**Electorate Review- General Elections 2026: Rangitīkei electorate**

Palmerston North City Council provides the following comment on the Electorate Review.

If Ashhurst is not to be included in the Palmerston North electorate, it should be included in Rangitīkei. In summary, we object to the exclusion of Ashhurst from the Rangitīkei electorate. We object according to the following statutory criteria.

**Existing boundaries align Ashhurst with Palmerston North or Rangitīkei, not Wairarapa**

Existing boundaries align Ashhurst with Palmerston North City for local elections and with Rangitīkei for central government elections.

Rangitīkei boundaries overlap with the Te Tai Hauāuru boundary, which also stretches across Ashhurst.

**Communities of interest align Ashhurst with Palmerston North or Rangitīkei, not Wairarapa**

The Ashhurst communities of interest are with Palmerston North and the Pohangina Valley (Manawatū District Council/ Rangitīkei electorate). Ashhurst residents travel to Palmerston North for work. Ashhurst high school students travel to Palmerston North and Feilding (Manawatū) for school. Ashhurst residents do their shopping in Palmerston North. They do not travel to Hawkes Bay or Wairarapa regularly.

**Topographical features align Ashhurst with Palmerston North or Rangitīkei, not Wairarapa**

Ashhurst sits at the foot of the Ruahine and Tararua mountain ranges- on the Rangitīkei side of the ranges, not the Wairarapa side. The Pohangina and Manawatū rivers feature strongly in the Ashhurst landscape. The Pohangina river which flows from the Ruahine ranges to meet the Manawatū River at Ashhurst, is of cultural significance to Rangitāne o Manawatū the recognised mana-whenua of Ashhurst and Palmerston North. The north-western boundary of the Rangitāne of Manawatū rohe stretches to the south bank of the Rangitīkei river.