

**Concise Submission to Ministry for the Environment on
National Policy Statement for Fresh Water Management 2011 amendments**

Name: John Guthrie

Email: [withheld]

Comment:

I request that you change the Compulsory Values (Section 4.3) to swimmable, and over time drinkable, water for all New Zealand Rivers.

This is a feasible and achievable standard of water quality. Countries in Europe have restrictions on fertiliser use and their farmers have learned to adjust and remain profitable.

Safe for Swimming must be the minimum level of quality for all our freshwater.

Allowing a continuing decline of water quality to 'wading or boating only' is unacceptable.

I cannot believe how much superfluous language is used in this **National Policy Statement for Fresh Water Management 2011 amendments**, for something that should be so obvious; i.e. CLEAN WATER. There is a total denial of the huge problems we face in New Zealand with our water quality, it is huge. A generation ago our children could swim in local rivers and now they cannot and so this amendment wants to legally reduce what we consider to be acceptable, safe and healthy. This is really old Soviet style thinking, as if we exist to abuse what resources we have without consequent thought to the future generation who will inhabit this land.

What lobby group pushed this amendment?

Has no one got a conscience anymore?

Has anyone thought of the long term affect to coastal waters as pollutants from rivers and streams make their way into the ocean?

Thirty years ago we could drink water from downland streams. Who would dream of doing this now.

How can we possibly call ourselves **GREEN and CLEAN**, it is nonsense when we are fast becoming one (not the most)of the most polluted countries in the world

Many European countries have become far more clean and green then we are. It is only our small population that allows us to get away with our image.

Essentially this amendment if passed is to accept and allow for further degradation of our waterways.

The double standards are obvious: We have so much regulation around septic tanks in rural areas that are very expensive and yet apparently accept degradation of waterways by very poor farming practices.