

**BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COURT
CHRISTCHURCH REGISTRY**

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

ENV-2025-CHC-

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of an appeal under clause 14(1) of Schedule 1 to the Act

AND

IN THE MATTER of s 274 of the Act

BETWEEN **GROUNDSWELL NZ**

Appellant

AND **TE TAI O POUTINI PLAN COMMITTEE**

Respondent

BULLER DISTRICT COUNCIL'S WISH TO BE A PARTY TO PROCEEDINGS
2 February 2026

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TO: The Registrar
Environment Court
Christchurch

1. Buller District Council (**BDC**) wishes to be a party to the following proceedings:

Groundswell NZ v Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee

2. BDC has an interest in the proceedings that is greater than the interest that the general public has because BDC:

- 2.1. Is the territorial authority responsible for administering and implementing Te Tai o Poutini Plan (**TTPP**) within the Buller District; and

- 2.2. Has statutory responsibility for the functions set out at s 31 RMA (excluding any functions that have been transferred to Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee).

3. BDC is not a trade competitor for the purposes of ss 308C or 308A Resource Management Act 1991.

4. BDC is interested in all the proceedings.

5. BDC is interested in all the issues pleaded in the Appeal.

6. BDC opposes the relief sought because:

- 6.1. BDC recognises the uniqueness of the West Coast Region and the importance of the agricultural sector to the Buller District and wider Region;

- 6.2. However, it would be unlawful to “remove all policies, rules and consequential planning mechanisms” arising from s 6;

- 6.3. Any relief should be the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the Act (including recognising and providing for matters of national importance in s 6), give effect to the relevant National Policy Statements and West Coast Regional

Policy Statement and support and provide for a sustainable and strong rural sector in the Buller District and wider West Coast Region. The relief sought would not achieve these outcomes;

- 6.4. The relief sought is not the most effective and efficient way to achieve TTPP objectives;
 - 6.5. The decision version generally achieves an appropriate balance between enabling farming and rural land use activities and ensuring the TTPP outcomes with respect to environmental protection; and
 - 6.6. BDC has an interest in ensuring that any amendments are coherent, consistent and workable across all rural areas of the Buller District. The relief sought would not achieve those outcomes.
7. BDC agrees to participate in mediation or other alternative dispute resolution of the proceedings.

Dated: 2 February 2026



CP Thomsen / AA Yardley
Counsel for Buller District Council

This notice was filed by **CHRISTOPHER PAUL THOMSEN**, solicitor for the party of the firm Fletcher Vautier Moore. The address for service of the above-named party is at the offices of Fletcher Vautier Moore, Solicitors, Level 1, 201 Queen Street, Richmond, Nelson.

Documents for service on the party may be:

- a) Posted to the solicitor at Fletcher Vautier Moore, Solicitors, PO Box 90, Nelson 7040; or
- b) Sent by email to both cthomsen@fvm.co.nz and ayardley@fvm.co.nz.

Advice

If you have any questions about this notice, contact the Environment Court in Auckland, Wellington, or Christchurch.