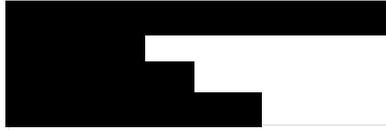


Your submission to Clean Water

Ray Henderson, **Raymond John Henderson**



Clause

What are your thoughts on the proposed national swimming target, and/or proposed amendments to the Freshwater NPS to improve water quality in relation to swimming?

Notes

I am very disappointed in how issues relating to water quantity and quality are being progressed. Creating endless standards, aspirational targets, and protocols will NEVER solve the problem. That is what has happened up until now within Environmental Agencies (MFE, DoC, Regional Councils) and despite the recent frenzied REARRANGING OF DECKCHAIRS ON NZ's TITANIC we lurch from bad to worse as water quality rapidly spirals out of control. We only need to look offshore (e.g., California) at how tiers of bureaucracy and the issuing of water consents in perpetuity have created a scenario where water barons and water monopolies have essentially destroyed the water resource. The only tangible solution for New Zealand is to give water a VALUE and to impose substantial PENALTIES on water polluters. If we don't move to this MARKET-DRIVEN paradigm, then for decades we will continue to erode water quantity and water quality to the point that there is little if any swimmable water available for future generations. I see strong parallels between issues of clean water and clean air. We developed an emissions trading scheme (ETS) that has become nothing other than an inane compilation of standards because we still allow New Zealand's worst polluters (viz. dairy farmers) to carry on producing greenhouse gases at no cost to their business. We set aspirational targets for water in the forlorn hope of producing swimmable water, but that will never happen because the biggest users and polluters of water (viz. dairy farmers) can carry on using and polluting water at no cost to their business. If you want to CONSERVE A RESOURCE YOU MUST GIVE IT AN ECONOMIC VALUE.