

Subject: FW: MfE Consultation 2017 - Swimmable Rivers

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To: Water Consultation Questions and Comments

Subject: MfE Consultation 2017 - Swimmable Rivers

Submission on the Water 2017 Consultation

Stephanie Chamberlin

To the Environment Minister,

I was really disappointed to read about the decision to re-grade the labels for swimmable rivers, allowing the water quality to be worse while it is implied that the water is safe. I consider this to be a really important benchmark for quality of life in our country. My children are often drawn to play for long periods in creeks that empty out into beaches. It is at times like this that they are able to re-charge themselves by pottering in a natural place. In an increasingly busy, technology saturated world, these kinds of opportunities matter to our family.

One of the beaches we often visit in our family's boat is Little Oneroa Beach on Waiheke Island. The creek there has been smelly and sick looking for years now and it creates a really sad, gross feeling in what is otherwise an exceptionally beautiful place, visited by many tourists. I would be so sad to think we would willingly visit this environmental and social crime of negligence on any other New Zealand waterway. This is surely a time to become more stringent, not more lax.

Furthermore, "sick" creeks send a negative message to tourists. With an increasing population and housing densification we will soon lose the edge of beauty and sparkling cleanliness that sets us apart, if we do not work together to maintain the natural places that are ours.

Please, please reconsider this short-sighted and harmful decision.

Yours sincerely,
Stephanie Chamberlin

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