

Your submission to Clean Water

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The swimming targets are too weak and do not apply to most of the waterways where people recreate, swim, picnic, fish and boat. Need to change farming practices as agricultural activities are the largest sources of pollution in freshwater and the marine environment. Seek: Apply higher standards and stronger bottom lines for the protection of all waterways large and small. Introduce policies and rules to reduce the number of dairy cows in NZ, reduce fertilisers and other chemical contaminants.

Request all water ways, large and small be made suitable for swimming and other recreation contact activities. Please write policies to return waterways to the state they were 20 years ago. Need stronger policies to protect the whole freshwater resource. Please add policies which protect aquifer systems as well as surface water. Currently in Canterbury irrigators can continue to dig deeper as well levels drop. This is wrong.

Need stronger policies and rules to prevent contamination of freshwater by nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment. Objectives A2 and B1 refer to providing economic well-being and opportunities. The economy depends on a healthy environment. Economic considerations should not take precedence over environmental protection. This is inconsistent with setting environmental limits to water management. Human health and healthy ecosystems should be a first priority. Seek: Delete the proposed amendments to Objective A2 and B1 referring to provision for economic wellbeing.

Fence stock out of all waterways. Dairy cattle, beef cattle and deer should be excluded from all waterways and reticulated water supplies be made a requirement to avoid pugging, and pollution of high country, and lowland rivers, streams and lakes. Seek: Introduce Policies and rules to prohibit intensive farming near to rivers, streams and lakes.

Stock (excluding sheep) should be excluded from all waterways, large and small. It should be a prohibited activity to intensively farm close to water bodies on the plains and in the high country. It is wrong that fodder crops are being grown right to the edges of rivers, in riverbeds, and on land draining to our high country lakes.

There should be at least a 200m exclusion zone for grazing stock and the growing of fodder crops near waterways, and prohibited where the land is draining to rivers, lakes and estuaries.

Charge for the commercial use of water. Protect the aquifer freshwater system. This where most Cantabrians source clean drinking water. Introduce policies and rules to prohibit the continuous deep drilling of wells, particularly in Canterbury, to satisfy irrigators. Stop subsidising irrigation. Charge the polluter for the clean up of our waterways. Introduce polluter pays policies.

Time to charge for the commercial use of water. Time for the polluter to pay. Please change the current strategy of 'persuasion` to one of serious monitoring, enforcement and strong penalties for non compliance.