

I strongly support all measures to keep New Zealand's water clean, but the time given to Regional Councils to clean up waterways is far too long, and nitrate pollution levels are far too high. Bernard Shaw said the people are only made good by Act of Parliament but the Act itself must be sufficiently powerful for people to make the effort to comply with it. Britain's policy of drafting stern legislation and fining polluters highly shows that money talks, and if it's simpler to clean up your act than pay the fine, we will get clean waterways. Water will be the greatest sought-after resource in the coming years. Our rivers should not be used only as a source for irrigation for an already over developed dairy industry. If we are thinking of commerce only, tourism to wild unspoilt places has as great a claim as farmland. Legislation should prevent bad farming practice concerned only with a quick profit. And I want my grandchildren to be able to drink fresh water that comes out of the tap, rather than reprocessed waste.

B. A. Hamer

[withheld]