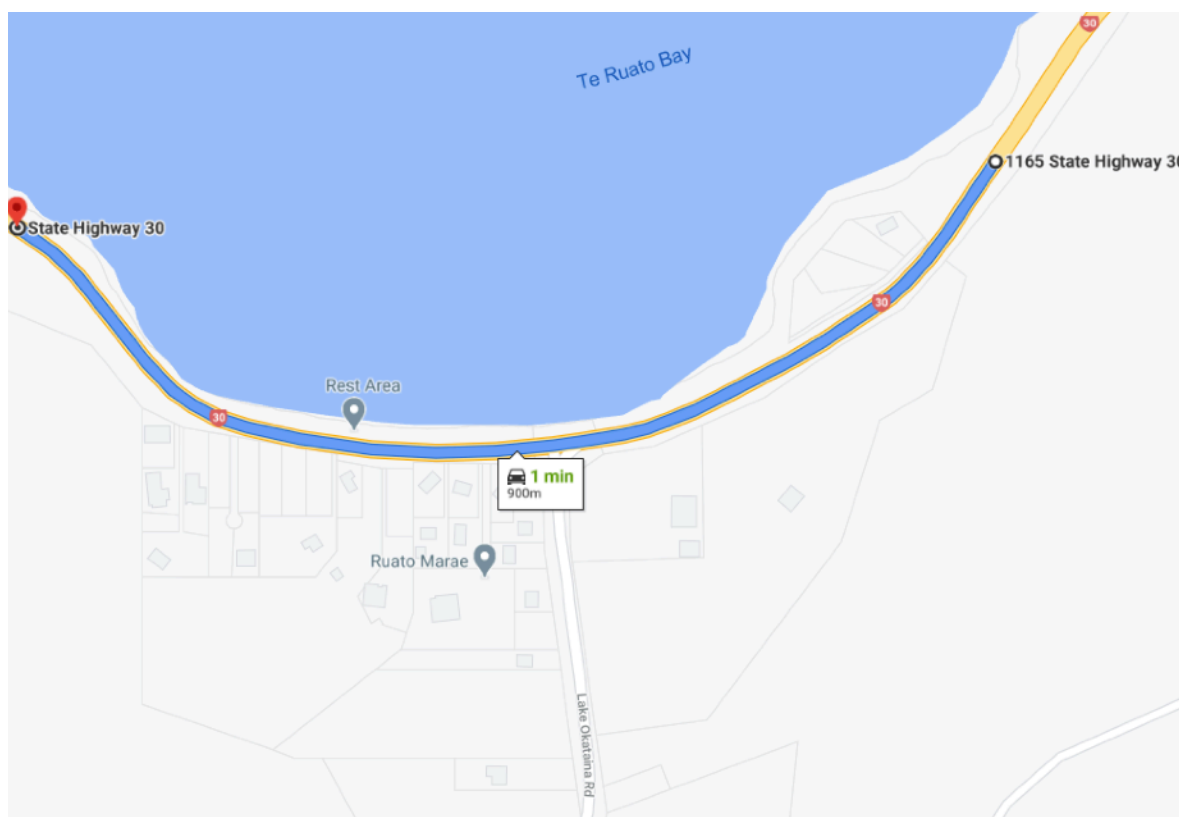
1.2km of narrow windy road with rock cliff above road and steep drop off 50 metres into the lake below road

Hazards

1. Warning sign for 65kph maximum speed for going round corners on windy road ahead
2. Warning sign to watch out for falling boulders falling from high cliffs above the road hidden around corners ahead
3. Warning sign about there being no shoulder on the edge of the road and therefore unrestricted drop from the road 50m down steep bank into the lake has disappeared for unknown reasons as hazard remains present.
4. Cars entering and leaving Rotoiti to Okataina walking track and residences in same area

Road & Roadside Hazards which need to be Mitigated (Cont.)

