

Jo Hosking [withheld]

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. I am sure you don't actually read this stuff Amy but I would like to think that you did. I am not a Green voter (staunchly national) but there is a user pays aspect to this Dairy Farmers are this country's accidental millionaires and need to be accountable for the degradation the industry has caused to our rivers and streams. Rather than buying a new tractor (or in many cases Audi Q7!!!) they should be required to undertake tasks to protect waterways.

Thanks

Jo Hosking