

11.1 Speed Limit Change - Great Eastern Highway, Greenmount - Cr Luke Ellery

File Code	Gr. 2
Author	Shane Purdy, Director Built & Natural Environment
Senior Employee	Jason Whiteaker, Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	Nil

NOTICE OF MOTION

Cr Luke Ellery has given notice that at the Ordinary Council meeting on 10 June 2025 he will move the following motion:

MOTION

That Council:

1. Notes that Main Roads plans to reduce the speed limit on Great Eastern Highway from Lionel Road, Darlington to Scott Street from 80km/h to 70km/hr, both East and West, on 16 July 2025, as advertised on their website; and
2. Requests the Chief Executive Officer write to Main Roads WA as a matter of priority requesting the following:
 - That Main Roads WA defer their decision;
 - That Main Roads WA conduct extensive community consultation noting Great Eastern Highway is a National Highway;
 - Reminds Main Roads that the Shire of Mundaring Advocacy position is specifically for an upgrade to the Great Eastern Highway intersection including an intersection to facilitate safe easterly and westerly movements from Scott Street onto the Great Eastern Highway.

REASONS

Cr Ellery has provided the following reasons for this motion:

- *“Main Roads has advertised the speed limit changes to one of the most dangerous intersections in the Shire:*
<https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/about-main-roads/what-we-manage/speed-zoning/>
- *Mundaring Council and the community were not consulted prior to advertising this change*
- *The change will likely defer any upgrades to the intersection as advocated for specifically in our advocacy position*
- *As the intersection already has a speed limit of 70km/h, it is highly questionable that this change will improve conditions whilst deferring needed intersection changes.”*

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Shire of Mundaring Council Plan 2024 - 2034

Objective 4 - Sustainable Communities

Outcome 4.1 - Facilitate improved community safety.

OFFICER COMMENT

Shire staff were advised by a Main Roads WA speed zoning officer of a review of speed limits on Great Eastern Highway between the rail bridge, Midvale and Sutcliffe Road, Mundaring (14.1km length) on 2 April 2025 ahead of a proposed meeting that Main Roads WA were having with the WA Transport Minister and Dr Colin Hughes.

The review went through;

1. Recorded crash history over the length of the 14.1km road section covering the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2023.
2. Braking heatmap providing locations of hard braking thus indicating spots of near misses. This is a new investigative tool through a license with Compass IoT where data is collected from 64 brands of cloud connected vehicles.
3. Curve surveys which indicate a safe driving speed for each curve both eastbound and westbound.
4. Operational speeds for the 85th percentile covering five different road sections (rail bridge to Greenmount Rise, Greenmount Rise to Bilgoman Road, Bilgoman Road to Grancey Avenue, Grancey Avenue to Chipper Street, Chipper Street to Sutcliffe Road).

As a result of these investigations the section between Greenmount Rise and Lionel Street was identified as the most problematic clearly having the highest recorded crash data, highest braking heat map and with four roads curves where the safe driving speeds were between 70 km/hr and 80 km/hr.

Based on these investigations the Main Roads WA officer concluded their presentation advising that based on these investigations they were contemplating a recommendation to lower the speed limit between Lionel Road and Greenmount Rise from 80 km/hr to 70 km/hr to address the identified road deficiencies. This review it was noted still needed to go through senior levels at Main Roads WA so was not a determined position.

Shire officers heard no more until becoming aware through the Main Roads WA website that the change in speed limit as contemplated had progressed to an approval. Advice on the website notice was sought from the Main Roads WA speed zoning officer was contacted whom advised that no consultation on the approved change was to occur and a communication plan was under development.

Main Roads WA are the statutory authority for establishing speed zones and erecting and maintaining speed limit signs and will consult with Local Governments on speed zones for local roads. In this case, Great Eastern Highway is a declared main road being the responsibility of Main Roads WA. No formal consultation or feedback is typically undertaken in these instances.

In relation to the proposed intersection upgrades, a recent update on the investigations by Main Roads WA into the safety upgrade options for Scott Street and Great Eastern Highway has indicated the various options are under internal review with costings for each option and 3D modelling prepared. They hope to present to the findings to the Shire for discussion by end of June.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

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