

From: [withheld]
To: [WaterReformPublicConsultation](#)
Subject: Submission 03110 - Linda Z Grammer - ssubmission to central govt- Rivers are for swimming
Date: Monday, 3 February 2014 5:58:14 p.m.

3 February 2014

Submittor:
Mrs. Linda Z Grammer
[withheld]

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission, so that together we can achieve sound environmental and public health outcomes.

Our farming family is extremely concerned about Northland's consistent poor performance regarding lowland stream and river quality- Northland consistently rates the worst or second worst in the whole of NZ for water quality. Having said that, poor lowland river and stream water quality is a common problem in too many regions of NZ. We need 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.
- *a ban on GE crops because herbicide resistant GE crops are sprayed with huge amounts of herbicide (which finds its way into the soils and waterways) and insect resistant (Bt) crops contain an insecticide in every cell, and those insecticides have been shown in reputable studies overseas to contaminate soils and waterways (for example, in the midwestern corn belt). Transgenic crops have been shown to have lower yields, use more herbicides and exude toxins through their roots into soils and waterways.

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

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.

We urge you to do more to lift the standard for water quality in NZ, to protect our environment, 100% Pure NZ brand, indigenous species and human health.

Linda Z Grammer