



WCC REF TR13-26 – Sacred Heart Cathedral School & St Mary's College Variable Speed Limit Amendment

Submission Opposing the Proposed Amendment

To: Wellington City Council, Regulatory Processes Committee

Date: 29 January 2026

Introduction

The Thorndon Residents' Association (TRA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment to the variable speed limit signage on Hawkestone Street.

The TRA supports safe speeds outside schools. However, we oppose the proposed amendment because it appears to replicate the same statutory, safety, and procedural issues that arise in the Hobson Street / Queen Margaret College proposal (TR25-26).

Our detailed submission on that matter has already been provided to the Council for consideration by the Regulatory Processes Committee.

1. The same Rule applies – and the same non-compliance appears to be occurring

The Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2024 requires variable speed limit signs to be located **at least 150 metres from school access points**.

In the Hawkestone Street proposal, officers again state that signs “cannot be installed” on a motorway bridge and propose shifting them closer to the school. If this results in a sign location **within 150 metres of school entrances**, then, exactly as with Hobson Street, the proposal would be **non-compliant** and therefore cannot lawfully proceed. The Council’s own consultation material again acknowledges the 150-metre requirement, yet the proposed location appears to fall short of it.

2. Engineering constraints do not override statutory requirements

As we stated in our Hobson Street submission, the Rule provides **no exceptions** for installation difficulties. If a bridge structure cannot support signage, the Council must:

- identify an alternative compliant installation method, or
- extend the zone, not shorten it.

The same principle should apply here.

3. Safety impacts mirror the Hobson Street case

Shortening the 30 km/h zone reduces the buffer distance before students reach:

- the St Mary's College entrances of which there are two in the street
- the pedestrian crossing points and refuges in medians on Hawkestone Street

This contradicts the purpose of the Rule and the Council's own "Impact" statement.

4. Consistency and process integrity

The TRA is concerned that two separate proposed school zones in Thorndon have now encountered the same issue:

officers proposing non-compliant sign locations after discovering too late that the originally approved locations were not buildable.

This pattern undermines confidence in the engineering assessment process and in the integrity of the consultation material.

The Committee should not approve a second non-compliant proposal.

5. Requested decision

The TRA respectfully requests that the Committee:

1. **Reject the proposed amendment** if the revised sign location is within 150 metres of school access points.
2. **Direct officers to apply the same principles and corrective actions** we set out in our Hobson Street submission, including identifying compliant engineering solutions rather than shortening safety zones.
3. **Ensure consistent application of the 2024 Rule** across all Thorndon school zones.
4. **Engage early with the affected community** (*with its deep understanding of 'place'*) well before future proposals are released for formal public consultation.

The TRA supports safe speeds outside schools.

