

From: [Brook Weatherwell](#)
To: [WaterReformPublicConsultation](#)
Subject: Water standard in New Zealand rivers
Date: Wednesday, 22 January 2014 11:58:25 a.m.

**Submission to Ministry for the Environment on
National Policy Statement for Fresh Water Management 2011
amendments**

Name: Brook Weatherwell

Email: [withheld]

To Whom it concerns,

I am emailing a submission on proposed legislation that accepts reduced water quality in our rivers as an acceptable national standard.

I want to claim that it is our birthright to be able to swim in the rivers without concern for our health. Any activities that pollute rivers so that the standard of water quality declines needs to be addressed at source not by downgrading our expectations of water quality in our rivers.

There are other solutions to the issues of water degradation that can have a much better outcome for us as a nation. This is a feasible and achievable standard of water quality. Countries in Europe have restrictions on fertiliser use and their farmers have learned to adjust and remain profitable. Other industries need to be encouraged to reduce the effect of their waste disposal.

Further countries like Britain and others in Europe have had to invest huge amounts of money into the restoration of rivers after allowing a decline in earlier years. We should not go the same way but address the issue learning from and informed by what has happened elsewhere.

Allowing a continuing decline of water quality to 'wading or boating only' is unacceptable. Our tourism industry is built on Clean Green on so many levels we cannot afford to allow such a compromise to the standards of water in our rivers.

Water is fundamental to our survival on so many levels and is equally important to our health both physically and spiritually.

I want to insist on all of our rivers being safely swimmable and headed back towards being drinkable again.

Safe for Swimming must be the minimum level of quality for all our freshwater.

I want Section 4.3 Compulsory Value to be set at a swimmable/ safe immersion level. ²

Regards,
Brook Weatherwell

Essential Moves

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