

From: [withheld]
To: [WaterReformPublicConsultation](#)
Subject: Submission 02090 - Belinda Weir - Rivers are for swimming
Date: Saturday, 1 February 2014 11:06:41 a.m.

Belinda .weir
[withheld]

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.

Another way to ensure their safety is to now employ those scientific methods available in the world for the cleaning of already polluted waterways; taking care of effluent from freezing works, wool scourers and pulp and paper mills.

I personally feel that it be made compulsory that any farm converting to commercial dairy build their own water treatment to avoid phosphates being leaked into our rivers.

respectfull
Belinda Weir

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