

Angela Crompton

[withheld]

A Green Party email tells me proposed law changes for river preservation are not strong enough to protect our natural waterways. I personally grew up at a time when diving into a river was just an issue of personal bravery against the cold and contact with the eels and who knows what else might live in the the water depths. These days, so many rivers are out of bounds for people to swim in because of pollution.

And if they are deemed unsafe for people to swim in (and most of us try not to swallow the water), what are they doing to those eels, the trout, salmon and native freshwater fish that are expected to live in them?

Ensuring "clean-green New Zealand" rivers are unpolluted and safe for all life which wishes to use it should be a compulsory standard.

Please add my voice to the Green Party call to put more water quality indicators in place. That is surely a task for local body councils and the Department of Conservation - although the huge cuts the National Government has made to that body in the past year surely makes its gatekeeper role less and less viable.

Regular checks must be made on all rivers and records kept of:

- * water clarity and algae, bacteria and detritus content.
- * aquatic insects which signal the health of a river.
- * any nitrogen and phosphorus pollutants
- * levels of sediment

Ease the burden of such monitoring with more public information about ways to keep our rivers healthy and what the average person can do to look after them.

Yours sincerely