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To: [WaterReformPublicConsultation](#)
Subject: Submission 03007 - Mary D Woodward - fresh water reform
Date: Saturday, 1 February 2014 5:40:01 p.m.

To whom it concerns.

Like many New Zealanders I am appalled at the way our rivers and lakes have been allowed to become degraded to the point that few are fit for swimming, and even risky to wade or boat in. This is incredibe, and even if we look beyond the health and well being of our own citizens to the "bottom line," this country has great pecuniary interest in tourism which must certainly be affected by such considerations as poor water quality in our lakes and rivers.

That regional councils have till 2030 to implement compulsory standards to improve water to the point of making it safe to be waded in- let alone immersed- is evidence that the government of this country has a healthy- looking GDP as its highest priority, to persuade gullible voters that we are on the right road to wealth Through more intensive dairying, leading to further water degradation, our lives are to be made more comfortable because we shall all be richer. But we will be poorer indeed in the things that matter.

I am often ashamed of being a New Zealander these days whereas once I believed we led the world in intelligent development.

Mary D Woodward