

Name : Anna Loomes

Submission on the proposed amendments to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management:

I strongly disagree with the following proposed amendments to the Freshwater NPS:

*Objective B1 - water quantity:*

*To safeguard the life-supporting capacity, ecosystem processes and indigenous species including their associated ecosystems of fresh water, in sustainably managing the taking, using, damming, or diverting of fresh water, while providing for economic well-being, including productive economic opportunities.*

This amendment increases provisions for councils to increase the value on further economic development relating to fresh water as a resource - the 2017 OECD Environmental Performance Review of New Zealand concluded that NZ's freshwater quality has deteriorated significantly under current policies. As this is the case I believe that we should be strengthening the case for increased protection of freshwater quality and quantity rather than increasing the potential for further economic development of this resource. The OECD report states that government policies for management of irrigation schemes "do not systematically consider the environment and social cost of irrigation, and the benefits largely accrue to the agricultural and processing industries."

I think that there are many medium and long term economic benefits to preserving and rehabilitating our freshwater environments. Our water quality and quantity has many long-term flow on effects such as social and community well-being through recreation and health. The report mentioned above notes that: 'Contamination of groundwater with nitrates and microbial pathogens is recognised as a human health risk. For example, New Zealand has relatively high rates of largely preventable enteric or gastro-intestinal disease in comparison to England, Australia and Canada (Ministry of Health, 2016).'

Other economic and social benefits include tourism potential and small scale, well managed agriculture. Due to the current situation of NZ's deteriorating water quality and large-scale dairy conversions, particularly relevant to me - in the McKenzie country, it is clear that law change to further support economic interests is not what is required to benefit the largest number of New Zealanders in any time frame.

Anna Loomes