

From: [withheld]
To: [WaterReformPublicConsultation](#)
Subject: Rivers are for swimming
Date: Friday, 24 January 2014 5:46:01 p.m.

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[withheld]

I am totally disgusted that about 70% of our rivers are no longer safe for swimming. Our dairy farmers have been polluting our rivers. John Key has turned a blind eye to the damage because Fonterra is a major source of income for New Zealand. Cronyism has cost us the health of our rivers. I want stronger rules that reign in Fonterra and the dairy farmers so that our rivers have a chance to become healthy again.

I want strong rules that protect our rivers and ensure that they are safe for swimming. The proposed changes are inadequate. Ensuring rivers are clean enough to swim in 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 damage being done to our waterways.

The rules should ensure effective monitoring of:

- * Water clarity and periphyton cover (a measure of how much algae, bacteria and detritus is covering the river bed), to ensure our rivers are safe for swimming;
- * Aquatic insects to ensure our rivers are healthy.

The rules should ensure there is a limit on:

- * Problem pollutants such as nitrogen and phosphorus, so they don't cause damaging and dangerous algal growth; and
- * Sediment to ensure our rivers become healthy again in the future.

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.

Tom Batchelor