

From: [withheld]
Subject: Rivers are for swimming
Date: Friday, 24 January 2014 2:30:30 p.m.

Sender - Ralph Broad, [withheld]

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.

Personally I have seen situations where stock are allowed to freely use rivers. This is unacceptable and needs to be legislated against.

Also farm fences need to be set well back from the edge of any watercourse and farmers discouraged from draining wetlands as these flora and fauna habitats (includes whitebait) are being decimated.

National environmental standards need to be set covering the above to be enforced by Regional and District Councils as appropriate. National reporting systems need to be set up. Where any waterway falls below a set standard it needs at a National level to trigger a review process to look at the cause, remediation steps and ongoing more intensive monitoring and enforcement..

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.

Ralph Broad