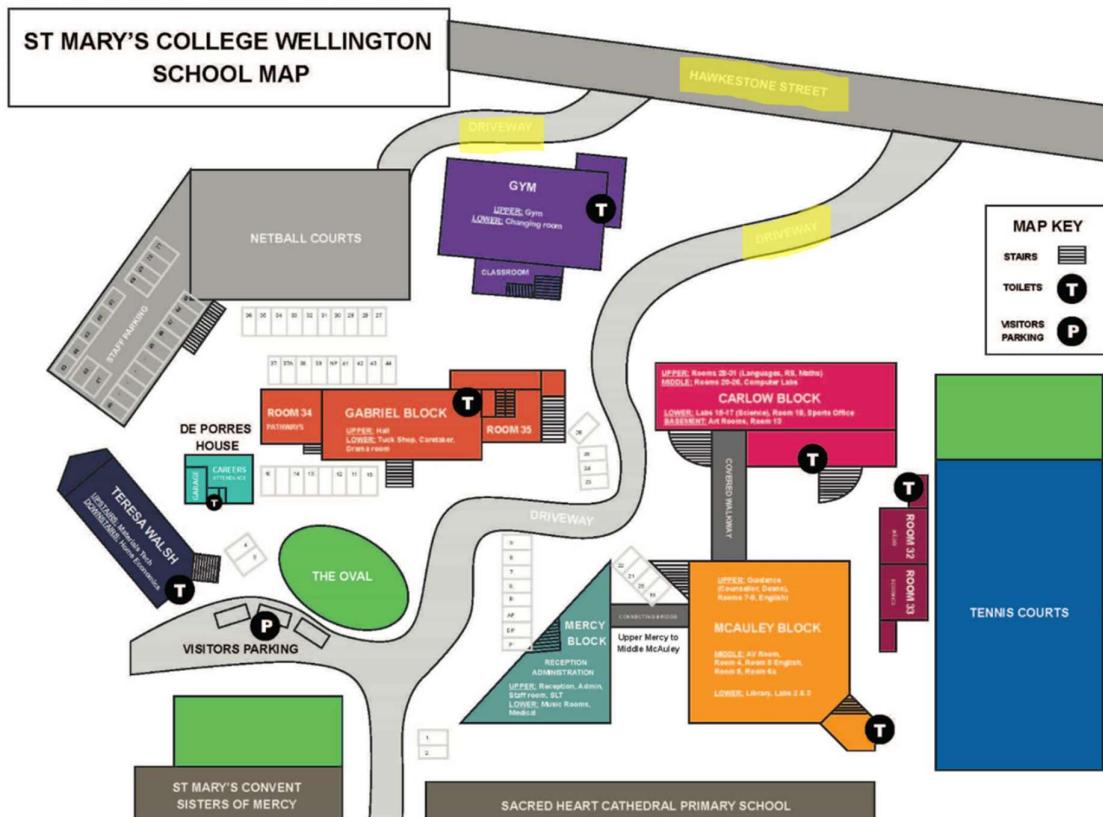
We cannot support proposals that are **non-compliant, unsafe, or procedurally flawed**—whether on Hobson Street or Hawkestone Street.

Some of the specific safety concerns regarding Hawkestone Street are illustrated in Appendix One.

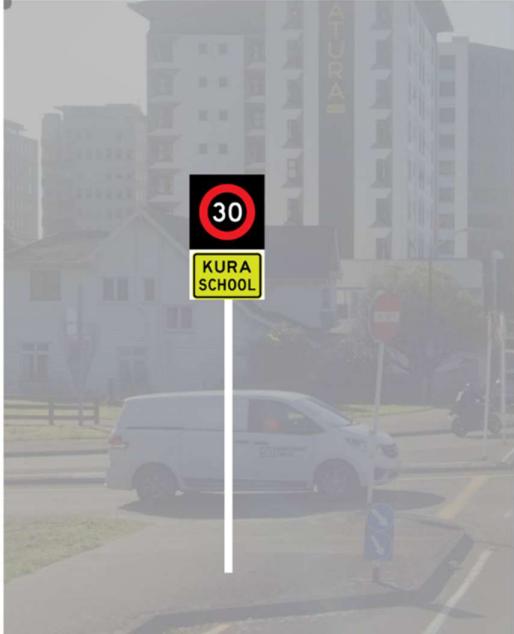


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Appendix One

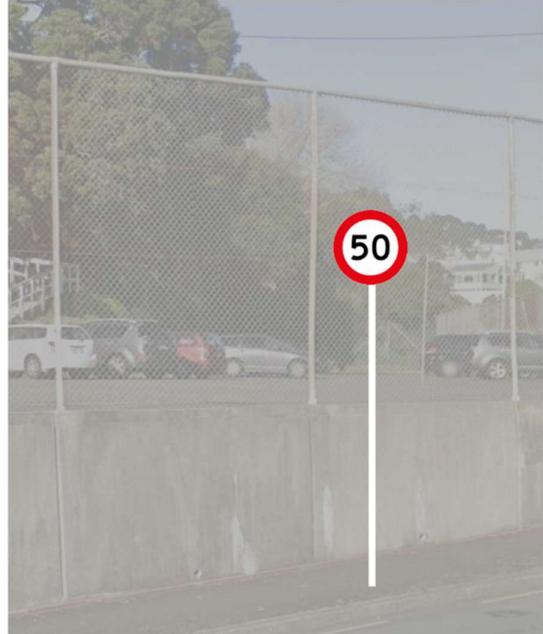


The proposed signs marking the beginning/end of the VSL are **adjacent** the school



