

Your submission to Clean Water

Genevieve Hancock

Clause

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

Notes

I think the measures need to be of the whole health of a waterway and focussing on whether an area is "swimmable" is too narrow. The measures should apply to all waterways and not just large ones. Measures also need to be absolute and I am concerned that these are phrased and applied as targets only. Without absolute measures some industry and indeed local authorities will apply a lot less effort and resources to fixing the issues. The timeframes are far too long. This is an issue that needs to be addressed urgently.

Clause

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

Notes

There should be clear requirements within the NPS for local authorities to meet absolute standards and to flow on that requirement into their policies, strategy etc. I really oppose the way the amendments propose that environmental and ecological considerations are to be weighed against economic ones. Economic factors are relevant but this kind of assessment seems bound to lead to the reduction of standards. It is completely about face - industry and economic decisions must give effect to the standards. I can't see how this balancing will ensure the true health of waterways.

Clause

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

Notes

This seems to be an absolute no-brainer. Deadlines for stock exclusion should be urgent and what is included is completely unacceptable. Farmers have had a very long time to prepare for this.