

Dear Ministry for the Environment,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the proposed changes to the NPS on Freshwater Management. I am making this submission as an individual. I give permission to publish my name and postal address (but not email address).

- 1) I agree with requiring councils to account for all water takes.
- 2) I agree with requiring councils to account for all sources of contaminants.
- 3) I agree with adding a NOF to the NPS now and updating it regularly to keep up with best practice in scientific assessment of water quality. It is important that the updates are regular enough and reviewed with sufficient rigour to prevent an out-of-date NOF from becoming a justification for an inadequate council response to poor water quality.
- 4) Please adopt a faster time frame for requiring councils to plan and make water quality improvements.
- 5) If the time frames are shortened in general, it might then become appropriate to make transitional arrangements in specific areas that face particular challenges, so long as councils are held accountable to continual progress within an agreed time frame.
- 6) I do not agree that regional councils should be given the latitude to determine exceptions to the national bottom line.
- 7) I agree that ecosystem health should be a compulsory value. On this note,
 - thank you for including the health of estuaries within the policy;
 - please further amend the policy to address the connection between groundwater and freshwater;
 - please monitor groundwater for nitrate toxicity;
 - please include measures of macroinvertebrate and fish populations in your standards for ecosystem health.
- 8) While human health is a positive compulsory value to add to the policy, primary contact recreation should be the absolute bottom line for all rivers and lakes, not secondary contact recreation.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Kind regards,

Sharon Stevens

[withheld]