

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to have my views on the proposed Freshwater National Policy Statement heard.

I do not have any expertise in the science around freshwater and I freely admit I do not have a detailed understanding of the proposed NPS. However, what is clear to me from what I have heard regarding the NPS from people I trust is that the proposed standards:

(1) Will not guarantee that rivers are swimmable (in fact they will allow significant decline from present levels); and

(2) Do not include all of the indicators necessary to properly monitor ecosystem health.

As a born and bred New Zealander I see it as a birth right to be able to swim in our rivers. I believe my children and future generations are entitled to enjoy this same simple pleasure that we have.

The proposed NPS is simply not good enough. I request that the Government establish standards with bottom lines that ensure rivers are swimmable and marine ecosystems are healthy.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Young
[withheld]