Ruato Bay



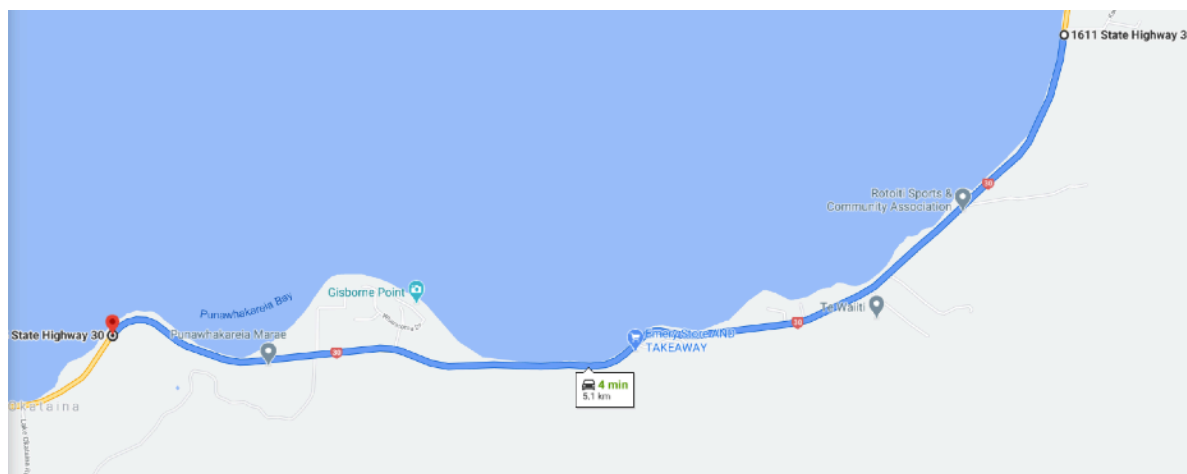
900m road around Ruato Bay

Hazards

1. Ruato Bay Community on the southern side of the road
2. Fishing, swimming, rock jumping, picnicking and rest areas on the other north side
3. Warning sign to watch out for pedestrians - pedestrians frequently cross the highway - especially children from the local community.
4. Major intersection to Lake Okataina at the Eastern end of the bay with
5. Ngapumanawa Marae to the West of the intersection and
6. Waikohatu Marae to the East and
7. Night fishermen fishing the two stream mouths in the bay which are renowned for some of the biggest trout in the region. The larger of these two is immediately opposite the Okataina intersection

Road & Roadside Hazards which need to be Mitigated (Cont.)

