

From: [withheld]
To: [WaterReformPublicConsultation](#)
Subject: Submission 05083 - Ashley Holwell - Rivers are for swimming
Date: Tuesday, 4 February 2014 10:55:16 a.m.

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Please, help us help you help us to catch up with the world in terms of river conservation.

In Rotterdam, home to the world's largest port by land area, rare species of fish have returned to their waterways, and the river is entirely swimmable - through a pointed effort by authorities.

In Raglan, the efforts of a small group over the past 20 years has seen their harbour completely cleaned up, with fish returning and people able to enjoy it!

Our Manawatu river is widely recognised as one of the most polluted in the world!

Let's sort this out or we will become the laughing stock of a world moving far beyond slash and burn colonialism!

I want 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.

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

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.

ashley holwell