

POS	50 KM/H SPEED LIMIT REMINDER SIGNS	PSEW23
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POSITION STATEMENT CODE:	PSEW23
DIRECTORATE:	Engineering & Works
BUSINESS UNIT:	Engineering Services
SERVICE UNIT:	Road Design Services, and Road Planning and Development
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Manager Engineering
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BACKGROUND:

On 1 December 2001, the default speed limit for built-up area roads in Western Australia (WA) was reduced from 60 km/h to 50 km/h, as part of a national trend to improve road safety on local streets and standardise speed limits across most of the Australian States and Territories.

As the State road authority, Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) is the only authority in Western Australia permitted by law to erect permanent regulatory speed signs. It is MRWA standard policy to not install 50 km/h regulatory speed zone signs on local streets, as was the practise when the built-up area speed limit was 60 km/h.

The general exceptions to this are where:

- A speed zone greater than 50 km/h terminates on a section of continuing road within a built up area, in which case 50 km/h speed limit signs shall be installed for motorists leaving the higher speed limit section.
- Urban distributor roads that have built-up land use on one side and undeveloped land use on the other side of which the operating speed (85th percentile) is 10 km/h or greater than the Built-Up Area Speed Limit.
- On a dual carriageway where motorists may not expect that a 50 km/h speed limit applies.

For further information on speed zoning refer to the MRWA Speed Zones website and Australian Standard 1742 - Manual of uniform traffic control devices, Part 4: Speed controls. Note that in WA the MRWA standards/guidelines take precedence over Australian Standards.

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MRWA does permit Local Government Authorities to install warning (reminder) signs on local roads to remind motorists of the 50 km/h speed limit, subject to the following requirements:

- The sign(s) installation being of a temporary nature;
- The sign design being consistent with MRWA Drawing No. 0348-1291, titled Warning Sign (Temporary);
- Before/after traffic surveys being done to assess the effectiveness of the warning sign installation; and
- A maximum of 12 signs being installed at any one time by the Local Government Authority.

City officers commonly receive complaints from the community about speeding traffic and requests for the installation of traffic signs to regulate vehicle speeds. Whilst the City does not have the authority to install regulatory speed zone signs, the installation of reminder signs may be considered where:

- Traffic surveys confirm that the operating speed(s) on the subject road is at least 10km/h over the speed limit;
- The subject road has a residential land use and/or contains an area of high pedestrian activity;
- The road is classified as a Local Distributor road in the City's Functional Road Hierarchy, or is an Access road assessed by City officers as having a problem with 'rat-run' or non-local traffic.

PURPOSE:

To define how the installation of 50 km/h reminder signs will be managed and monitored across the City of Cockburn.

POSITION:

The sign installation and monitoring process shall involve the following steps;

- (1) The City shall comply with MRWA's requirements listed above, with the definition of temporary being a maximum of 2 years;
- (2) A record shall be kept to track the temporary installation of the warning signs, their effectiveness, and their eventual removal. The data collected to monitor the effectiveness of the signs shall be used to determine whether their installation shall continue, based on whether the signs have any proven benefit or all or some locations.
- (3) The temporary installation of the warning signs may be extended for up to 12 months if there are justifiable circumstances that will result in works that are expected to address the speeding issue e.g. the installation of traffic calming, or planned road works that will transfer unnecessary through or 'rat-run' traffic to another road;

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- (4) If the before/after (*3 months post installation*) traffic surveys indicate that the sign(s) is initially ineffective because of negligible change in vehicles speed (*i.e. < 5 kmh*) then the sign(s) shall be removed.
- (5) Assessment of the effectiveness of the signs shall also consider any variation to the proportion of traffic in speed bins of 5 or 10 kmh. The signs might be considered to have had some positive effective if the proportion of vehicles in higher speed bins has noticeably reduced.
- (6) If vehicle operating speeds remain high e.g. greater than 10 kmh above the speed limit, the City shall consider the need for traffic calming or traffic management measures by applying Council policy SEW3 Traffic Management Investigation.
- (7) Any report about the effectiveness of the warning signs shall be shared with MRWA to assist their future decisions regarding the ongoing use of these signs across the state.
- (8) If, after an observation period of two years (*i.e. by the end of 2017*), the traffic surveys demonstrate that reminder signs are largely ineffective in noticeably lowering vehicle speeds then the installation of reminder signs on all roads in the City will be permanently discontinued.
- (9) All reminder signs shall be removed if that is requested by MRWA.

