

**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 **TE RŪNANGA O NGĀTI WAEWAE, TE RŪNANGA
O MAKAAWHIO AND TE RŪNANGA O NGĀI TAHU**

Appellant

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

Respondent

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

2 February 2026



**FEDERATED
FARMERS
OF NEW ZEALAND**

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TO: The Registrar of the Environment Court at Christchurch

AND TO: Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (**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:

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu v Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee ENV-2025-CHC-000138 (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 and growers 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 part of proceedings which relate to:
 - (a) appeal point 3, being the addition of “effects on Poutini Ngai Tahu values” to the list of matters of discretion or control in rules, as those rules relate to farm and farm associated buildings in the wider rural environment (rules GRUZ-R16, GRUZ-R18, GRUZ-R19, GRUZ-R24 and SETZ-R23); and
 - (b) appeal point 23, being the rezoning of waterbodies.

6. Federated Farmers conditionally oppose the relief sought to add “effects on Poutini Ngai Tahu values” to the list of matters of discretion or control for larger farm and farm-associated buildings because:
 - (a) the proposed wording is not sufficiently constrained to reflect the intent and scope of the supporting policies (including policies RURZ-P2(e), RURZ-P3(f) and RURZ-P4) and would apply more broadly than those policies appear to contemplate;
 - (b) the proposed addition may necessitate wide-ranging cultural values assessments in circumstances where the effects are limited or indirect, resulting in potentially significant cost and procedural burden for routine or anticipated farming development; and
 - (c) Federated Farmers have appealed the inclusion of floor area limits for buildings associated farming activities in the General Rural Zone (rule GRUZ-R1) and have sought that small-scale rural industry be permitted. In that context, the proposed approach to larger farm buildings appears arbitrary and would unreasonably constrain an anticipated and legitimate part of the rural environment, including by requiring resource consent for buildings that are integral to modern farming operations.

7. Federated Farmers conditionally oppose the relief sought to rezone waterbodies where that rezoning would apply a zone other than the General Rural Zone, including the Open Space Zone, because:
 - (a) it is unclear how “waterbodies” would be defined or applied for zoning purposes, including the extent to which riparian margins or adjacent land would be captured;
 - (b) applying a zoning to a waterbody that is different to the surrounding land would be administratively complex, impractical to implement, and likely to create uncertainty for plan users;
 - (c) the Open Space Zone provisions have not been developed or calibrated to operate as an overlay or secondary zoning within the

General Rural Zone, and their application in this manner would be inconsistent with the structure and intent of the zone framework;

- (d) the relief sought risks undermining the coherence and legibility of the Te Tai o Poutini Plan by introducing overlapping zoning controls in place of a clear and integrated management approach; and
 - (e) the relief sought may have significant and unintended implications for the rural land management framework, including by constraining anticipated rural activities and increasing compliance and consenting requirements.
8. Federated Farmers agrees to participate in mediation or other alternative dispute resolution of the proceedings.



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.