

Dear Ministry for the Environment,

I oppose the Government's worsened swimming standards for freshwater (as demonstrated by NIWA's recent report).

I support a return to the Ministry of Health's microbiological guidelines for New Zealand's swimming standards. This is where an acceptable swimming standard is an E. coli count of 260 per 100 mL of freshwater (95th percentile).

I support the swimming standards being applied to lakes and rivers, as they currently only apply to rivers.

I support the swimming standards being applied widely across the country, not just to large rivers and large lakes. Our kids deserve to swim safely in more than just the biggest rivers and lakes and all of our communities deserve clean, healthy waterways

We ask that the Ministry for the Environment and the Minister for the Environment honour the call from the public for a genuine swimmable bottom line for our waterways by writing the Ministry of Health's guidelines into the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.

New Zealanders have asked the Government and the Ministry for the Environment again and again for a genuine swimmable bottom line for rivers & lakes. Please respect our calls and our submissions.

Kind regards,