

22 April 2013

Freshwater Consultation 2016

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Dear Sir/Madam

In reading the Next Steps for fresh water document I would like to highlight the following:

The proposals leave an awful lot of onus on Councils to implement, the government should centralise the implementation of freshwater with government appointed representatives imbedded into councils to ensure standards are maintained and improved and eg 6 monthly audits. Councils are a law unto themselves when it comes to protecting freshwater areas and history shows they have turned a blind eye to some already devastating environmental problems around water. I do not believe they can be trusted. The government is the Headmaster and the councils should be the students not what this report implies as the councils being Teachers

This document itself I would rate as the Bronze standard and is no truer than the "New Bottom Line" of Suitable for boating and wading. With this low standard there is no reason to raise the bar as the standard is so low. In the year 2016 we should be at least trying to attain the B rating generally suitable for swimming. Why is it time and time again when we have the opportunity to make some significant changes we literally water down the end result to a very average outcome.

Lastly the economic use of New Zealand's freshwater by companies to make huge profits under the guise of jobs is insulting. This is all New Zealanders water and is not a something we should be exporting around the world. Water is the new clear gold and if we don't protect it now with proper environmentally angled policy it will be raped by all if councils are left in charge. We need a moratorium on any more applications to draw water from New Zealand until investigations and reports are carried out.

Regards

Andrew Wicks