



AA Wairarapa Council

April 2017 | An occasional publication

GUIDING
LIFE'S
JOURNEYS
FOR OVER
110 YEARS.
New Zealand
Automobile
Association



Helping to make our roads safer

About us

Kiwis are very familiar with AA services like breakdown assistance, travel guides, and driver training. But did you know the AA also has councils of local volunteers who contribute to making our roads safer?

The AA Wairarapa Council is a group of 10 local people who meet monthly to discuss transport and road safety issues affecting the Wairarapa area. AA Councillors network with many other people working in the transport sector.

AA Wairarapa Councillors

Chris Horrocks	Dave Stevenson
Francis Pointon	Handley Thomson
Martin Napier (Chair)	Neil Wadham
Peter Cameron	Tom Wyeth
Walker Bowyer	Warren Forbes

As well as working to improve transport and road safety issues locally, the AA Wairarapa Council also contributes to AA national policy thereby helping represent the interests of all AA Members.

Speaking up for you

If you come across a local transport or road safety issue that you think the AA Council could help resolve, please get in touch. We welcome your input!

To get in touch with the AA Wairarapa Council contact:

AA Wairarapa District Manager
Jacqui Sefo
T: 06 377 0802, E: jsefo@aa.co.nz

Local success!

Two safety improvements we have successfully advocated for in recent years:

✓ Safety barriers on the Rimutaka Hill Road



Safety barriers were installed along the entire Rimutaka Hill road in 2015.

✓ Variable speed indicators on SH2



Variable speed indicators on SH2 at the East Taratahi Road/Wiltons Road intersection.

Variable speed indicators were installed at the East Taratahi Road/Wiltons Road intersection in 2016. They have improved safe access to SH2 with no accidents recorded since the signs were erected.

Contributing to national transport and road safety issues

The AA represents its Members by advocating on national issues like drug/drink driving legislation, speed camera sites and much more. There are 17 AA districts in NZ, of which the Wairarapa is one, and the opinion of each is sought when policies on national transport and road safety issues are considered.

More local improvements we're advocating for...

Build a roundabout for the intersection of SH2 and Ngaumutawa Road



Above: a truck waits in Ngaumutawa Road, the well-used Masterton bypass, to turn onto SH2.

Southbound vehicles often encounter extensive delays accessing SH2. The area is complicated by another junction almost opposite Ngaumutawa Rd into Buchanan Place.

Widen the Waihenga Bridge on SH53



The Waihenga Bridge on SH53 between Martinborough and Featherston is so narrow that two trucks cannot pass. The two organisations responsible for funding the work (the South Wairarapa District Council and NZ Transport Agency) differ in their views on whether a replacement is necessary and how many years of life are left in the bridge.

We understand funding pressures, but in this case we believe safety and efficiency gains from widening the bridge outweigh the cost.

We don't think it is acceptable to have a 100km/h state highway, which is becoming increasingly busy with truck and general traffic, where large vehicles find it impossible to cross the bridge without crossing the centreline.

Remove tight corners on Rimutaka Hill Road



Easing of three particularly tight corners on the Hill Rd is needed to enable large trucks to negotiate them without crossing the centre line.

Other projects we're advocating for:

- A roundabout on SH2 at Norfolk Road.
- A safety realignment for SH2 at Mt Bruce.
- Improvements to the Mangamaire access to the Pahiatua Track.
- A left-in and left-out only access to SH2 for Normans Avenue.

Working with other local transport organisations

There are two State Highways in the Wairarapa District. SH2 runs through the Wairarapa and SH53 runs between Featherston and Martinborough. Both are managed by the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA). The four District Councils in our area (South Wairarapa, Carterton, Masterton and Tararua) have responsibility for local roads. The AA has a close relationship with staff from all these organisations and we are consulted on plans that affect road layouts, speeds and other safety matters.

The AA also maintain close links with other local roading and road safety organisations. We have a strong partnership with the Wairarapa Road Safety Council, which is very proactive and consistently delivers positive benefits to our community. We also hold a seat on the Tararua Road Safety Council.

When the AA Wairarapa comments on any changes and plans to roads, it does so on behalf of its Wairarapa AA Members, which currently number around 12,500. Our territory extends from the south Wairarapa coast to the Pahiatua district just south of the Manawatu Gorge. Incidentally, the AA Wairarapa is one of the oldest organisations in the Wairarapa having been established here in 1912.