

**From:** [ withheld ]  
**To:** [WaterReformPublicConsultation](#)  
**Subject:** Rivers are for swimming  
**Date:** Friday, 31 January 2014 3:20:10 p.m.

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PLEASE KEEP MY PERSONAL DETAILS CONFIDENTIAL.

I want strong rules that protect our rivers and ensure that they are safe for swimming AND TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE AQUATIC LIFE IN THE ECO SYSTEM. The proposed changes are inadequate .  
Ensuring rivers are clean enough to swim AND TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ECO SYSTEM (E.G ENSURE THERE ARE NO DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS TO AQUATIC LIFE AS A RESULT OF POLLUTION AND ENSURE THE LONG TERM SURVIVAL OF AQUATIC LIFE) should be a compulsory standard, not optional.

Too many recognised water quality indicators are missing. If councils don't have to monitor these indicators then we don't get an accurate understanding of the state of our waterways.

The rules should ensure:

- \* water clarity and periphyton cover (a measure of how much algae, bacteria and detritus is covering the river bed) are monitored, to ensure our rivers are safe for swimming;
- \* monitoring of aquatic insects to ensure our rivers are healthy;
- \* there is a limit on both problem pollutants nitrogen and phosphorus so they don't cause nuisance algal growth; and
- \* a limit on sediment to ensure our rivers are healthy.

Any exemptions to the rules should be limited to a list of specific water bodies.

One certain way to help protect our rivers is to ensure that we look after them and that the water is clean enough for swimming, not just wading or boating. Human health and our economy depend on safeguarding our environment.

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