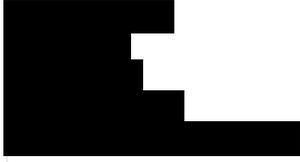


# Your submission to Clean Water

Dr Michael Morris, **Environmental Education Ltd**



## **Clause**

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

## **Notes**

I have not had a chance to examine these in detail, but in general, any attempts to water down provisions for swimmable water by changing the definition, or lowering standards, is shocking. The dairy industry is the only one that is allowed to pollute the water with impunity. If a restaurant owner chucked their rubbish in the water, they would be prosecuted. People have even been prosecuted for cutting down a tree. The excuse that the dairy industry is the 'backbone' of the economy does not wash either. A recent peer reviewed paper confirmed what most of us already knew. If externalities are taken into account, the dairy industry actually costs us money. Tourism has recently overtaken dairy as our biggest export earner, so even from an economic point of view, it makes no sense for us to ruin the very thing that makes us attractive for tourists.

## **Clause**

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

## **Notes**

I oppose any measures that lower pollution standards, for the reasons I have given above.

## **Clause**

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

## **Notes**

Stock should be excluded. There should be no phase in time. Farmers have already had plenty of warning about the effects of stock on waterways. Any intensification of dairying must be a notified activity under the RMA. Most councils have strict rules about freedom campers, because of their defecating in places that could contaminate water ways. Cows produce far more effluent and faeces than humans, so the requirements for them to be kept well away from waterways should be stricter. There must also be requirements for nitrogen loading not to exceed recommended guidelines.

## **Clause**

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

## **Notes**

The environmental provisions should be strengthened, not weakened. This should be part of a wider policy shift away from dairying and towards more sustainable agriculture. Apart from its shocking environmental record, dairy is no longer economical. We are doing nobody any favours by allowing it to continue.