

**Before the Environment Court
Auckland Registry**

**I te Kōti Taiao O Aotearoa
Tāmaki Makaurau Rohe**

ENV-2026-AKL-000155

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (**Act**)

And

In the matter of an appeal under clause 14(1) of Schedule 1 of the Act

Between

Bellingham Quarries Limited

Appellant

and

Far North District Council

Respondent

Section 274 notice of Ventia NZ Operations Limited of wish to
become party to appeal by Bellingham Quarries Limited

Dated: 23 September 2026

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TO: The Registrar
Environment Court
Auckland

AND TO: Bellingham Quarries Limited

AND TO: Far North District Council

AND TO: Aggregate and Quarrying Association

AND TO: Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand
Incorporated

Introduction

1. Ventia NZ Operations Limited (**Ventia**) wishes to become a party to the appeal of Bellingham Quarries Limited (**Bellingham**) against decisions of the Far North District Council (**Council**) on the Far North Proposed District Plan (**PDP**), being ENV-2026-AKL-000155.
2. Ventia made a submission about the subject matter of the appeal, being submission 424 on the PDP.
3. Ventia is not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308C of the Act.

Interest in proceedings

4. Ventia is interested in and supports the entirety of the appeal and all relief sought on the following specific provisions of the Mineral Extraction Zone of the Proposed District Plan – Decisions Version (**PDP-DV**) as set out in Appendix 1 to Bellingham’s notice of appeal:
 - (a) MEZ-R4: Expansion of existing mineral extraction activity;
 - (b) MEZ-R5: New mineral extraction activity; and
 - (c) MEZ-R7: Any activity not otherwise listed in this chapter.

5. Ventia is interested in the appeal for the following specific reasons:
- (a) Ventia operates Puketona Quarry at Puketona Road, State Highway 11, Paihia. The quarry has been operating since approximately the late 1950's. Under the PDP-DV, it is zoned Mineral Extraction Zone and Rural Production Zone. Puketona Quarry is the largest quarry in the Far North District and is a critical source of aggregate products, including roading materials, for the Far North. Its production capacity, proximity, and access to the roading network mean it is well placed to support growth in the Bay of Islands and the wider Far North District.
 - (b) The quarry has aggregate resource available but not yet extracted, which would extend the life of the quarry for potentially a further 100 years. This is a considerable lifespan for a source of aggregate material to support infrastructure, commercial and housing development in the Far North District.
 - (c) Ventia supports Bellingham's appeal in full because it seeks amendments to, and clarification of, relevant Mineral Extraction Zone provisions that would better align those provisions with the purpose of the Mineral Extraction Zone and the Mineral Extraction District-Wide Chapter and provide an appropriate framework for existing and new mineral extraction activities in the identified Mineral Extraction Zone, including but not limited to:
 - (i) Seeking to amend MEZ-R4 as a Restricted Discretionary activity to a Controlled activity;
 - (ii) Seeking to amend MEZ-R5 from a Discretionary activity to a Controlled activity; and
 - (iii) Seeking to amend MEZ-R7 from a Non-Complying activity to a Discretionary activity.
 - (d) A further specific reason includes that the 10% cap on increased extraction volume as a matter of discretion under MEZ-R4 is arbitrary and overly restrictive, would constrain Ventia's ability to realise significant aggregate resource available at the Puketona Quarry, and

is inconsistent with the intended enabling framework of the Mineral Extraction Zone.

Relief sought

6. Ventia supports in full the relief sought by Bellingham as set out in Appendix 1 to Bellingham's notice of appeal.
7. Ventia agrees to participate in mediation or other alternative dispute resolution of the proceedings.

DATED at Auckland this 23 day of September 2026



Bianca Tree / Olivia Pahulu
Counsel for Ventia NZ Operations
Limited