

Your submission to Clean Water

Gisborne Canoe and Tramping Club Inc (Gillian Ward)

Clause

What are your thoughts on the proposed swimming targets, for example, on the timeframes and categories?

Notes

On Tramping Club trips around our region we spend a lot of time walking beside or in rivers, and sometimes swimming at a lunch stop. Most swimming in our region is done in small rivers with water holes, or in the sea. We would like the target of 90% swimmable to apply to all lakes, rivers, estuaries and the inshore sea area. If the small streams are excluded these can pour a lot of pollution into the marine environment. The goal should be "by 2030" rather than 2040, and this should be enforceable. In Gisborne, Wharekopae River is severely affected by ruminant E. coli, but is promoted as a swimmable river through Tourism Eastland who encourage visitors to visit Rere Rockslide, and waterfall. The Gisborne Canoe and Tramping Club has proposed the development of a walkway to link the Rere waterfall and rockslide. The E. coli cutoff level seems too high at 540 at the bottom of the C Band, and we would prefer a lower number e.g. 140 for swimmability.

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What do you think about the proposed amendments to the Freshwater NPS?

Notes

The changes in the NPS 2014 mean that our goals for improving freshwater are not very ambitious. The Macroinvertebrates Community Index should be used as an attribute, with set goals to attain within each band. Also sediment should be included as a measurable attribute. Sediment inflows into streams on the East Coast can be enormous and have been greatly affected by deforestation. Reforestation (by various species) and native bush regeneration land uses are appropriate to assist with reducing sediment inflows into streams and rivers. These land uses need even more encouragement. Maintaining or improving water quality is the key. Water within a stream should not be able to change outside its natural limits. We do not support allowing degradation within a band. We are concerned that the requirement that economic well being and opportunities are to be provided for while at the same time protecting fresh water values may be interpreted by some regional councils as an "out clause". We would like to see the words "recognise and provide for" retained in Te Mana o te Wai. The replacement wording "consider and recognise" has a lesser intent.

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What are your thoughts on the proposed stock exclusion regulation, for example, the timeframes and stock types to be excluded?

Notes

The requirement for fencing all waterways on gently sloping land, and larger waterways on moderately sloping land, is good but there needs to be guidelines for the set back distances. The Land and Water Forum requested that existing riparian management be studied, with a view to establishing a national guideline. There is no requirement for riparian planting and there should be. Without a guideline for set backs or riparian planting there will be significant practical restraints and expense for farmers without an accompanying environmental benefit. The setbacks should also apply to discing land for cropping or horticulture. Fencing off and planting riparian strips will reduce sediment inflow into streams, which is a major problem on the North Island's East Coast.

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Do you have any other comments on the contents of the Clean Water discussion document?

Notes

The Land and Water Forum included some strong proposals, but the government's progress has been slow and the proposed standards have been lowered. We would like to see a closer tie in with the Land and Water Forum document, because this was developed with all water users' input and was applauded because of the collaborative approach leading to a strong document.