

This Q&A is intended to provide answers to commonly asked questions about the effectiveness and use of traffic calming devices.



What are traffic calming devices?

Traffic calming devices are a form of local area traffic management

What types of traffic calming devices are there?

There are numerous devices used to calm traffic. They include, but are not limited to:

Speed humps - full width humps

Speed cushions - part width humps to allow large vehicles to travel unimpeded

Slow points/chicanes - kerbing treatments to break up traffic flow



When will the City of Albany consider traffic calming devices and how this will be measured?

Where average speeds are excessive

The City will conduct monitoring to determine whether speeding is a pattern of behaviour or isolated users.

Where roads carry limited through traffic

Roads in question will be analysed by a traffic engineer to determine if a road is a through road or not.

Away from intersections, bends or crests

Traffic engineers will determine safe distances from these hazards.



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When are traffic calming devices not appropriate and why?

When speeding is confined mostly to isolated users

Installing traffic calming devices to control isolated users creates unnecessary inconvenience to the majority of users.

Furthermore, history has shown that whilst speeds are often reduced, the isolated speed offender may use the device for other hazardous 'hooning' activities.

When the road is a through route

While road humps and speed cushions are effective at deterring vehicle speeds, they are known to also discourage through traffic which can result in vehicles seeking alternate routes (side roads or "Rat Runs").

This may cause the road network to perform less efficiently with longer travel times, more interaction at intersections etc. They are also known to cause discomfort for emergency vehicles, particularly ambulances.



What other measures that can be taken to reduce speeds?

Ultimately, the City is responsible for building road networks and the police are responsible for speed issues. However the City will consult with the police if there are recurring problems.

The City works collaboratively with the WA Police to ensure road environments and user behaviours are appropriate to each road, to provide a safe and efficient road network.

Whilst the City would like to satisfy requests for traffic calming devices, their application and use must be carefully considered in each situation.

