HISTORY OF 40 AREAS IN THE CITY OF CHARLES STURT

Some areas such as Woodville West and Bowden/Brompton/Ridleyton have had a 40km/h speed limit for decades. In 2012, the City of Charles Sturt lowered the speed limit in a small section in Grange, then in 2014 the highly pedestrianised Henley Precinct.

Since then, the guidelines set by the State Government for introducing 40 Area Speed Limits were relaxed, no longer requiring high response rates to the community consultation, or high levels of community support. Support from the community is recommended as it helps with adherence to the new speed limit.

In 2016, Council decided (Council Report – Road Safety Initiative 40km 2016) to consult on new 40 Areas in Findon, Seaton, Grange, Woodville South, Beverley, Flinders Park, Allenby Gardens and West Beach. At the time, embarking on a goal of reducing the speed limit in 65% of our streets, prior to reviewing whether we implement a 40 Area across the remainder of the Charles Sturt.

The consultation proved a little divisive, with some strongly against the idea. Council resolved to proceed in some suburbs, and to not proceed in others. They also resolved "*that Council Officers' conduct a review into the operation of 40km/h Area speed Limits in areas where the speed limit has been operational for a minimum of 12 months to understand the impact of the lower speed limits on drivers"* (refer council meeting minutes CL 25/09/17, Item 2.2).

In 2019/20 Council funded a comprehensive 40km/h Area Speed Limit Review which includes a technical review by the University of Adelaide, as well as independent consultation results. The review found that while the lowered speed limit had an impact on driver speeds (reducing speeds by an average of 4km/h), the community who responded to the opt-in survey were mostly against the initiative. It was decided that Council await the State Government's new Road Safety Strategy prior to determining its future direction and making future decisions in relation to speed limits.

The State Government released its new Road Safety Strategy in 2021, and lowered speed limits are supported in line with Movement and Place principles. We then consulted on further 40km/h Areas in Henley Beach, Fulham Gardens, Cheltenham, Royal Park, Albert Park and Hendon, to further improve road safety in our community. This approach is consistent with the recently endorsed future direction and strategy for Road Safety at the City of Charles Sturt (refer Asset Management Committee meeting agenda 18/10/21 Item 4.64).