

Your submission to Clean Water

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Clause

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

Notes

They take no account of the fact that the cumulative effect of human activity is already exceeding the capacity of the planet to safely assimilate them and therefore it is beholden upon us to adopt landuse practices and standards which minimise nutrient generation. As long as we are contributing surplus nutrient to the environment we are operating unsustainably and not meeting the needs of future generations. Swimming targets are therefore not only too weak as a long term goal but they also need to be brought forward to say 2025. Having such a long timetable is effectively meaningless. Targets then need to be independently monitored and enforced with cross-party agreement.

Clause

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

Notes

Having both Policy A4 1 and 2 will create confusion because there could be a conflict. Maintaining the life supporting properties of all waterways should be a bottomline. Until it is clear that such standards can be met in each catchment no further high nutrient generating landuse development should be permitted.

Clause

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

Notes

Stock inclusion needs to include planting on the fenced off zone taking into account the slope, soil type, climate and types of plants. Riparian plants must be integrated to provide continuity of protection between properties and consider potential synergies with the likes of plant biodiversity, wildlife corridors, public access etc.

Clause

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

Notes

Use of the word "growth" should be replaced by "development". Growth is an unfortunate by product of our current economic model and should not be promoted. Councils need to notify plan changes within 2 years.