

Your submission to Clean Water

Ian James Cairns

Clause

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

Notes

I do not accept that the setting of 'swimming targets' is appropriate as the primary indicator of progress on water quality improvement. Certainly one would hope that there will be such improvement. But I would rather that the focus be put more squarely back on those firms/farmers etc that are polluting. These companies/individuals must take responsibility. I think the government should require these people to submit pollution reduction plans for their businesses. The regional councils would be the judge of what is, or is not, an acceptable reduction plan. The measure (indicator) of progress of the policy is the % of polluters in compliance with their own pollution reduction plans (prp's). Simultaneously, swim-ability would also continue to be measured. If there is no improvement in swim-ability, then policy makers should take that as a signal to tighten up on the prp's.

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

Notes

I see these amendments as an attempt to shift the focus of the debate away FROM PEOPLE DOING SOMETHING ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF WATER POLLUTION to endless bureaucratic process. Polluters might well want to discuss these matters with regional councils in the context of the acceptability of their clean up plans, but not the general public. WE JUST WANT ACTION> DEBATE ON THESE ISSUES IS TANTAMOUNT TO FIDDLING ABOUT WHILE OUR RIVERS DIE

Clause

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

Notes

Again there is nothing wrong with these regulations per se. They should be a useful guide to farmers in the context of their drawing up POLLUTION REDUCTION PLANS. There may be excellent reasons why some farmers in some catchments should move faster or slower than that. The regional councils are the best judge of that.

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

Notes

It is just disappointing that after so much time and effort this is the best Government is able to come up with. The signal is 'business as usual, and to me, THAT IS JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH.