

# 40km/h zones: Why do they exist?

## The issue

Often we see a speed limit sign in certain areas like schools and road works to drive at 40km/h where there are important factors to consider such as road works and the safety of vulnerable road users.

*Why do 40km/h zones exist, and why is it important to drive safely in these high-risk areas?*

## 40km/h zones exist to protect

Speed limits change around road works to 40km/h to keep motorists and workers safe.

They account for things like:

- large machinery
- narrowed roads
- temporarily removed line markings
- closed lanes



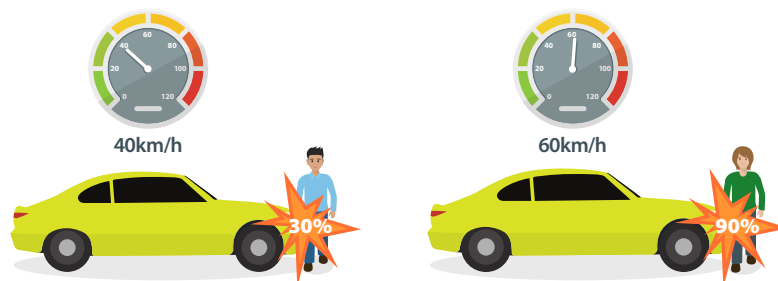
Lower speed limits apply for the safety of children crossing the roads



40km/h speed limits exist around emergency vehicles.

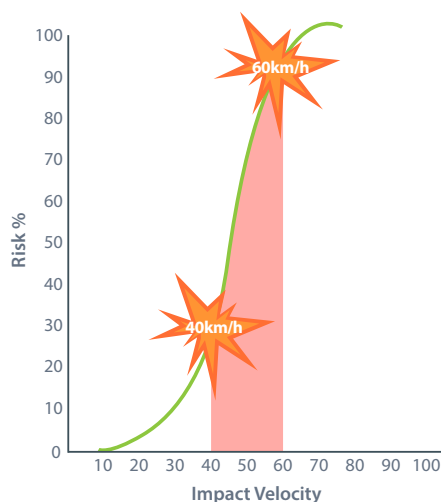
## Reducing pedestrian fatalities

Travelling at a lower speed means a less likely chance of a pedestrian fatality.



The risk of a pedestrian fatality when hit by a car travelling at 40km/h is only 30%.

If a car travelling at 60km/h hits a pedestrian, their fatality risk dramatically rises to 90%.



Source: [NRSP Quick Fact - Why Speed Matters](#)

## Risky behaviour at high risk zones

Budget Direct surveyed 1000 road users in relation to texting while driving. Nearly 40% of Australians surveyed believe that texting while driving is most acceptable when travelling in a 40km/h zone, which often exists to protect vulnerable road users.



A driver texting has little chance of seeing vulnerable road users if focused on their phone and not their surroundings.

**Budget Direct** Source: [Budget Direct 2020 Text Driving Survey](#)