
**IN THE ENVIRONMENT COURT OF NEW ZEALAND
AUCKLAND REGISTRY**

**I TE KŌTI MATUA O AOTEAROA
TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU ROHE**

ENV-2026-AKL-000158

UNDER THE	the Resource Management Act 1991 ("RMA")
IN THE MATTER OF	appeals under clause 14 of Schedule 1 to the RMA against a decision on the Far North Proposed District Plan
BETWEEN	LUCKLAW FARM LIMITED
	Appellant
AND	FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
	Respondent

**SECTION 274 NOTICE BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE ON APPEAL BY LUCKLAW
FARM LIMITED AGAINST DECISION ON FAR NORTH PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN**

29 September 2026

**CROWN LAW
TE TARI TURE O TE KARAUNA
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INTRODUCTION

1. The Minister of Defence (**Minister**) wishes to be a party to the following proceedings:
 - 1.1 The appeal by Lucklaw Farm Limited against the decision of Far North District Council on the Far North Proposed District Plan.
2. The Minister, through the New Zealand Defence Force (**NZDF**), made a submission and further submission about the subject matter of the proceedings.
3. The Minister has an interest in the proceedings that is greater than the interest that the general public has. Under Section 5 of the Defence Act 1990, the NZDF's responsibilities include the defence of New Zealand, the protection of the interests of New Zealand, the provision of assistance to the civil power either in New Zealand or elsewhere in time of emergency, and the provision of any public service.
4. The Minister is not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308C or 308A of the Resource Management Act 1991 (**Act**).
5. The Minister is interested in the following parts of the proceedings:
 - 5.1 Control of vehicles on beaches and adjacent public land.
6. The Minister opposes the relief sought because:
 - 6.1 The NZDF undertakes temporary military training activities (**TMTA**) across the country from time to time, as part of its function of maintaining the nation's security, maintaining NZDF operational capacity and providing for the well-being, health and safety of communities.
 - 6.2 The NZDF must undertake training in order to fulfil its statutory obligations under the Defence Act.

- 6.3 The NZDF is often involved in emergency service activity (e.g. firefighting, search and rescue operations and provision of potable water, including following floods, cyclones and other natural disasters).
- 6.4 These activities are by their nature temporary, and many have effects similar to other day-to-day activities.
- 6.5 The NZDF seeks to preserve the ability to occasionally operate vehicles on or across beaches in the district for training and emergency response purposes.
- 6.6 The relevant capability includes landing troops and vehicles from a vessel offshore across a beach and thence to the hinterland. Exercising that capability has occasionally formed part of large international exercises where the NZDF seeks to build or improve interoperability with the armed forces of allies and other nations.
- 6.7 The NZDF has experienced circumstances where, during exercise planning, broadly worded restrictions on vehicle use have inadvertently prevented or restricted the NZDF's training activities.
- 6.8 Sandy beaches, including those in Northland, are valuable for training and exercising this capability.
- 6.9 The NZDF does not seek or intend to use beaches, or parts of beaches, where the activity would cause material ecological damage.
- 6.10 The occasional, short-term training and emergency response activities the NZDF might undertake do not warrant regulation under the RMA.

7. The Minister agrees to participate in mediation or other alternative dispute resolution of the proceedings.

DATED 29 September 2026



For the Minister of Defence

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To: The Registrar at the Environment Court in Auckland

And to: Far North District Council (pdp@fndc.govt.nz)

And to: Lucklaw Farm Limited (stuart@stuartryan.co.nz)