

Your submission to Clean Water

Herbert heritage group

New Zealand

Clause

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

Notes

We are pleased with ORC's 2017 policy statement that recently included freshwater bodies be safe for swimming as a result of public submissions, despite Horticulture NZ and Federated farmers opposing this as being uneconomic. The public needs to see efforts made today not decades on. In 2011 I photographed polluted swimming holes on Kakanui River and asked WDC and ORC to rectify their degraded states. Both councils thought it the others responsibility and the community is still waiting.

Clause

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

Notes

In order for regional councils to act on conservation, the environment must take precedence in the Resource Management Act when there is a conflict with economic interests. The community must benefit over individual gain and there needs to be an understanding that without nature we cannot survive. Consequently the amendment in section 5 of the Act should read 'safeguarding life supporting capacity of freshwater bodies ' and the addition of 'while providing for economic opportunities' be REMOVED. The move to give economic considerations equal weight was previously comprehensively defeated. People fundamentally want environmental concerns to sit above economic considerations.

Clause

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

Notes

Less than ten years ago, before intensive farming practices became the norm our waterways were far healthier. Fencing waterways and riparian planting may help but farms need to DESTOCK to a level that the land can support without year round irrigation that pollutes lakes, rivers, and streams with run off. We need to see this happening now. INTENSIFICATION in farming not stock type is the problem!

Clause

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

Notes

Government must recognise there has to be a limit to growth as our water resources are not inexhaustible. The selling of water is an unacceptable practice to many people as water is essential to all life. It seems grossly unjust to allow companies to profit from selling free water overseas. With climate change even 800,000 litres is significant. If it comes from a glacial source it is diminishing a finite and soon to be extinguished supply of water. We need to value our water and realise the unnecessary transporting of water to other parts of the world drains energy resources and is not in line with a responsible use of our most precious taonga. Bottling water is known to be a wasteful and unnecessary practice promoted by companies who work on peoples fear of pollution. We should instead be promoting healthy municipal supplies untainted from polluted ground or surface water or toxins from fracking or oother mining activity.