

Your submission to Clean Water

Sue Maturin

Clause

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

Notes

2040 is too long to wait. The NPS needs to set 2 yearly water quality targets and MFE needs to monitor Councils to ensure the targets are met. Ecoli attributes need to be strengthened Include smaller rivers and streams as well I support the LWF recommendation that Regional Councils be required to use MCI score of at least 80, & develop plans to improve MCI above this or reverse a decline when rivers are showing a down ward trend in MCI score. I request the adoption of the LWF recommendations regarding assistance to regional councils to limit nitrogen and phosphorous in rivers and lakes.

Clause

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

Notes

I oppose the inclusion of any new tests that require the balancing of environmental considerations against economic ones - ecological health is a bottom line, and significant rebalancing needs to occur to ensure that economic goals no longer continue to drive down ecological health and create an ecological debt for future generations.

Clause

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

Notes

Good farmers usually don't have stock in waterways, but there are those who will only respond to regulations and regulations mean that everyone has to meet the same standards and can not confer a short term economic advantage by continuing to avoid adopting best practice. The deadlines are too far in the future and need to be brought forwards so that the 2022 deadlines become 2020, the 2025 deadlines become 2022 and the 2030 deadlines are brought forward to 2025.

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

Notes

Regarding freshwater clean up fund. Today we heard Ministers finally admitting that NZ has too many cows in the wrong places. Waituna Lagoon in Southland is one such place. Science tells us that even if all the farmers adopted the highest possible best practice standards, it will not be possible to return this lagoon to a healthy state. Land purchases will be necessary at least around the margins and destocking and changes in land use will be required in other parts of the catchment. Community planting schemes, and small scale projects only tinker, and don't address the fundamental problems. Funding needs to be directed to priority water bodies, and fair methods of bringing about significant land use change.