



Friday 17 February 2023

Council rescinds Woolnorth speed limit decision and agrees to support new proposal

At Circular Head Council's January meeting, Council considered a proposal to recommend the lowering of the default 100km/hr speed limit to 80km/hr for the entire length of West Montagu Road and the sealed section of Woolnorth Road.

Council resolved to apply to the Transport Commissioner to lower the speed limit but only on a 3km section of West Montagu Road.

Last night Council voted to rescind the January decision and will now apply to the Transport Commissioner to change the speed limit on West Montagu Road and the sealed section of Woolnorth Road, from the existing default speed limit of 100km/hr to a posted speed limit of 80km/hr and on West Montagu Road, from the bottom of 'Buckby's Hill', through the township of West Montagu, to the Marcus River Road junction, from the existing default speed limit of 100km/hr to a posted speed limit of 70km/hr.

Circular Head Mayor, Gerard Blizzard said *"Sometimes decisions have to be reflected upon and this decision was re-visited last night. I thank my fellow elected members for returning to this issue."*

Council has already invested heavily in a system of virtual fencing and safety signage along these roads and we continue to work with our community through the Circular Head Roadkill Mitigation Working Group on other measures to protect our Tasmanian Devils."

The original proposal was put forward by the 'Circular Head Roadkill Mitigation Working Group' and is one of many measures the group has proposed to protect the Tasmanian Devil.

The Circular Head Roadkill Mitigation Working Group was initially established by Circular Head Council in 2021 to enable formal stakeholder engagement and identify an integrated

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solution to reduce the number of Tasmanian Devils killed on the roads of the Woolnorth area.

In accordance with the Traffic Act 1925, posted speed limits in Tasmania must be approved by the Tasmanian Government's Transport Commission. This applies to all roads in Tasmania, whether they are owned by the State, Councils or other bodies. As such, Council's resolution is purely a recommendation to the Transport Commission to lower the speed limit, not a decision to change the speed limit.

The Transport Commission will carry out its own assessment and review of Councils' recommendation and has sole discretion on whether to approve or not any proposal to change a speed limit.

Circular Head Roadkill Mitigation Project: <https://www.cradlecoast.com/natural-resource-management/our-work/current-projects/circular-head-roadkill-mitigation-project/>

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