

From: [withheld]
To: [WaterReformPublicConsultation](#)
Subject: Rivers are for swimming
Date: Friday, 24 January 2014 2:04:56 p.m.

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[withheld]

To whom it may concern,

Rivers are an enormous asset to our people, their lifestyles, tourism, fisheries, our economy, ecosystems and of course our nations physical and mental health. Rivers should not only be swimmable the water should also be drinkable anything less than that is an insult to your own biology and the biology of every other individual and animal in our country, I desire our rivers to be protected, respected and the water quality enhanced so they are safe for swimming and eventually drinking. The proposed changes are embarrassing.

Ensuring rivers are clean enough to swim in should be a basic requirement and simply the beginning of our efforts to bring about a cleaner, healthier New Zealand.

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, reported on with an active programme for reduction or these problem implemented to ensure our rivers are safe for swimming;
- * monitoring of aquatic insects to ensure our rivers are healthy;
- * there is elimination of pollutants nitrogen and phosphorus so they don't cause nuisance algal growth; these pollutants should be banned from use within 1km of any waterway, and eventually banned altogether as we look at developing an organic nutrient industry
- * a complete ban on dumping of any non organic properties, sediment or other addition to ensure our rivers are healthy and returned to their natural splendour.

No exemptions to the rules. Lets get proactive about cleaning up NZ, the waterways and dirty dairy. Dairy need to be innovative in finding ways to manage its own waste without impeding upon a single other human being, animal or plant life. This Government needs to make a stand to take some steps toward responsible operation.

Our future as a nation depends upon creating a healthy environment.

Chris Jacques