FAQs

Why are low speeds important?

An accident between a vehicle and pedestrian at 50km/h is twice as likely to result in a fatality compared to an accident that occurs at 40km/h. The faster you go, the further you travel before you stop and therefore the harder you hit something, or someone. We need to ensure that our road network is forgiving to mistakes. Slowing down traffic is just one way we can do this.

No death or serious injury on our roads is acceptable or inevitable, and the whole community must work together the address the trauma caused by everyday use of the roads.

Lower speed limits are just revenue raising.

Council does not enforce speed limits and does not earn any revenue from enforcement of the road rules. The South Australian Police are notified of the change in speed limit and will dedicate resources to enforcing the speed limit as they determine.

There are no crashes in my area, so lowering the speed limit is pointless.

Crashes can occur at any time and on any street, and lowering the speed limit has been proven to reduce the number of crashes, as well as the severity of crashes if they do occur.

I'm a good driver, why should I be punished?

Even good drivers make mistakes, and many crashes involve two or more parties. By slowing everyone down just a little, this may mean you are able to avoid a driver who isn't paying attention to the road or a child or animal who hasn't looked before running out onto the streets. We're all human, we all make mistakes, and our residents have told us they don't want anyone to have to pay for one mistake with their life or their health when losing a few seconds a day in travel time is what can be the difference.

Lower speed limits just annoy drivers, cause more road rage and make drivers focus on the odometer instead of the road.

Some drivers may be frustrated by having to drive slower, however based on feedback from SAPOL, there is no evidence of increased road rage incidents in areas designated by either

40 km/h or 50 km/h speed limits. The increased frustration could very well save an accident, which would be more frustrating and potentially devastating. All drivers need to check their odometer regularly when driving, no matter what the speed limit is.

It will take me too long to get to my destination.

Delays to drivers are generally caused at intersections, from congestion and from finding a car park. We always recommend to residents who are concerned with this to try the difference before the 40 km/h speed limit is brought in and see the change in driving time.

This is a waste of money. Invest in a speed hump instead if you want to slow people down.

Lowering the speed limit in a whole suburb generally costs between $5,000 - $20,000. In comparison, the average roundabout costs approximately $150,000. A speed hump costs approximately $8,000 however these need to be installed at regular intervals along the entire length of the street. By installing a 40 Area, we can improve road safety within a whole suburb, for a far lower cost than treating one intersection or street, which is a more equitable use of rate payer money, and has a much wider community benefit.

We are investigating various road safety treatments to invest in public safety, including physical traffic calming devices. If driver speeds aren't adequately reduced by the 40 Area signs, we will seek to install traffic calming measures to further reduce driver speeds.