

From: [withheld]
To: [WaterReformPublicConsultation](#)
Subject: Strong action is needed to control river pollution and impact
Date: Friday, 24 January 2014 8:24:42 p.m.

Alastair Smith, [withheld]

Urgent action is needed to control pollution and sediment in New Zealand's freshwater rivers.

Although a Wellington resident, I also have a house at Whangamata on the Coromandel and spend part of each year there, enjoying activities such as kayaking. For some years residents have been rightly concerned about the increasing area occupied by mangroves in Whangamata Harbour. While mangroves are a natural part of the harbour, the increased area occupied by them is a reflection of sediment carried on rivers such as the Waikiekie. The increased sediment is due to apparently uncontrolled changes in agriculture and forestry upstream.

The increased sediment now makes it difficult to kayak on the harbour other than at high tide, and sediment flow out of the harbour entrance endangers Whangamata's world famous surf break. The impacts of increased sediment are not just environmental: they have economic implications through tourism. These examples highlight the need for strong controls over what is carried on rivers to our harbours and coast lines.

In addition, I support the Green Party's submission on proposed objectives and compulsory standards for freshwater.

Alastair Smith