

From: [withheld]
To: [WaterReformPublicConsultation](#)
Subject: Rivers are for swimming
Date: Friday, 24 January 2014 3:44:01 p.m.

Bonnie Thomson
[withheld]

Hi there NZ!

Ecosystems need to be protected - and I have fond memories of swimming in beautiful rivers in the North Island, and taking shots of gorgeous river scenery in your chilly South Island. So protect them as best you can! For the sake of the healthy ecosystem and so when tourists like me we can enjoy your beautiful, natural, protected spaces and spend our tourist dollars happily in your breathtaking land.

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.

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.

Thanks for listening and I look forward to your reply.

Regards,

Bonnie

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