Ruato Bay to Hinehopu



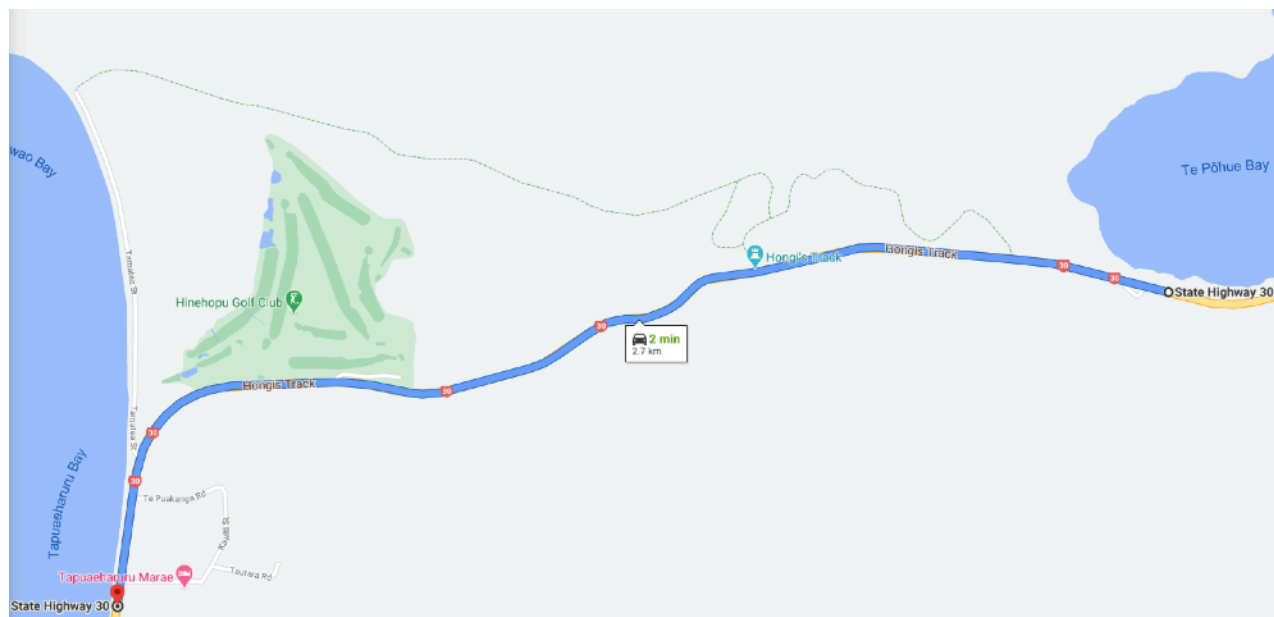
5.1km from Ruato Bay to Hinehopu

Hazards

1. Many dwellings on both sides of the road with difficult access and many with limited vision in at least one direction
2. 4 Maraes spread along its length
Te Puna Whakareia Marae, Tuarua Marae, Hinekura Marae and Tapuaeharuru Marae
3. The Rotoiti Sports & Community Association Rugby Club, playing fields and children's playground
4. The RLC Sewerage processing plant
5. Emery Store - local grocery and fast food store - with jetty for boats collecting provisions
6. Gisborne Point and Emery Rd communities
7. Gisborne Points has 2 boat launching ramps for visitors as well
8. Fishing stream mouths often frequented during times of poor visibility at dusk or at night
9. Walking pathways on one side or the other of the road requiring pedestrians to cross the highway from stage to stage.
10. The local Te Reo school Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Te Rotoiti with 50 plus students from 5 to 12 years old
11. Lighting along the length of the road is poor as is the condition of the verges

Road & Roadside Hazards which need to be Mitigated (Cont.)

Hongi's Track



2.7km Hongi's Track

Hazards

1. 3 Roads, (Tamatea St, Tamateatutahi St and Te Puakanga Rd), provide access to small communities and Tamatea St to:
 - 1) The most East Rotoiti boat launching ramp and
 - 2) Hongi's walking track from Lake Rotoiti to Lake Rotoehu
2. Along the bushed section of Hongi's track are:
 - 1) A timber Mill & Log Cabin business
 - 2) The Hinehopu Golf Club with 18 hole course and
 - 3) Hinehopu's wishing tree and access to Hongi's track
3. The road is windy and narrow with unforgiving large tree trunks on its edge either side
4. Signs warn motorists of dangerous conditions when frosty, windy road next 1km, 65kmph maximum speed recommended, and slippery conditions when wet or frosty!

Significant Vehicle, Driver and Pedestrian Dangers

1. Many large truck and trailer units use the route - they may not be in danger but anyone in their path certainly is and they have minimal ability to avoid danger at 80 to 100kph



2. Many vehicles using, accessing and leaving the road are towing heavy trailers making them a large sitting targets with limited manoeuvrability



3. Many in the East Rotoiti community are either elderly or young, (including school children), and in both cases are vulnerable walking beside and crossing the road when vehicles are travelling at 80kph or more



Significant Vehicle, Driver and Pedestrian Dangers (Cont.)

4. Large numbers of people attending events at Maraes such as Tangis, festivities or huis maybe preoccupied with other matters - eg grief - and more at risk



5. Likewise members or visitors to the Rugby or Golf Clubs during the day or in the evening
6. Tourists unfamiliar with NZ country roads
7. Speeding motorists taking risks passing other vehicles on the few short straight stretches with concealed driveways
8. Drivers, eg holiday visitors, unfamiliar with the safest ways to access the highway from driveways with difficult access and very restricted vision of the clear road available to do so



9. Night fishermen fishing the stream mouths often in dark restrictive clothing are difficult to see beside or when crossing the road

Recommendations

Road users of State Highway 30 between Moose Lodge and Hongi's Track face numerous road and roadside dangers.

Where there is limited population multiple hazards exist - such as sharp, corners, rockfalls, slippery road in icy and wet conditions, unforgiving borders either through large drop offs directly into the lake or into substantial tree trunks. The highway is peppered with signs warning that corners / windy road should be driven at 45kph, 55kph and 65kph, that it is slippery in icy or wet conditions and that drivers should watch out for rockfalls and pedestrians.



The road warning signs in these areas make it clear that driving at 60kph or less is advised and driving at 100kph is dangerous!

In the populated areas, difficult roadside access to the highway, an assortment of sports and community organisations including a junior school, less manoeuvrable vehicles such as large truck & trailer units and vehicles with boats and caravans in tow, and pedestrians and drivers who may not be familiar with highway's dangers all combine to create a lethal cocktail!

Again 60kph is far more appropriate than the current 80kph to protect the safety of the public who should expect to enjoy the beauty of the lake and its community in safety.

In just the last month the unfortunate death at Hongi's track and the overturning of a truck and trailer unit at Ruato bay that blocked the highway for 16hrs just serve to reinforce the need for urgent action.

We submit that the speed limit for the section of road between Moose Lodge and Hongi's Track be reduced to 60kph.



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