

# A ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE FOR CAIRNS RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

## The Cairns CBD speed limit is changing to 40km/h

### WHY IS THE SPEED LIMIT CHANGING?

Cairns has one of Queensland's most vibrant central business districts (CBD), with a year-round mix of local residents and tourists visiting our CBD every day to work, play or stay. Unfortunately, the CBD has one of Queensland's highest injury rates from road crashes and collisions, particularly collisions involving pedestrians and people riding bikes.

171 people have been injured in road crashes in the Cairns CBD over the past 5 years. That is far higher than other Queensland entertainment precincts and regional CBDs. Speed is a key factor in these concerning statistics. We know lower speeds have a significant impact on reducing road trauma. To improve road safety in the CBD, Council is introducing the new 40km/h CBD speed limit area.

Importantly, the CBD speed limit change was recommended to Council and supported by business and industry leaders including Cairns Chamber of Commerce, Sunbus, TTNQ, QPS, Cairns Taxis, DTMR and RACQ. Cairns Regional Council is taking action to make it safer for all road users.

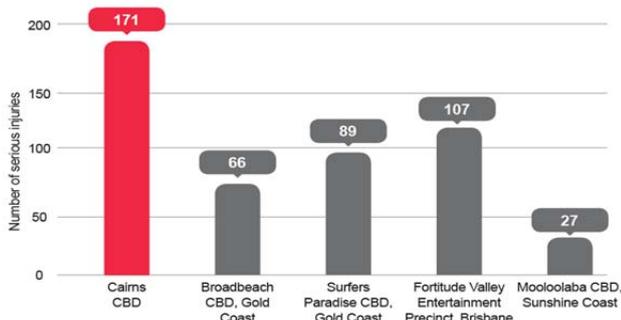
### WHEN IS THE SPEED LIMIT CHANGING?

**18 February 2019**

### WHERE IS THE SPEED LIMIT CHANGING?



### COMPARISON OF 2013-17 CRASH DATA: SERIOUS INJURIES ON 50KM/H ROADS



### LOWER SPEED = FEWER CRASHES + MORE REACTION TIME + LESS INJURIES

Pedestrians, people riding bikes and drivers all make mistakes. By lowering the speed limit, we will improve road safety for all users.

**Fact:** lower speeds mean fewer crashes and less severe injuries when crashes do happen. Lower speed limits also give drivers more time to react to avoid crashes.

For more information please contact: [council@cairns.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@cairns.qld.gov.au)  
or phone **1300MYCAIRNS**

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## Frequently asked questions

### **Were other road safety measures considered?**

Yes. Speed limit changes are only ever one road safety measure considered. Other changes can include signage, traffic lights and traffic calming. In the case of Cairns CBD, a speed limit change was found to be the most effective option to reduce road collisions while maintaining the area's accessibility, traffic flow and parking.

### **Will the change impact traffic?**

No. Research shows that traffic traveling at lower speeds is more likely to improve traffic flow than hinder it. Lower speeds in Cairns CBD will also make it safer and easier to move through the city, including accessing parking.

### **Will the change impact my travel times?**

No. A car travelling through the Cairns CBD at 40km/h will take less than 30 seconds longer than a car travelling at 50km/h.

### **Have similar speed limit changes worked elsewhere?**

Yes. Across Queensland there has been a move toward 40km/h roads in areas where there is a high vehicle, pedestrian and bike rider traffic. Examples of speed limit reductions to 40km/h to improve road safety and reduce road trauma include Mooloolaba, Brisbane City and many regional city locations.

### **Are there any other benefits?**

Yes. Research has found that streets which are more inviting for people walking or riding bikes are more vibrant and economically successful than streets with high volumes of fast-moving traffic. This is particularly important for local area and small businesses. Lower travelling speeds can also reduce noise and pollution as well as making areas more attractive to visit and stay.