

From: [withheld]
Subject: Submission 03127 - Alan Geeves - Rivers are for swimming
Date: Monday, 3 February 2014 8:03:50 p.m.

Alan Geeves
[withheld]

Hi

Although I am responding via a Green party initiative to this highly important question I wonder if they have gone anywhere near far enough in there requirements. Im a trumper and 4wder as my hobbies and through these hobbies visit a lot of waterways and see the degradation that has happened over the last 10 years or so. 10 years ago I would of willingly filled a glass of water from anywhere on the Hutt River and drank it. Now If I do this in summer I will most likely die. Many dogs have dies swimming in this river. The Hutt river has no farms on its banks and no sewage dumped into it treated or otherwise. If a river like this is now in this state what chances have other rivers have under the current legislation.

I know its a long road back from where we are now but the only way back is to make the law require actions to improve the rivers.

Its not only what impurities get added to water that needs to be addressed Its also flow levels. These must be set high enough to ensure the health of the waterway. The 2 reasons the Hutt river is nearly dead is storm water runoff and the amount of water removed by the Wellington region for town water supplies.

I want to see all rivers that have not traveled through farms and towns fit for drinking and all rivers below these unavoidable degraders still fit to either swim in of catch a fish and eat it. How many rivers on the Canterbury plain would you drink from?

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.
alan geeves

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