

**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 **WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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



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TO: The Registrar of the Environment Court at Christchurch

AND TO: Westland District Council (**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:

Westland District Council v Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee ENV-2025-CHC-000110 (**the 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 is a matter of interest to farmers who are affected by the proposed servicing requirements on rural 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 all of the proceedings, which relate to inserting additional stormwater permitted activity standards into the General Rural Zone (**GRZ**) and Rural Lifestyle Zones (**RLZ**) of the Te Tai o Poutini Plan (**the Plan**).
6. Federated Farmers conditionally oppose the relief sought because:
 - (a) The Appellant has not provided detail of any proposed wording that would give relief to their appeal.
 - (b) In the GRZ and RLZ, stormwater is generally managed by individual landowners through discharge to drains or watercourses, or to land via soakage.

- (c) There is potential for stormwater management standards in the Plan to inappropriately duplicate, overlap or conflict with regional council stormwater functions, and with building consent processes.
 - (d) The Appellant suggests that disposal be in accordance with “NZS 4404:2010 and / or relevant Council Engineering Standards”. NZS 4404:2010 is targeted at larger subdivision and development, for example, it requires a catchment-based approach, including hydraulic modelling.
 - (e) The Standards are often poorly considered regarding requirements for individual allotments and for onsite disposal.
 - (f) Requiring adherence to “NZS 4404:2010 and / or relevant Council Engineering Standards” through district plan rules gives these standards considerably greater legal weighting, which may impose unreasonable requirements on landowners, that conflict or duplicate with requirements under the Building Act 2004.
7. 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.