

20 May 2025

Ref: 3-EP-3-8

Representation Commission  
PO Box 3220  
Wellington 6140

**Attention: Representation Commission**

**Rangitikei District Council's Counter-objection to name and boundary objections for the Rangitikei Electorate**

**Counter-objection to N39001 and N39007 on the name change of the Rangitikei Electorate**

Rangitikei District Council (Council) **strongly disagrees** with the objections N39001 and N39007 that suggest that the name of the Rangitikei Electorate should be changed to the Manawatū Electorate. Council objects to any name change for the Rangitikei Electorate.

The Rangitikei Electorate is one of the oldest in the country, having first been contested in the 1861 general election for the country's third parliament.

Council acknowledges that there have been some changes to the boundary of the electorate over the years, but the name has been ever present in the general elections.

Council is of the opinion that a name change is unnecessary and will discredit the historical significance of Rangitikei within national politics.

**Counter-objection to N39009, N39005, N29007, & N29008 on the boundary changes to the Rangitikei Electorate**

Council **strongly disagrees** with the identified objections that suggest the Rangitikei District should be split, with part of the district being removed from the Rangitikei Electorate.

The northern and southern part of the district are on the western side of the Tararua Ranges, with the Rangitikei River spanning the length of the electorate. While the electorate is fairly large in size, the character of the electorate is predominately rural towns, productive farming land, and vast natural open spaces and rolling hills.

*Making this place home.*

The communities within the northern part of the Rangitīkei District are closely linked to the communities within the southern part of the Rangitīkei District. While each community has their own unique features, they are all linked through the close connections and social cohesion between each community.

The current infrastructure provides strong links between the northern and southern part of the Rangitīkei District. It is easy to traverse the length of the occupied portions of the district utilising the state highway network, which a number of the settlements are situated directly on, or immediately adjacent to. The Rangitīkei communities are also directly connected through both the health and education system. The entire district is facing the same opportunities and challenges, therefore it is essential to have one MP representing the entire Rangitikei District community.

Splitting the Rangitikei District disregards the traditional iwi boundaries of Mōkai Pātea and undermines the value of collective voice. Maintaining the integrity of the rohe is essential to ensure Mana Motuhake and effective political representation for iwi within the electoral system.

Council would like to thank the Representation Commission for the opportunity to provide a counter-objection to the objections on the Rangitīkei Electorate.

Naku noa



Andy Watson  
Mayor – Rangitīkei District Council