

~~DORSET~~~~COUNCIL~~

Tabled 22/4

Our Ref 11/3576

11 April 2011

The Hon T V Rattray MLC
Member for Apsley
16 King Street
SCOTTSDALE TAS 7260

Dear Tania,

Rural Road Speed Limits

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 March 2011 in relation to concerns over various matters in the Road Safety Advisory Council's recommendations on a reduction of speed limits on rural sealed and unsealed roads.

Dorset Council considered your correspondence at a Council Workshop on 4 April 2011 and indicated its support for the matters you have raised. The matter of speed limit reductions was also discussed at Council's February 2011 Workshop.

Councillors also indicated that they have been receiving comments and criticism of the lack of proper community consultation on the following;

- Blanket reduction of speed limits on rural sealed and gravel roads
- Misinterpretation and contextual "biasness" of information being presented
- Lack of attention being given to other factors of community safety concerns, e.g. improving roads and consequently road safety and improving community education processes for road users
- Potential negative economic outcomes in rural areas which are already experiencing economic downturns such as Dorset

Whilst Dorset Council has not undertaken any specific community consultation processes to inform a resolved position, Councillors' comments made, as reflected above, are broadly representative of views expressed to both Councillors and Management of the Dorset Council.

There were no views expressed by Councillors that were supportive of a blanket reduction in speed limits on sealed or gravel roads in rural areas.

The preceding should not be taken as Council being completely opposed to reductions where they are appropriate, but the general view expressed by Councillors was that not enough proper consultation had taken place and that possible outcomes being suggested may be to the detriment of the majority of the community and may not achieve some of the outcomes being promoted.

Yours sincerely



JOHN MARTIN
General Manager

