

Re National Policy Statement for Fresh Water Management – amendments

From
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[withheld]
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It is the government's role and responsibility as the elected representatives of the people to ensure the sustainability of our water, for everyone, for the future. To be sustainable for life (human, aquatic and terrestrial) our water need to be unpolluted.

Clean, healthy, fresh water is essential for all life – but when looking at the HPS – FWM amendments it is not obvious that the government understands this.

This policy should aim to improve our water quality and try to get back to the “clean green image of NZ” that we used to be proud of.

However:

- Nitrogen limits

The nitrogen limits set by the proposed levels A – D are not going to achieve that. These new levels are setting the bar lower than before rather than higher which is what is needed. The A band allows more than twice as much nitrogen in the water than the current guidelines. Whereas the national bottom line is 10 x higher. What message is that giving to nitrogen uses – full permission to overstock and over fertilise.

- Dissolved oxygen

This needs to be measured across a whole range of river sites as well as below wastewater plants to provide any sort of accurate assessment

- Biological assessment of river health

This should be included as an assessment tool – Councils, community groups and schools are used to using these methods already. It is accepted all over the world as a robust and reliable method.

- Sedimentation

This is something else which should be measured as it has a huge effect on the health of our rivers

- Community involvement

The effect of a stake holder driven process is very obvious in the outcomes of this document. The “ordinary” turn the tap on and go swimming New Zealander is not represented. A few people are being allowed to destroy the health of our waterways and our human health for their short term financial gain.

The reliance of the role of the community in setting bottom lines with regional councils is a flawed concept and just reinforces the above. The CWMS is an example of such reliance on a community driven process

which is led by people with a vested commercial interest in using (and abusing) water. Such people are the only ones who can attend frequent meetings during the day and can commit to the time involved and have the finance to employ specialists to put over their point of view.