

From: [Johanna Güttler](#)
To: [WaterReformPublicConsultation](#)
Subject: Submission 05069 - Johanna Guttler - submission to proposed changes to NPS-FM
Date: Tuesday, 4 February 2014 10:13:35 a.m.

Hi there,

I disagree with the proposed changes to the NPS-FM in regards to the national bottom line and the measured attributes. In summary, **I want Section 4.3 Compulsory Value to be set at swimmable/safe immersion level and total phosphorus and total nitrogen to be measured attributes in rivers.**

Firstly: the national bottom line should be for safe for swimming. In the NPS-FM the national bottom line standard is well below the safe for swimming guideline. Minimum standard water quality level that every river, lake and beach should have needs to be safe for swimming. Safe swimming and not wading or boating should be the minimum standard water quality level.

Second: total nitrogen and total phosphorus should be measured and regulated in rivers as well as in lakes. Nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) are the two main contributors to algae growth, lower oxygen availability and in general the health of a waterbody.

In summary: the standard for water quality need to be higher and stricter. Currently the water quality of too many river, lakes and beaches is unacceptable and below safe for swimming guidelines. This is unacceptable. People in New Zealand used to swim almost everywhere and even drink the water from most rivers. Why is it acceptable that this is not the case any more. The disadvantage clearly is with the people. And most shockingly the only ones who get an advantage out of it, are very few big cooperate companies, which take their profit overseas or don't even pay taxes in NZ.

I do not see how the proposed changes improve water quality in New Zealand. I am disappointed by the changes.

I am disappointed by the New Zealand government and past government in general. I had to realise that New Zealand is far from clean and green, pure and pristine. Rather, New Zealand's soils are contaminated from years of application of chemicals (cadmium levels exceeding acceptable levels in the EU by far), native species are extinct or threatened, the oceans are overfished, mountains of rubbish and so-called recycling are being created, and the **water quality is degrading**. This is not a country that is clean and green, this is a shame.

Kind regards,

Johanna Güttler