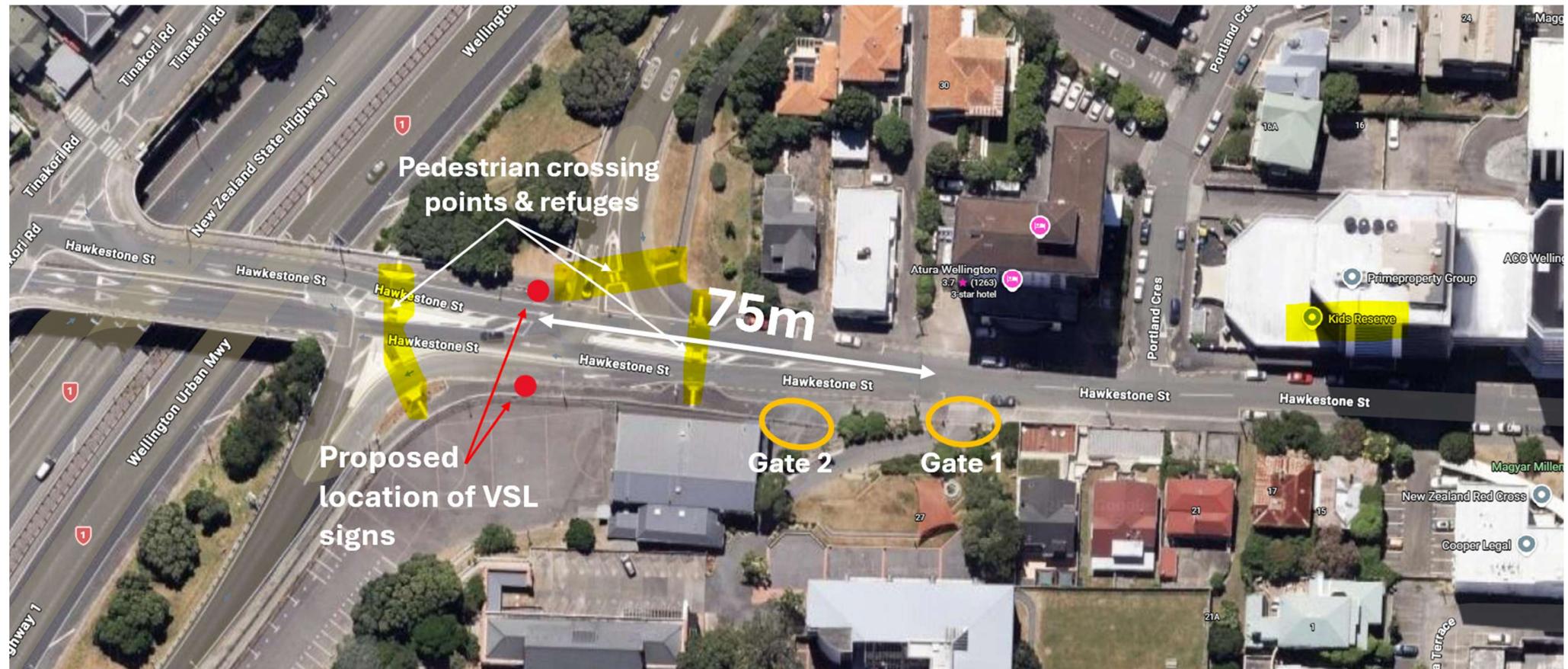
Hawkstone St (North Side)

Time periods, sign location, size, and placement shown on the images are indicative only. In the sign mock-ups, a blank sign indicates the back of a sign that is facing the opposite direction. Base imagery sourced from © 2025 Google Street View.



Opposite 36 Hawkstone St

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24 Hawkestone St
Wellington, Wellington Region

Google Street View

Jun 2021 See more dates

