

Proposed amendments to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011



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Personal details

If you are making this submission as a representative for an organisation, the name of that organisation will be used in any reports on the submissions, but your name will be withheld. If you are making this submission as an individual, your name will be used in any reports on the submissions unless you request otherwise.

First name [withheld]

Surname [withheld]

Email [withheld]

Organisation

Telephone [withheld]

Address [withheld]

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Why do we need to amend the NPS-FM?

1. Have we correctly identified the problems currently associated with implementing the NPS-FM? No

2. If not, what problems, if any, you have faced with implementation?

First we need clean air, then we need absolutely clean water. It is a human right, and water is also the life blood of the planet. The more polluted it is the more polluted everything else becomes. Nothing should be discharged into our lakes, rivers, streams. It's a simple concept and simple to apply.

Options for providing further national direction

3. Do you agree that amending the NPS-FM would solve the problems identified in section 2?

Comment

4. If not, would additional guidance be sufficient to solve the problems identified?

Comment

5. Is there another solution to the problems? Why would that be preferable?

Comment

Proposed amendments to the NPS-FM: accounting

6. Do you agree with requiring councils to account for all water takes? Yes

Comment

Way too much allowance is made to companies and farmers to discharge waste, whether chemical or biological into water ways. The Manawatu river is a perfect example. All councils, and the Government as a whole must

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account for what goes into water ways and why, and practices that encourage or allow discharging to stop completely!

7. Do you agree with requiring councils to account for all sources of contaminants? Yes

Comment

Account for it, but also help the councils to stop it, and clean up the given sources of contamination, and the waterways themselves.

8. Do you think that the requirements in policies CC1 and CC2 of the proposed NPS-FM amendments have the right balance between national prescription and regional flexibility?

Comment

9. Do you think the time period allowed for councils to develop accounting systems is appropriate? No

Comment

There should be an immediate stop to all practices which release contaminants into waterways, including the oceans around New Zealand.

Proposed amendments to the NPS-FM: NOF values

10. Should there be a national set of values as outlined in appendix 1 of the proposed NPS FM?

Comment

11. Are there any additional values that should be included? Why are these values nationally significant/important (recognising that councils can use other values if they wish)?

Comment

12. Are there any values that should be deleted from appendix 1 of the proposed NPS-FM and why?

Comment

13. Do you agree with the descriptions of the national values in appendix 1 of the proposed NPS FM?

Comment

Proposed amendments to the NPS-FM: NOF attributes

14. Do you agree with the attributes associated with the values in appendix 2 of the proposed NPS FM?

Comment

15. Do you agree with the numeric attribute states in appendix 2 of the proposed NPS FM?

Comment

16. Do you agree with the narrative attribute states in appendix 2 of the proposed NPS FM?

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Comment

Proposed amendments to the NPS-FM: Timing of putting NOF in place

17. Do you agree with putting a NOF in the NPS-FM now, including only the attributes for which there is adequate evidence, and updating it as the scientific basis for further attributes and states become available?

Comment

18. Or should the Government delay putting the NOF into place until a more comprehensive set of attributes has been developed?

Comment

Proposed amendments to the NPS-FM: Processes for freshwater objective setting

19. Do you agree with having the process requirements to link values and freshwater objectives directed in policy CA1 in the proposed amendments? If not, why not?

Comment

20. Do you think the process outlined will work? If not, why not?

Comment

21. Do you agree with the proposed matters in policy CA1(e) that must be considered when establishing freshwater objectives? If not, why not?

Comment

22. Is it clear that setting freshwater objectives is an iterative process which involves consideration of the impacts of the limits, management methods, and timeframes required to meet a potential freshwater objective?

Comment

23. Do you agree that regions should have discretion to determine timeframes for meeting freshwater objectives?

Comment

24. Are there any aspects of the process that are not clear?

Comment

Proposed amendments to the NPS-FM: Compulsory values

25. Do you agree that ecosystem health should be a compulsory value? Yes

Comment

The planet is a closed loop ecosystem, what we do here affects other systems over there, so to speak. The waterways of New Zealand are an integral part of our ecosystem, not a separate exclusive region. Flora fauna and water are all part of the same system, and you cannot affect one without affecting the other.

