



AA Taranaki District Council

July 2022



Photo: Sean Comber

Our priorities for transport in Taranaki

Urban and rural speed limits

AA Taranaki believes efficiency and safety are appropriate objectives for setting speed limits in our district. We are concerned that budget constraints are leading to simple, blanket speed limit reductions. Instead, we would like to see a more balanced approach that allows for current speed limits to be retained where roads and their local environment permit, with upgrade works where necessary.

State Highway 43 (Forgotten Highway) improvements

After many years of advocacy, AA Taranaki is very pleased to see sealing progress on the remaining (Tangaraku Gorge) section of SH43, as well as increased preventative maintenance work and safety improvements.

State Highway 3 north of New Plymouth - improvements

AA Taranaki contributes to Waka Kotahi-NZ Transport Agency's SH3 Working Group, which is looking into improvements between New Plymouth and Piopio. The group has been successful in securing improvements like the recently completed Awakino Tunnel Bypass.

State Highway 3 south of New Plymouth - safety upgrades

AA Taranaki is one of several stakeholders contributing to Waka Kotahi's consultations on practical safety solutions, upgrades, and pragmatic speed limits for this road.

State Highway 45 safety

SH45 has a long history of serious crashes. We think it is appropriate for a review of speed limits and for further safety features to be installed along the road.

Active transport (walking/cycling/scooters)

Many AA Members use roads as cyclists, pedestrians, moped riders or on mobility scooters. Issues arise where road design makes safe sharing challenging - such as when there are inadequate shoulders, different transport modes are travelling at different speeds, or there is too much congestion. AA Taranaki encourages roading authorities to provide suitable transport corridors for all users, but where these don't currently exist we encourage people to be considerate in their use of footpaths and other carriageways and call out poor behaviour.

South Taranaki bus services

Restricting people's ability to travel freely has serious social and economic consequences. Improved public transport services are therefore an essential part of our whole transport network. In 2014 we welcomed the introduction of the Opunake, Hawera, New Plymouth Daily Connector bus service by the Taranaki Regional Council. Our current focus is advocating for a daily Waverley to Hawera bus service.

Driver training

AA Taranaki District Council includes people involved in driver licence programs and young driver education. We continue to advocate for easier access to driver licensing and testing services in rural communities. We also promote the expertise of the AA's own driver training for learner drivers, people wanting to improve their defensive driving, and for businesses operating vehicle fleets. As a refresher session for experienced drivers, the AA's one hour individualised Senior Driver Coaching Session 65+ is aimed at drivers aged 65 and over. Discounts apply for AA Members. Drivers aged 74 and over who are AA Members can benefit from a free Senior Driver Coaching Session 74+ available once every two years.

Low emissions transport

The AA has an active interest in the development of fossil fuel alternatives, including the industry-leading work by Taranaki-based Hiringa Energy, which is developing a green hydrogen-fuel network in New Zealand for heavy vehicles.

[Find out more about our AA Council overleaf](#)



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GUIDING
LIFE'S
JOURNEYS
FOR OVER
110 YEARS.
New Zealand
Automobile
Association



About us

The AA Taranaki District Council (AA Taranaki) is one of 18 regional AA Councils that are part of the New Zealand Automobile Association.

The AA has more than 1.8 million Members across New Zealand, of which well over 31,000 are personal Members living in Taranaki.

AA District Councils represent AA Members on local transport and road safety issues. AA Councillors come from a range of backgrounds. In Taranaki this includes farming, roading, transport, teaching, planning, and working in local government.

The AA has a long history of contributing to transport issues both nationally and locally. We aim to represent AA Members' interests in a balanced way, drawing on the AA's considerable technical expertise and research capabilities assisted by regular surveys of AA Members.

We maintain strong relationships and collaborate with government and non-government organisations in the transport sector. We become aware of transport or road safety issues in Taranaki through information shared with us by other AA Members as well as through national/local government consultation processes and AA Head Office information.

If you have a transport issue that you think we could assist with, AA Councillors are happy to comment, provide advice or advocate on your behalf where appropriate.

Contact us

If you would like to get in touch with the AA Council please contact:
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New Plymouth – fcroot@aa.co.nz



Back Row: Fiona Croot (AA Taranaki District Manager), Gavin Lysaght, Ralph Broad, Graham O'Brien, Denise Holmes

Front Row: John Sutton, Wayne Benton, John Maxwell (Chairperson), Marion Webby (Vice Chairperson), Harry Duhnhoven

Absent: Kieran Best (photo inset)