

To the Minister.

My observation in last years drought in Taranaki was beneficial to the our streams which are all mountain feed. My observations while trout fishing, were the river was cleaner and more prolific in life due to less and in probably in a lot of cases no run off from farm nitrate into the waterways. The river bed was non slippery and clear in the manganui lower reaches and fished well. My first idea was that it would be stagnant with low flow but no, it was looking good. This year we are back to a slimy bottom river despite rainfall being great but a more productive dairy year.

Good things are happening in the awareness of river and water quality but it is too slow. I have watch taranaki being destroyed i.e. wetlands for 52 years in the name of progress. However progress means improvement not degradation of natural balance. We are again paying for what we had to be put back. Congratulations to the farmers that realised this early and lead in the improvement. I am not a scientist but a great observer and ranger for fish and game. I look out for the environment free to all and the fish and game, with passion. Swamp land in nz must be protected by covenant as forest is. Please balance this and go beyond the streams to the source. Reduce the nitrite dramatically now and speed up the recovery. Yes use the resource of water but do it wisely and recycle the nutrient. Educate the users and that means all of us. Not just the dairy industry. I hate the river grazing but the worst effect is the drainage and disruption of small swamp for pasture. Make these little Eco systems on farms and balance it out. Who knows the farmers may see frog or pidgin again. We have to stop this clean green image false advertising to the world markets and market what we do here to balance our Eco systems. Taranaki has oil and gas companies working hard and doing a great job with the environment compliance while the farm sector can sneak around and generally please themselves. Educate and implement and be proud to pump your shit and reclaim your nutrients  
The old cliché "money down the drain" is exactly what they are doing.

Protect our water, us it don't abuse it, pack it in pack it out policy, make farming a world leader in balancing the act and market that with the produce, look after our treasures of swimming fishing and proudness to be a kiwi. We can do this.

Les Martin

[withheld]