

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

ENV-2026-AKL-000151

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

IN THE MATTER

of an appeal under Clause 14 of the
First Schedule of the Resource
Management Act 1991

AND IN THE MATTER

of the proposed Far North District Plan

BETWEEN

MATAURI TRUSTEE LIMITED
Appellant

AND

FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
Respondent

**NOTICE OF INTENTION OF THE ROYAL FOREST AND BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY OF
NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED TO BE A PARTY TO APPEAL PROCEEDINGS**

14 September 2026

To: The Registrar
Environment Court
Auckland

1. The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Incorporated (**Forest & Bird**) wishes to be a party to the following proceedings:

Matauri Trustee Limited v Far North District Council ENV-2026-AKL-000151

2. Forest & Bird made a submission and further submission on the matters included in the appeal.
3. Forest & Bird also has an interest greater than the public generally by virtue of being:
 - a. New Zealand's largest nature conservation non-government organisation with about 70,000 members and supporters; and
 - b. active in RMA processes for many years to achieve improved outcomes for nature conservation.
4. The Environment Court has accepted Forest & Bird's interest as being greater than the public generally for the purposes of s 274, in that it is an incorporated society with a well-known role in the protection of indigenous biodiversity (see *Marlborough District Council v Burkhart Fisheries Ltd* [2018] NZEnvC 26 at [30]).
5. Forest & Bird is not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308C or 308CA of the Resource Management Act 1991.
6. Forest & Bird is interested in those parts of the Matauri Trustee Limited appeal which relate to district-wide protection for indigenous biodiversity, including in the Coastal Environment and within the Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes overlay, and specifically the relief sought with respect to:
 - a. Part 2 – District-Wide Matters – Strategic Direction;
 - b. Part 2 – District-Wide Matters – Natural Environment Values – Natural Features and Landscapes;
 - c. Part 2 – District-Wide Matters – Subdivision;

- d. Part 2 – District-Wide Matters – Coastal Environment;
 - e. Part 3 – Area Specific Matters – Rural Zones – Rural Production Zone.
7. Forest & Bird opposes that relief as it:
- a. is inconsistent with part 2 of the RMA;
 - b. is inconsistent with the Council's function under 31(1)(b)(iii) to control the effects of the use of land for the purpose of the maintenance of indigenous biodiversity;
 - c. does not give effect to higher order planning documents;
 - d. does not represent best resource management practice; or
 - e. any combination of the above matters.
8. Forest & Bird agrees to participate in mediation or other alternative dispute resolution of the proceedings.

Dated: 14 September 2026



Tim Williams
Counsel for Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand
Incorporated

Address for Service
Tim Williams
Forest & Bird
PO Box 631
Wellington 6140

Telephone 027 301 8975
Email: t.williams@forestandbird.org.nz