

From: [Abby Haverkamp](#)
To: [WaterReformPublicConsultation](#)
Subject: Submission 05177 - Abby Haverkamp - SUBMISSION FOR SWIMMING SAFE FRESH WATERWAYS IN NEW ZEALAND
Date: Tuesday, 4 February 2014 3:33:42 p.m.

To whom it may concern,

Re: National objective for freshwater as safe for swimming

My name is Abby Haverkamp I would like to express my desire that rivers, lakes and oceans in New Zealand be safe for swimming.

I grew up on the estuary waterfront in Foxton Beach on the Manawatu River. I spent my childhood swimming, sailing, mud walking, jet skiing, fishing and kayaking on the river. 30 years later my two young children are now exposed to one of the most populated rivers in the country.

I am yet to read a study that shows that waterways are doing anything but declining in almost all water quality parameters.

I believe that the government has a responsibility to protect our waterways and work with business, in particular dairy farms, to impose strict measures on the effluent and nutrient levels that are leached in to waterways. Of course farmers will be looking at a reduction in profit by less intense practices, limiting the NPK that is applied to land, investing in infrastructure to capture wastewater and holding ponds to contain and treat it, purchase filtration systems and spend time and money on riverbank plants to stabilise banks and help soak up any runoff.

For me clean waterways are not just about protecting our PURE NZ reputation which is so often quoted in the media. For me it is about the recreational enjoyment that I believe every New Zealand should have to swim at a local watering hole, waterski in a river, fish in a lake without the signs that are scattered around New Zealand, advising the public not to fish or swim in a waterway because of contamination.

I am inspired at the thought of a government that transforms the state of our waterways and believe every New Zealand would be proud in 20 or 30 years time to recognise that decisions made in 2014 made the difference to our water quality in New Zealand.

Kind regards,

Abby Haverkamp
[withheld]