

It is totally unacceptable to me, 58 years old and a born New Zealander, to consider any downgrading of the quality of our rivers and streams. We need to be forcing the dairy industry, and others, to take greater responsibility for the environment and in particular the waterways. "Secondary contact recreation" is not good enough. We should be able to swim, dive and play in our beautiful rivers, and drink from them too. I live in a dairying valley and have watched in horror the "green desert" degradation of the local scenery, the excessive application of urea fertilisers, and the half-hearted if not downright cynical efforts of some farm owners to meet "voluntary compliance" standards. Water quality is, especially in the longer term, a far more important consideration than maximising the profits of the dairy industry, or any other agricultural or horticultural enterprise. Water quality is intrinsic to our tourist industry and to our quality of life as New Zealanders.

Please accept this as my submission and acknowledge as such.

Thank you

Linley Ann Butler  
[withheld]