

**IN THE ENVIRONMENT COURT AT  
AT CHRISTCHURCH**

**ENV-2025-CHC-000110**

**I TE KOTI TAIAO O AOTEAROA  
KI ŌTAUTAHI**

**IN THE MATTER** of the Resource Management Act 1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** of an appeal under clause 14(1) of the First Schedule of  
the Act and pursuant to Section 274 of the Act

**BETWEEN** **BIRCHFIELD COAL MINES LTD**

Appellant

**AND** **THE TE TAI O POUTINI PLAN COMMITTEE**

Respondent

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**NOTICE OF FEDERATED FARMERS OF NEW ZEALAND  
INCORPORATED'S WISH TO BE PARTY TO PROCEEDINGS**

2 February 2026

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**TO:** The Registrar of the Environment Court at Christchurch

**AND TO:** Birchfield Coal Mines Ltd (**Appellant**); and  
the Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee (**Respondent**).

1. Federated Farmers of New Zealand Incorporated (**Federated Farmers**) gives notice pursuant to section 274 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**) that it wishes to be a party to the following proceedings:

*Birchfield Coal Mines Ltd v Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee* ENV-2025-CHC-000110 (**Appeal**).

2. Federated Farmers made a submission (submitter number S524) about the subject matter of the proceedings.
3. Federated Farmers has an interest in the proceedings that is greater than the interest that the general public has. The subject matter of the proceedings directly impact what farmers can do with their land. Federated Farmers is a primary sector organisation that represents the interests of farmers and rural communities.
4. Federated Farmers is not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308C or 308CA of the RMA.
5. Federated Farmers is interested in the following parts of the proceedings:
  - (a) the definition of Land-Based Primary Production, and Land-Based Primary Production Strategic Objectives;
  - (b) Strategic direction for the Natural Environment (objectives NENV-O1 to NENV-O4 and policies NENV-P1 and NENV-P2);
  - (c) the definition of wetland;
  - (d) matters relating to Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity (ECO) in the Te Tai o Poutini Plan (**the Plan**). This includes all provisions

within the ECO chapter, as well as 'Relationships between spatial layers - Overlays - Significant Natural Areas'; Definitions of 'area of significant biodiversity', 'biodiversity compensation', 'biodiversity offset', 'ecological district', 'effects management hierarchy', 'indigenous biodiversity', 'net gain', 'significant natural area', 'threatened or at risk / threatened or at risk (declining)'; and Appendices 13, 14 and 15.

6. Federated Farmers conditionally oppose the relief sought because it affects provisions that apply to and provide for farming activities, and it may introduce uncertainty in the interpretation and application of those provisions for rural land use.
7. Federated Farmers agrees to participate in mediation or other alternative dispute resolution of the proceedings.



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**K L Sannazzaro**  
Senior Policy Advisor

**Dated:** 2 February 2026

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**Advice**

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