



Submission
**To the Ministry For the Environment,
National Policy Statement For Freshwater Management**

We wish to be heard in support of our submission

We support the proposed National Policy Statement For Freshwater Management, as we believe there is an urgent need for clear guidance to Regional and District Councils as well as developers and the wider community.

Our hope is that this will avoid the unrealistic expectations and mismanagement of existing and precious remaining fresh water systems.

However this document needs to be more explicit with regard to retaining/improving biodiversity and balance between species and ecosystems. The policy needs to acknowledge the interdependence which ensures and sustains all life, including our human (cultural, social and economic) existence. Failure to respect this balance means that ultimately generations pay the cost. As an MFE policy, this should be its primary focus.

We would like to see the following points included in the objectives;

- Public ownership is retained.
- Public access is not compromised
- Ecological flow levels are either maintained or improved.
- Land use is appropriate for local land type and climate conditions
- Acknowledging the mechanical functions of freshwater bodies; eg sediment removal, coastal formation, etc.
- A long term view on any development; eg how does this look in 10 or 15 generations from now?
- Active guardianship for the future.

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Yours faithfully

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