

# MIN-3512 (2) Bilingual Signs in Rotorua

Out of Scope

26 November 2020

Information on Te Reo Maori road signs in Rotorua

Out of Scope

## 1. Bilingual Road Signs

- Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency respects and values the importance of Te Reo Māori as one of our country's official languages, and we are working with local councils to incorporate bilingual road signage, while achieving safety outcomes.
- Waka Kotahi has worked with Rotorua Lakes Council to implement a “paired” approach to speed limit threshold signs, with the Te Reo Māori version of the speed threshold sign installed on one side of the road and the legally complying English version on the other side. This format and bilingual message has also been adopted in other locations.
- The current regulations permit guide signs, tourist signs and general interest signs to have bilingual destinations if approved by the New Zealand Geographic Board.
- Speed limit signs have both a safety and regulatory function and it is important that the format of any signs does not compromise or invalidate these functions. In Rotorua specifically, the signs identified need to serve as an effective and legally enforceable speed limit sign. The layout and content of traffic signs (traffic control devices) in New Zealand is governed by legislation (Traffic Control Devices Rule) and is further described in the traffic control devices manual (TCD Manual).
- As part of the recent speed limit changes in Mourea and Okere Falls on the 29 June 2020, the right hand threshold signs were modified to include Te Reo Māori welcome traffic message.
- These right hand signs were modified to say “Nau Mai Ki” instead of “Welcome To” after consultation with Rotorua Lakes Council and with Te Pou o Taranui. Waka Kotahi has a memorandum of understanding with Te Pou o Taranui forging a partnership with the iwi for the state highway network and proposed changes and improvements within their area of cultural interest.
- Waka Kotahi is commissioning a project to explore the wider application of bilingual signage. This will include local and international research and partnership with the wider sector. Road Controlling Authorities will be actively engaged as the project progresses. We expect to have the project underway this calendar year with a firmer understanding of scope, staging and timeframes available early in 2021.

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