



Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of NZ Inc
[withheld]

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Proposal to amend the NPS for Freshwater Management

This submission is made by the Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of New Zealand Incorporated (CORANZ). CORANZ advocates for our recreational associations and for recreational users of the outdoors generally, including future generations.

Our membership includes freshwater and salmon angler clubs, and back-country trampers, climbers, deerstalkers and jet boaters, etc who gain much enjoyment from the purity of our water, and not having waterways clogged up with unwanted water weed. (See the last page of this submission for a list of our member associations)

Pure water is also promoted by New Zealand's tourism marketing slogan, **100% PURE**. Yet it is clear that this slogan has become an embarrassing façade over much of the country, as the National Government's plan is to intensify pastoral and other farming, with the goal of greatly increasing primary production in the next ten years.

Given the very low standards proposed in in this NPS, it is clear that the National Government intends to dump on the environment to achieve the growth targets it has chosen for agricultural intensification, in its "Build it and they will come" marketing approach..

Primary production intensification will damage our freshwater quality

The increase in dairying, the most intensive form of pastoral farming, bodes ill for our freshwater environment. The tools of how to protect our environment from the adverse impacts of intensive dairying are well known. For example, they consist of:

- **Riparian planting** of native species along stream, river and lake boundaries
- **Keeping dairy cows out of waterways**
- **Managing fertiliser application** to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus runoff
- **Fertilising pastures and crops with effluent runoff** that would otherwise end up in our waterways eg as in the Waikato river catchments, and in reduction of eutrophication in lakes e.g. Rotorua and Rotoiti.
- Using **mats of native species to remove nitrogen, phosphorus and other effluent pollutants** from lakes to stop eutrophication (oxygen deficit in waterways, making them toxic to life)
- Having **concrete cow pads** on dairy farms, to allow cows to rest during the day, and allow ready collection of their effluent, and recycling it back onto crops or pasture on the farm, with benefits in reduced farm fertiliser use
- **Reducing water pollution from sewage treatment plants, and point source industrial pollution**, eg wool scouring, meat works, pulp and paper plant, chemical production etc

- **Reducing erosion from areas subject to storm erosion**, by appropriate tree and vegetation planting
- **Reduced erosion when harvesting forests**

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment has reviewed the quality of our waterways ([Water quality in New Zealand: Land use and nutrient pollution](#) published in November 2013) This sets out the science of pollution by nitrogen and phosphorus etc in our waterways, and the damage that they do to aquatic life. They have adverse impacts on water quality and poisoning of the water ecosystems results. The report sets these adverse impacts out in a straightforward way, and is well worth reading.

These pollutants affect water quality such as clarity, and aquatic life, so destroying or degrading freshwater fisheries eg for anglers, and for swimmers, jet-boaters, picnickers etc.

The National Government's primary production intensification should be accompanied by a programme to maintain, restore and improve water quality and reduce pollution in our fresh water systems. That is if the 100% PURE slogan is to have any real meaning, rather than just being a smoke screen for pollution.

2 Where is the National Government's Environmental Support Programme for water quality to balance its farming intensification programme?

No National Government's programme has been proposed, The very low levels of water quality proposed in the NPS on freshwater highlight that there is every intention for National to just run the environment into the ground. The "base" water quality level at present, is ability to wade through fresh water (in waders) without damage to one's health.

This is a much lower standard than ability to swim in water, the fresh-water standard that most recreational users of fresh water would like to see. Ability to swim in water would mean that taking a mouthful of water would not lead to getting sick eg from e coli or other bacteria or poisons e.g. acids or alkalis in the water.

We already know only too well that "voluntary" standards do not work. Why anyone thought they would is bizarre – If they are voluntary, and if they cost money or effort, eg fencing riparian boundaries, then most profit-driven farmers will ignore them.

Farmers are not stupid. Why should they spend money and reduce their profitability, when they don't have to? In spite of this we take our hats off to those farmers that do do the right thing, in spite of it costing them money. The Fonterra so-called "Accord" was simply twelve wasted years in not addressing dairy industry pollution.

The fact that fresh water pollution has become as bad as it has already is an indictment of regional and unitary councils, who have not been prepared to move to improve fresh water standards. Perhaps it is because many of the councillors involved are farmers. As has happened in the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, where farmer candidates were elected to the Council to get irrigation schemes for the farmers as cheaply as possible.

And wasn't that the reason that the National Government sacked the Canterbury Regional Councillors in 2010? So that the National Government's undemocratically-appointed replacement councillors would allocate the water for irrigation, and without any standards to maintain or improve water quality.

3 What changes CORANZ proposes to balance agricultural intensification:

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3.2 At least 80% of lowland waterways be up to swimming standard

3.3 Increase the quality standard for sewage treatment schemes by stages to “swimming” standard (except at times of flood) within the next ten years. Ditto for polluting point source industries eg pollutants discharged into the Tarawera River

3.4 Manage on-farm N (Nitrogen) and P (phosphorus) so that run-off is significantly reduced in key catchments such as significant recreational lakes and rivers eg Rotorua lakes

3.5 Take effective action to reduce eutrophication of recreationally important lakes and wetlands eg Lake Taupo, Rotorua Lakes, etc

3.6 At least 80% of lowland waterways be able to support trout and native fish species

3.7 Change the untrue 100% PURE campaign to be X% PURE Waterways, based on what percentage of the rivers (weighted by average flow) are above swimmable standard.

3.8 Maintain minimum flows in all rivers and streams that will protect their recreational values for swimming, amenity, picnics, fishing etc

3.9 Stop the use of toxins such as Dew 600 (widely used for grass grub control) which is lethal to aquatic life.

3.10 Water harvesting schemes need a focus on better quality water as well: Though these are being proposed in Central Hawke’s Bay and the Wairarapa, there is no commitment by the promoters of the schemes (Greater Wellington and HB Regional Council) to do anything to improve water quality, to make up for the degradation of the water resource that will result from the schemes. CORANZ proposes that water harvesting schemes put 20% of the cost of the scheme towards increasing water quality in the region, as a community bonus, and to undo some of the drop in water quality that such schemes seem to create. Such water-harvesting schemes should no be taxpayer subsidised.

3.11 Urban water supply – Use of rainwater tanks to supplement the pressures on freshwater supply to large urban areas (Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch) as a way of making urban water go further.

3.12 No changes to National Water Conservation Orders without specific hearings on why they are being reduced, and alternative options to reduction

CORANZ requests to be heard in support of this submission.

Yours truly

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Secretary

Co-Chairs

The **Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of NZ (CORANZ)** is an umbrella council of national and regional outdoor recreation organisations promoting awareness of outdoor recreation and advocating for it. Our members include NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers (NZFFA), NZ Salmon Anglers Assn, Public Access New Zealand, Jetboating New Zealand, Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association, Wellington Deerstalkers Assn, Wellington Family 4WD Assn, High Country Pleasure Riders Club, Shooting Hunters Outdoor Trust, All of these organisations desire high quality and pure freshwater.