Reduced speed limits on targeted roads fact sheet

Lowering the speed limit on targeted roads is one of several safety initiatives being implemented to reduce crashes on the state's roads.

Four Queensland roads have been selected for a speed reduction of 10km/h. New speed limits on the selected roads will be introduced to improve road safety and reduce the risk of communities having to deal with the traumatic results of speed-related crashes. The new speed limits are planned to be implemented over coming months.

Which roads have been selected for lowered speed limits?
The selected roads are:

- Bruce Highway (between Cooroy and Curra) – commencing south of the Black Mountain Range and extending north past Gympie to the Wide Bay Highway (for approximately 42 km)
- Bruce Highway (Innisfail to Cairns section) – for approximately 5km between Waugh's Pocket and Bartle Frere Roads (south of Mirriwinni)
- Mount Lindesay Highway (Brisbane to Beaudesert section) – for approximately 5km, between Carter and St Aldwyns Roads
- Warrego Highway between Toowoomba and the Kingsthorpe turn-off (for approximately 9 km)

Why were these roads selected?
An analysis was undertaken by Main Roads, Queensland Transport and the Queensland Police Service to identify high crash zones using crash and traffic volume data.

The selected roads demonstrated higher than average crash rates. The analysis considered crash severity, types, frequency, number of casualties and traffic volumes.

In refining the list, Main Roads also took into account recent safety improvements, plus concerns raised by the community.

How will lowered speed limits improve road safety on targeted roads?
Reducing speed limits, even by 10km/h, has proven road safety benefits. For example, the number of crashes on the Ipswich Motorway fell by approximately 25% following a reduction in the speed limit from 100 km/h to 90 km/h in 2005.

Reduced speeds have a dual impact on road trauma:

- they lead to fewer crashes because motorists have more time for decision making, they are less likely to lose control, and have a better chance of stopping a vehicle before a crash.
- they result in less severe injuries when crashes do occur because of the lower speed of impact.

Reducing a speed limit by 10km/h is a small inconvenience for a big benefit. Lowering the speed from 100km/h to 90km/h will add four extra seconds of travel time per kilometre.

How will I know when I have reached a lowered speed limit zone?

- the selected roads will be well-signed to alert motorists to the 10km/h change in speed limit.
- There will be warning signs, letting motorists know they are entering a high crash zone, and a reduced speed limit before the 'black link' road section. New speed limit signs (on highly visible target boards) will also be installed.

Where can I go to get more information?
For more information on the selected roads and visit www.mainroads.qld.gov.au
For information about the impact speeding has on road safety and the current anti-speeding campaign visit www.transport.qld.gov.au/safety