

Warm regards

Don Rae

[withheld]

Failure to protect water security is the greatest crime being committed today. Instead of being held in sanctity and trust for future generations, we are squandering the water so that the few may get rich. Civilisations throughout history have fallen due to overly industrialised agriculture - Mayan, Mesopotamian, Sumerian, Pharaonic Egypt. Closer to home, Australia has lost 2.5m hectares to land salination as a result of over-irrigating.

Our water must be protected!! The environment has to come first and the rape of Aotearoa must cease finally.

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 dont have to monitor these indicators then we dont 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 dont 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.

And if the bloody dairy farmers [and their hands are bloody with shame] keep doing what they are doing they should be viciously taxed to pay for the damage they cause.

Don Rae