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26. Do you agree that human health for secondary contact recreation (such as boating and wading) should be a compulsory value? No

Comment

Contact recreation (i.e, swimming) should be the compulsory value. But again, if it is safe to drink, then it is safe to swim in. Our water standards should be based on that. It is not that long ago that all lakes, streams, rivers and wet lands were safe to drink from, and only human pollution has changed that state. All councils should be moving toward that water quality!

27. Do you think there should be more compulsory values? If so, what should they be, and why? What attributes should be associated with them? Yes

Comment

All natural water sources in New Zealand should be drinkable from, not just swimmable in. This is not an unreasonable goal, but one that sets the standard for a natural healthy and prosperous ecosystem and country. Then and only then can we call ourselves 100% Pure!

Proposed amendments to the NPS-FM: National bottom line

28. Should there be numeric bottom lines for attributes of the compulsory values?

Comment

29. Do you agree with the proposed level at which bottom lines would be set for each attribute of ecosystem health? If not, at what level should they be set?

Comment

30. Do you agree with the proposed level at which bottom lines would be set for each attribute of human health for secondary contact recreation? If not, at what level should they be set? No

Comment

The bottom lines for each of the measured water quality attributes should be equivalent to what is considered safe for swimming in. But to be quite frank, you should be able to drink the water of any stream, lake, or river in New Zealand, without the risk of getting sick!

31. Do you agree that transitional arrangements should be provided to allow councils and communities to set objectives below a national bottom line for a short time?

Comment

Proposed amendments to the NPS-FM: Exceptions to bottom lines

32. Do you agree that there could be exceptions where the natural state of the freshwater management unit breaches bottom lines? Where in your region do you think this type of exception might apply?

Comment

Where in your region do you think this type of exception might apply?

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Comment

34. Do you agree that there could be exceptions for significant existing infrastructure (eg, dams), where a choice is made to manage a freshwater management unit below bottom lines? Where in your region do you think this type of exception might apply?

Comment

35. Do you agree that freshwater management units eligible under the first two exceptions above should be decided by regional councils?

Comment

36. Do you agree that freshwater management units eligible for an exception due to the effects of significant existing infrastructure should be decided at a national level and included in appendix 3 of the NPS-FM?

Comment

37. What should the criteria be for allowing exceptions based on significant existing infrastructure?

Comment

Proposed amendments to the NPS-FM: Tūngata whenua values

38. Do you think the proposed NPS-FM adequately provides for Te Mana o te Wai?

Comment

39. Do you agree with the way tūngata whenua values are described in proposed appendix 1 of the NPS-FM?

Comment

40. Do you support adding Te Mana o te Wai to objective A1 of the amended NPS FM as a matter that must be safeguarded? What would be the implications of adding this to objective A1 in the NPS-FM?

Comment

Proposed amendments to the NPS-FM: Monitoring

41. Do you agree with the new section in the NPS-FM requiring monitoring plans? If not, why not?

Comment

Other comments

42. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the issues and proposals in this document? It is time that the environment was recognised for the fact that it provides our air, water, sustenance, and all resources we use every day. Without it we have nothing!

We are in a symbiotic relationship with this planet, and what we do to it, we do to ourselves. Our health depends upon the planets health, and closer to home, New Zealand's health. New Zealand's health depends upon our waterways health, and what we do to it affects every system in the country, both ecologically and anthropogenic.

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The cleaner the water is, the healthier we are, in every way. Standards need to be set that go beyond what people may think reasonable today, because only tomorrow will we realise the effect on our natural living systems humanity has had, and how easy it still is for these systems to regenerate, and create ecological prosperity for all.

The answer to all of this is not heavy handed policy and enforcement with regards to the everyday person, but heavy handed policy and enforcement with regards to those companies, corporations, and individuals, who discharge and pollute New Zealand's water ways and wetlands.