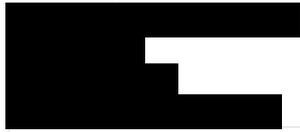


# Your submission to Clean Water

Linda Kaye



## Clause

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

## Notes

The proposed "swimmable" water standards are a threat to the health and well-being of all New Zealanders, including our economic well-being. They are unintelligible, unenforceable and totally misleading. The inclusion of currently clear and unpolluted alpine mountain lakes, streams and rivers where no-one ever swims, in the "90%", means that the threshold for those is now lowered. More alarmingly, it means that those streams and other waters where people actually do swim and fish will be deemed somehow "swimmable" at toxic levels of contamination. The time frame (2040 - really?) for meeting the so-called standards does nothing at all to address the urgency of halting irreparable environmental damage. On the contrary, it officially sanctions the continuing degradation of waterways, mostly in the interests of some imagined "economic" benefit. It's hard to understand how making people very sick from e.coli and other bacterial illnesses is going to benefit the economy. Hard to understand how this is consistent with the all-out drive for tourism. Hard to justify persuading taxpayers to spend \$53 million "promoting" our vaunted "sustainability" in a fancy trade fair. It's rubbish, really, isn't it? But, by 2040, who will be alive to know?

## Clause

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

## Notes

I support the submission of Fish and Game NZ. The proposed changes to the Freshwater NPS are cynical in the extreme. This is a back-door attempt to force elected local representatives to comply with a Government agenda that both Parliament and the Courts have clearly rejected. The method by which the Government proposes indirectly to amend the RMA is an assault on democratic principle and practice. Further, the proposed amendments themselves, articulate an explicit commitment to exploitation for short-term profit (euphemistically deemed "economic well-being") at any price, including the destruction of human and aquatic life. If the Government is convinced that these amendments are what the country wants, then put the proposals to the test of public opinion through proper democratic due process.