

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

**ENV-2026-AKL-000145**

**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**

**BENTZEN FARM LIMITED**  
Appellant

**AND**

**FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Respondent

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**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

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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:

*Bentzen Farm Limited v Far North District Council* ENV-2026-  
AKL-000145

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 Bentzen Farm 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 instruments;
  - 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



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Tim Williams

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Incorporated

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