

Submission

The enforceable minimal standards on water quality and quantity are, in our view, too low and we therefore oppose the proposed amendments to the NPS. In recent years we have been witnessing a steady decline in water quality across the country and if the proposed standards are maintained, they will result in a continuation of this trend.

Whilst we strongly support the creation of an NPS for fresh water, we are firmly of the opinion that effective and adequate minimum limits must be put in place and enforced to halt the decline in water quality, anything less will result in more harm than good.

We are also concerned that the timeframes for setting objectives, values and limits are too long, and should be reduced to 2020. New Zealand's water resource is too precious and important to all New Zealanders and to our economy to be put at risk by the proposals in their current form.

Your Sincerely

[withheld]

Chairperson

for Forest and Bird, Wellington Branch