

I disagree that the 'bottom line' for water quality in rivers and lakes should be 'secondary contact'. The bottom line **MUST** be safety for full immersion, i.e. for swimming.

Councils already have the ability to make exceptions for some rivers and lakes to this bottom line, the rest of the water bodies should remain or be restored to a standard safe for swimming.

Any less of a standard would seriously impair not only the recreational and environmental values dear to all New Zealanders, but it would also do long-term economic damage to this country's exports and earnings as a result of dumbing down our 100% Pure image/advantage overseas.

I disagree with the ridiculously extended time line of 2030 before the standards take effect, this should be cut to 2020 at the very latest, too much further damage to our valued water bodies would otherwise entail.

Thresholds for contaminants and bacterial content should not be set as 'annual mediums', they should be set to apply to the measurements at the time of the year when there was most contact with the water body, e.g. under the new proposal a water body may be deemed safe for swimming if its annual mean is within limits, yet its summer mean values, when swimming is likely to take place, may be above those limits.

There must also be limits on groundwater nitrate levels especially in areas where people draw their domestic drinking water supply from groundwater.

Yours sincerely, Dr Nick Bradford M.A. MB BChir. DObstRCOG DCH FRNZCGP