

**IN THE ENVIRONMENT COURT
CHRISTCHURCH REGISTRY**

**I MUA I TE KŌTI TAIAO O AOTEAROA
KI ŌTAUTAHI**

ENV 2025-

IN THE MATTER OF of an appeal under clause 14 of Schedule 1 and section 274 and an application for waivers and directions under section 281 of the Resource Management Act 1991

BETWEEN **GREY DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Appellant (and prospective s274 party)

AND **TE TAI O POUTINI PLAN COMMITTEE**

Respondent

**APPLICATION FOR WAIVERS AND DIRECTIONS IN RELATION TO S274 NOTICES
BY GREY DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Dated: 16 December 2025

**APPLICATION FOR WAIVERS AND DIRECTIONS IN RELATION TO S274 NOTICES
BY GREY DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Presented for filing by:

Corcoran French
74 Armagh Street, Christchurch Central 8013
PO Box 13001, Christchurch 8141

Telephone: (03) 379 4660
Email: jonathon@cflaw.co.nz
Solicitor: Jonathon Sylvester

To: The registrar at the Environment Court, Christchurch
And to: The Appellants
And to: The Respondent

May it please the court:

1. Grey District Council (GDC) applies under section 281 of the Resource Management Act 1991 for waivers and directions in relation to the timeframe for filing s274 notices on the proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan (TTPP), and for the subsequent case management memorandum.
2. GDC made a submission and further submissions on the TTPP and has filed an appeal.
3. Under the Court's recent timetabling directions in Decision [2025] NZEnvC 372, which was in response to an application for extensions of time from the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society (Forest and Bird):
 - (a) Any appeal on the TTPP was to be filed on 8 December 2025.
 - (b) Any s274 notices are to be filed by 19 January 2026.
 - (c) The time for the first case management memorandum was extended to 16 February 2026.
4. The Court reserved leave for any party, appellant or s274 party to apply for further or other directions.

Waivers and Directions Sought

5. GDC respectfully seeks under s281 of the Act a further extension of 10 working days to the deadlines set out in [2025] NZEnvC 372, so they are:
 - (a) Any s274 notices by GDC are to be filed by 2 February 2026.
 - (b) Any s274 notices by other prospective s274 parties are also to be filed by the above date.
 - (c) The TTPP Committee's case management memorandum is to be filed by 2 March 2026.

Grounds for Waivers and Directions Sought

6. As was earlier submitted by Forest and Bird, the TTPP is a complex plan, which covers a large geographical area and many significant resource management issues. The

TTPP attracted a large number of submissions and further submissions. 35 appeals (excluding GDC's) have been filed on the plan.

7. The appeals traverse many resource management topics and contain extensive requests for relief, including one that is 308 pages. The complexity and volume of the appeals require significant review time for both Counsel and GDC's planning staff.
8. The time of year is typically very busy for Counsel and GDC's planning staff. Due to the impending holiday season and the deadline for s274 notices falling close to when it is usual to return in the New Year, Counsel and planning staff availability is significantly limited. In particular, GDC's principal planner will be overseas on leave from 24 December 2025 to 8 February 2025 and while he will be able to provide some input while away from New Zealand, that will necessarily be limited by time differences and travel.
9. Counsel anticipate that other prospective 274 parties and their legal teams may be in the same boat in terms of facing competing priorities over the imminent holiday shutdown and having limited availability.
10. The extension is requested to allow GDC to carefully work through the appeals. The additional time would enable more targeted and constructive s274 notices and therefore a more efficient appeal process.
11. If the court is minded to grant the waivers and directions sought at [5.1], Counsel respectfully requests that this be extended to all prospective s274 parties so that all are working to the same deadline.
12. In the circumstances, it is respectfully submitted that a further extension of 10 working days is appropriate and should not result in any prejudice to others nor compromise the appeal process.

Dated 16 December 2025



G A Biggs | J C Sylvester
Solicitor for the Grey District Council