

Minister

Of genuine concern to all anglers is the quality of our water ways and lakes. Successive governments have avoided taking real steps to control pollution of our water ways and lakes simply because it has been seen as detrimental to productivity growth and economic return from horticulture and farming interests.

I accept and understand that balances must be struck between competing water users but the damage that has been done and is being done cannot be permitted to continue. To do so will tip the balance over to such an extent that we will go past the point of no return.

Slack border policies governing sporting equipment being permitted entry to New Zealand resulted in Didymo becoming established in far too many New Zealand water ways.

Nitrate levels and other pollutants from both dairying and industrial discharge is increasing. Strict and harsh penalties are not imposed on farmers or business found to be breaching regulations governing discharge and this must stop.

Every New Zealander and every Government has wanted to retain the 'green clean' image for tourism but this claim is now fast becoming farcical and our credibility in this respect as a Nation is rapidly loosing all credibility in global terms.

If our waterways are to be preserved for future generations and be self sustaining then action must be taken to prevent any further increases of pollutants entering them and such measures need to be immediate and not introduced as a long term strategy.

John Ell

[withheld]