

From: [withheld]
To: [WaterReformPublicConsultation](#)
Subject: Rivers are for swimming
Date: Friday, 24 January 2014 11:47:30 a.m.

Pamela Curry
[withheld]

It is a wonderful memory of mine to swim in crystal clear water in our river.... to dry your hair, and for it be wonderfully silky, to feel clean and fresh. Sadly, this is now no longer possible. I am incensed that successive governments have failed to deal with the destruction of our rivers, its ecosystems, and have encouraged the proliferation of dairying, its dirty practices, and its greedy use of our waterways. Those that make the profits, should pay for the clean up of our rivers; and I include industry in that too, like Fonterra, and Breweries.

All companies using the water from and polluting our rivers, should be made to pay for the cost of the clean up. Tax Dairy Farmers, and Fonterra, heavily for their contribution to this clean up.

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.

Too many recognised water quality indicators are missing. If councils don't have to monitor these indicators then we don't get an accurate understanding of the state of our waterways.

The rules should ensure:

- * water clarity and periphyton cover (a measure of how much algae, bacteria and detritus is covering the river bed) are monitored, to ensure our rivers are safe for swimming;
- * monitoring of aquatic insects to ensure our rivers are healthy;
- * there is a limit on both problem pollutants nitrogen and phosphorus so they don't cause nuisance algal growth; and
- * a limit on sediment to ensure our rivers are healthy.

Any exemptions to the rules should be limited to a list of specific water bodies.

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.

I will vote for the Party that promotes this policy to protect our environment for our future generations, and environment which, in my view, is currently going down the toilet.

Pam Curry

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