

Moutere Hills Residents Association Submission to the Tasman District Council

Review of Consolidated Bylaw Chapter 4 - Speed Limits Bylaw 2004 Lower Neudorf Road – Speed Limit Reduction

About the MHRA

The Moutere Hills Residents Association (MHRA) is an incorporated society that represents members from throughout the wider Moutere Hills area.

The MHRA aims to promote interest in the social, environmental, economic and cultural life in the Moutere Hills area; to determine the consensual opinion of residents and ratepayers on the development of the Moutere Hills area; and to act as a channel of communication between the Tasman District Council and any other statutory bodies and the residents of the Moutere Hills area on matters relevant to the community.

Objectives of this Submission

To request consideration of a speed limit reduction on Neudorf Road from Prices Corner to corner of Rosedale Road/Kelling Road from 100 kph to 80 kph, as it is being applied to several comparable local roads in the Ruby Bay/Tasman area.

Background

Neudorf Road is growing rapidly as a feeder route from the inner Moutere Hills District to the Moutere Highway.

Traffic includes a large number of commuters from areas served by the road such as Rosedale, Blackbird Valley, Dovedale, and parts of Motueka Valley, farming-related traffic, and a considerable number of logging and stock trucks.

The road is popular with local and occasionally regional cyclists.

Situation

While Neudorf Road largely passes through sparsely populated countryside, the final few kilometres from Kelling Road/Rosedale Road intersection to Prices Corner run past many smaller land holdings with a much higher population density, making road safety concerns on this section more significant.

There are about 30 entry points to the road from residential and agricultural properties along this section.

The road condition is generally good for vehicles – quite straight and often downhill, so traffic tends to travel at the maximum rate of 100 kph or more.

However, there is not much verge for cyclist or pedestrian safety, and the road undulates to the extent that a large proportion of the many private entranceways are hidden from view, as are cyclists, and in some places other vehicles. This road section does not have yellow centre lines.

A particular area of concern is the area from the entrance to Neudorf Vineyards winery and the two neighbouring entrances. Vehicles travelling at 100 kph over the Kelling Road intersection rise appear in view for only a very short period before they are running up close to vehicles emerging from these driveways.

The same occurs at the area where driveways emerge close to the middle bridge.

Conclusion and Further Community Input

We believe the section of road described is another good example of how a general rural speed limit of 80 kph would be much more appropriate than the maximum allowable 100 kph.

The Moutere Hills Residents Association is in the process of consulting both with its members and local residents on the issue and will endeavour to present a widely supported view to council. We have already received several statements from Neudorf Road residents voicing their concern and supporting the issue.

Even at this time we believe there is reason enough to request that the section of road described is reviewed by council for options to reduce speed to improve road safety and wellbeing of the local residents.