

Your submission to Clean Water

Carl Ammon

Clause

What are your thoughts on the proposed swimming targets, for example, on the timeframes and categories?

Notes

This is positive but the issues require more urgency and as such timelines need to be reduced - if targets are not met that can be managed but at least a ambitious timeline is implemented. The main sources of poor water quality are urban and rural waste and erosion run off so all can be tackled with greater urgency. The targets reflect badly on government who has deferred to economic pressures. These are real but the cost is something we must face up to nationally by companies and by individuals.

Clause

What do you think about the proposed amendments to the Freshwater NPS?

Notes

A balance between national consistency and local practicality is realistic but standards must be high and not set at the lowest common denominator. A sound base of data and a common set of measures is a baseline for good management So this is a necessary first step in rationalizing standards and guidance to regional authorities.

Clause

What are your thoughts on the proposed stock exclusion regulation, for example, the timeframes and stock types to be excluded?

Notes

Finding a realistic guideline or rules is not easy but again the proposals are not urgent enough to address the harm done and being done. Aside from the 2017 dates others are too long term to drive change. The need for substantial riparian buffers is critical and this may need government support as costs can be extreme - it is a national good to have clean waterways reduced nutrient build up and less erosion / sedimentation alongside improved wildlife ecosystem outcomes. The dairy sector has over cooked its stocking regimes and must adjust these. Forestry is also a erosion and flooding contributor and needs also to be kept back from watershed zones - as does stock.

Clause

Do you have any other comments on the contents of the Clean Water discussion document?

Notes

NZ has to be a leader in environmental matters for tourism; for our export reputation and equally so our children's living environments. Government is losing credibility with the increasingly urban population and needs to be more proactive - investing in the environment is as important as roads housing and health and people would accept that.