

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Water Consultation Submissions](#)
Subject: Water quality standards should provide for ecological health of our rivers and lakes.
Date: Sunday, 10 April 2016 2:32:16 p.m.

Water quality standards should provide for ecological health of our rivers and lakes.

I do not support a wadeable standard as the water quality bottom-line. Waterways must be able to support a good standard of ecological health. That standard also equates to being safe for humans to swim, play, and gather food from.

I support measuring water quality by catchment, rather than region. I agree that the 'Macroinvertebrate Community Index' should be adopted as a mandatory water quality standard. I do not support allowing trade-offs in water quality maintenance. The Courts have held 'overall' water quality can't be interpreted as allowing 'unders and overs', as this would undermine the RMA Act provisions to maintain or improve water quality.

There should also be a mandatory standard for dissolved inorganic nitrogen, and phosphorus within catchments.

I strongly support the proposal to develop guidance on different methods of addressing over-allocation of water quality and/or quantity, if technical efficiency standards and good management practice standards are insufficient.

I am strongly opposed to allowing the Minister for the Environment to delay an application for a Water Conservation Order. WCOs are about protecting outstanding features of water bodies. If those outstanding features exist then clearly they shouldn't be undermined by a planning process which is required to protect them anyway.

Yours,

Rae Watson

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