

02 December 2025



Daran Ponter
Greater Wellington Regional Council
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro
Wellington 6011

By email: daran.ponter@gw.govt.nz

Subject: Invitation to meet with the Chairs of the Wellington Tenth Trust and the Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust

Tēnā koe e tā,

On behalf of the two Ahuwhenua Trusts, the Wellington Tenth Trust and the Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust, the chairs would like to take a moment to acknowledge the recent proposal to 'Simplify Local Government' by Ministers Chris Bishop and Simon Watts.

These proposed regional council reforms have raised significant concerns for us as Mana Whenua in Te Whanganui a Tara. Of note are the plans to replace elected regional councillors with mayors, and the scrapping of our newly established Māori Ward, the constituency which our whanaunga, Shamia Makarini, currently represents and an overwhelming majority of voters in this region elected to keep.

As Ahikā with primacy and presence in the Capital City of Aotearoa, these changes represent a considerable undermining of our responsibilities, as the traditional kaitiaki of our takiwā, to give effect to our duty of care in matters pertaining to environmental regulation and decision-making.

From this perspective, we would like to extend an invitation to you to meet online to discuss this matter further, and to consider opportunities for us to collaborate under these challenging circumstances for the benefit of all citizens in our takiwā.

Nā māua ngā Amokura o ngā Ahuwhenua,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anaru Smiler'.

Anaru Smiler
Amokura
Wellington Tenth Trust

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Mellish'.

Liz Mellish MNZM
Amokura
Palmerston North Māori Reserve Trust