

Memorandum

To: Toituu Marae Forum
From: Janette Underwood, Road Safety and Traffic Engineer, Assets & Infrastructure
Subject: Marae Destination & Speed Signage
Date: September 2026

Marae Priority

Marae road safety

He aha te kaupapa?

The Assets and Infrastructure team seeks the Toituu Marae Forum's feedback and support for a district-wide road-safety programme around marae, including improved destination and warning signage and temporary speed limits during high-activity events.

Why is this important?

During engagement on the Waikato District Speed Management Plan, marae identified concerns about vehicle speeds and safety, particularly during events when there are increased numbers of people, vehicles and pedestrians.

While some speed limits near marae were reviewed, current legislation limits the ability of Council to reduce permanent speed limits in many locations.

As a result, Council has investigated other tools to improve safety and visibility around marae.

What is being proposed?

Marae destination signage. Council proposes a consistent district-wide approach using advance warning and location signs to help visitors and emergency services find marae and reduce unsafe U-turns near entrances. WDC's preference is for a single design motif for efficiencies and cost savings.

Council is seeking feedback on whether:

- One design should be used district-wide, or
- Individual marae should choose from a range of approved Maaori motif designs.

Temporary Speed Limits:

Temporary speed limits. Recent traffic-management changes could enable marae to activate approved speed-management plans during high-use events, reducing vehicle speeds and creating safer environments for whaanau, manuhiri and surrounding communities.

What has happened so far?

- Marae were engaged during development of the Speed Management Plan.
- Vehicle speed concerns were identified across a number of marae locations.



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- Council reviewed speed limits where possible.
- New approved marae signage options have since become available.
- New traffic management guidance now enables temporary speed limits to be considered.

What is Council asking the Forum?

Council would like feedback on:

1. Support

Is there support for a district-wide programme of marae destination signage and, where appropriate, temporary speed limits?

2. Support and Funding Advocacy

Council does not currently have a dedicated budget for this work. We are therefore seeking the Forum's view on the proposed initiative and, if it is supported, its agreement to use our collective influence to advocate for funding. Council would also pursue relevant funding opportunities, partnerships and other mechanisms to support implementation.

3. Delivery

If a programme proceeds, each marae would be engaged to discuss:

- Appropriate signage requirements
- Preferred sign layouts and motifs
- Whether temporary speed limits would be suitable
- Development of site-specific management plans.

Potential Benefits for Marae

The programme could improve safety for whaanau and manuhiri, make marae easier to locate for visitors and emergency services, reduce unsafe vehicle movements, and support safer speeds during major events.

What Happens Next?

Following discussion at the Forum:

1. Feedback and whakaaro will be gathered from Forum members.
2. Council will consider opportunities for funding and partnership support.
3. Further engagement would occur with individual marae if a district-wide programme is progressed.
4. Any proposed implementation approach would be developed in partnership with marae.

