

From: [withheld]
To: [WaterReformPublicConsultation](#)
Subject: Rivers are for swimming
Date: Friday, 24 January 2014 12:46:55 p.m.

David Russell
[withheld]

Stonger rules are required to ensure farmers plant riparian strips around ALL river banks where farming is practiced..

This is an ideal job creation scheme for unemployed youth. In one year you could begin a serious clean up while creating lots of jobs.

Too easy!

OUR WATER IS OUR LIFE FORCE, AND POLITICIANS HAVE BEEN TOO LAX BECAUSE THEY WANT TO PROMOTE BUSINESS.

LIFE WINS OVER BUSINESS, WHO TREAT POLLUTION AS A RIGHT BECAUSE OF WEAK LAWS.

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 FOR A SPECIFIC REASON AND A SPECIFIC TIME LIMIT.

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.

David Russell