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

Palmerston North City Council provides the following comment on the Electorate Review. In summary, we object to the inclusion of Ashhurst in the Wairarapa electorate. We object according to the following statutory criteria.

**Existing boundaries for Ashhurst do not align with Wairarapa.**

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

**Communities of interest for Ashhurst do not align with Wairarapa**

There is no apparent overlapping community of interest between Ashhurst and Wairarapa residents.

Although there are Rangitāne connections in Central Hawkes Bay and Wairarapa these are distinct groups to Rangitāne o Manawatū rohe, which covers Ashhurst.

**Topographical features**

Ashhurst sits at the foot of the Ruahine and Tararua mountain ranges- on the Palmerston North side, not the Ikaroa-Rāwhiti/ Wairarapa side. Ashhurst is the only community proposed to be inside Wairarapa that sits on the other side of the two mountain ranges. Ikaroa-Rāwhiti is acknowledged by the Commission as the “eastern seaboard of the North Island.” Ashhurst is not on the eastern side. Ashhurst is the only community proposed to be inside Wairarapa that sits on the far side of mountains.