

Active Warning Signs for Swannanoa and Ashley Schools

At a meeting of the Waimakariri District Council's Utilities and Roothing Committee yesterday afternoon, the committee approved the installation of active warning signs outside Swannanoa and Ashley schools as part of ongoing safety measures for schoolchildren.

The signs, which are due to be installed by the end of May and which cost \$9,000 each, are designed to flash at specific times during the day – school start and end times – to alert drivers of school activity and thereby increase their responsiveness and decrease their speed. Four of the signs will be installed on Tram Road and two on Fawcetts Road.

Erection of the active warning signs has the full support of the Police who have expressed their approval of the Council's investment in technology and improvements to enhance the safety of children.

The signs have the 'children' symbol and the words 'SCHOOL ZONE' which is reflectorised. Two orange lights flash at the start and end of the school day. The signs were trialled in Dunedin City in 2006 and the trial showed that, in areas where there were relatively high 'before' speeds

(a mean speed greater than 45 kilometres per hour), or had large numbers (more than fifty) of children crossing, there was a reduction in speeds after the signs had been installed.

Council Roothing Manager Ken Stevenson says that this is only one step in the drive to improve safety measures for schoolchildren. "We will continue to consult extensively with all schools in the area and the Police and we work with them closely to achieve the optimum safety levels for schoolchildren", he said.

"It would be unwise to think of any single measure as a solution to the issue – but with a combination of education from schools and parents, control by the Police, and the installation of safety measures such as these signs from the Council, we can work together to significantly contribute to increased levels of safety", he said.

The Utilities and Roothing Committee stressed the importance of continuous monitoring, assessment and review of the issue.

“ We will continue to consult extensively with all schools in the area.

For more information contact:

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