

I MUA I TE KOOTI TAIAO O AOTEAROA

IN THE MATTER

AND

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

**ROYAL FOREST AND BIRD PROTECTION
SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
INCORPORATED**

AND

WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL

Respondent

DATED 19 AUGUST 2025

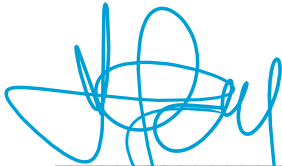
**To: The Registrar
Environment Court
Auckland**

1. The Waikato Regional Council (**WRC**) gives notice that it wishes to be a party to the appeal by the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Incorporated (**the Appellant**) (ENV-2025-AKL-000159) against parts of a decision on the Proposed Waitomo District Plan.
2. WRC made a submission (submission 10) and further submission about the subject matter of the proceedings and presented evidence at the tranche 2 hearing.
3. WRC is not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308C or 308CA of the Resource Management Act 1991.
4. WRC is interested point 19 of the Appellant's appeal, relating to NFL-15 – removal of vegetation outside of a SNA.
5. The general reasons for WRC's interest in the proceedings are:
 - (a) WRC opposed NFL-R15 in its submission and sought to reduce the limit and apply a time limit to the provision to avoid significant loss of indigenous vegetation over the life of the Proposed Waitomo District Plan.
 - (b) WRC has an interest in ensuring that the outcome of the appeal gives effect to the Waikato Regional Policy Statement (WRPS), in particular:

ECO-P1 – Maintain or enhance indigenous biodiversity
ECO-M3 – Avoidance, remediation, mitigation and offsetting (for indigenous biodiversity that is not significant)
6. WRC agrees with the first part of the relief sought to add a matter of discretion for 'effects on indigenous biodiversity.' WRC adopts a neutral position with respect to the second part of the relief sought and seeks to ensure that effect is given to the WRPS through the appeal process.

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

DATED at Hamilton this 19th day of August 2025



Tracey May
Director Science, Policy and Information
Waikato Regional Council

Address for service of interested party

Michelle White
Waikato Regional Council
160 Ward Street
Private Bag 3038
Waikato Mail Centre
Hamilton 3240

Telephone: 07 859 0961
Email: Michelle.White@waikatoregion.govt.nz