June 2025

Great Eastern Highway Speed Limit Review

Midland to Mundaring

Key Messages

- Main Roads has conducted a comprehensive speed limit review along 14 km of Great Eastern Highway from Midland to Mundaring. This review has led to the decision to extend the 70 km/h speed zone from Innamincka Road to Lionel Road, covering approximately 3.5 kilometres.
- This speed adjustment will be implemented on July 16, 2025.
- The comprehensive review was undertaken in response to community concerns about crash frequency and traffic speed, as well as a public article published in Echo News on January 10, 2025.
- From 2019 to 2023, 396 crashes were recorded along this route, including 5 fatal crashes.
- The decision to reduce the speed was based on several factors, including safety by examining crashes and near misses, observed operating speeds, road geometry such as bends and steep inclines, and the Movement and Place Framework as per *Main Roads Speed Zoning Policy and Application Guideline*, which balances transport needs with the quality and function of spaces for people, ensuring the speed limit suits the surrounding activities and land uses.
- The changes are anticipated to have minimal impact on journey times, with an estimated increase of around 20 seconds.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is changing?

Following a comprehensive review of Great Eastern Highway, it was identified that the 80 km/h speed limit between Greenmount Rise and Lionel Road should be reduced to 70 km/h. This adjustment is intended to enhance consistency and improve safety, particularly near the Scott Street intersection, which has a history of frequent crashes. All other sections of Great Eastern Highway within the review area will retain their current posted speed limits.

Why was the review conducted?

Main Roads undertook a comprehensive speed zone review of Great Eastern Highway between Midland and Mundaring in response to:

- Community concerns around crash frequency and traffic speed,
- A public letter published in Echo News (10 January 2025),
- Observed speeding and near misses at specific intersections, particularly near Scott Street,
- A commitment to ensure posted speed limits align with road safety, driver behaviour, and road geometry.

When will changes take effect?

This speed adjustment will be implemented on July 16, 2025.

Where are the changes occurring?

The speed limit change applies to Greenmount Rise to Lionel Road (SLK 19.70 – 23.00), reducing from 80 km/h to 70 km/h in both directions.

This adjustment aligns the speed limit with the safe curve speed and local conditions.

Is this a blanket speed reduction for the whole highway?

No, the proposed speed reduction applies only to a specific section of Great Eastern Highway. All other sections were thoroughly reviewed and found to be performing appropriately based on crash data, speed compliance, and road design. These sections will retain their current posted speed limits

Have local councils been consulted?

Shire of Mundaring officers were briefed on the speed review and support the need for improved road safety on Great Eastern Highway.

Where will the speed limit be enforceable?

Speed limits are enforceable from the time a driver passes a speed limit sign, or from the time a driver enters a road which is subject to a default speed limit. The “Speed Limit AHEAD” signs are advisory signs

warning drivers that a new speed limit is coming up ahead.

How will these changes affect my journey time?

The recommended changes will improve safety for road users by introducing safer speeds along the winding and inclined sections of Great Eastern Highway. The impact on travel time is expected to be minimal, with an estimated increase of approximately 20 seconds.

What science/justification is there for the changes?

The decision to reduce the speed limit is supported by well-established research and road safety evidence:

- **Speed affects your ability to react and stop** - The faster you're travelling, the longer it takes to respond and come to a complete stop. This includes both your reaction distance (how far you travel before responding) and your braking distance (how far you travel after you start braking).
- **Higher speeds lead to more severe crashes** - If you're in a crash, your speed determines the force of impact you experience. An impact at 80 km/h will be far more forceful than an impact at 50 km/h.
- **Speed contributes to a large portion of road fatalities** - In 2020, 43% of fatalities on our roads were due to speed-related crashes. Scientific research into the association between crash forces and speed has been conducted globally by various road safety research organisations, with findings correlated with real-world crash data.
- **Reducing speed reduces crash energy** - The need to reduce speed to save lives is based on the physical properties of kinetic energy. The energy stored in motion is equal to the mass of the moving object multiplied by the velocity squared, divided by 2 ($Ke = MV^2/2$). Therefore, speed in the equation has four times the influence on crash energy. As such, if the speed of a collision is reduced by 10%, it will yield a reduction in fatalities by approximately 40% (four times) and serious injuries by 20%, averaging a 30% reduction in combined trauma.
- **Lower speeds significantly shorten stopping distances** - When traveling at 80 km/h, the reaction distance is 56 meters with a braking distance of 41 meters. In comparison, at 70 km/h, the reaction distance is 39 meters, and the braking distance is 32 meters. Lower speed limits reduce the potential impact of a crash.

How will we know when the new speed limits have come into place?

Information is being uploaded on travel map on a regular basis. Please visit this site for the most up to date information on these changes.