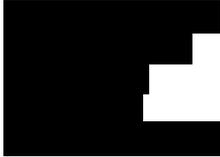


Your submission to Clean Water

 Mitchell Murray

Clause

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

Notes

I think the proposed targets are a good compromise of having a real, significant impact while still being realistic and achievable. The categories are well defined, after all it is impossible for a waterway to be clean 100% of the time.

Clause

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

Notes

In particular, the amendments requiring monitoring of macroinvertebrates and DIN/DRP are good ideas, and necessary for determining the health of rivers and lakes. Although the main goal for this clear water project has to do with 'swimability', it is important to keep in mind that rivers and lakes are complex and important ecosystems, and their health may not correlate with the ability of humans to safely swim in them. After all, a chlorinated pool is perfectly swimmable, but the same standards applied to freshwater ecosystems would be devastating.

Clause

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

Notes

The proposed timeline seems unnecessarily complex and arbitrary: Why exclude cattle from streams in steep land now, but wait 5-13 years before they're excluded from streams in rolling land or plains? What is the benefit in staggering the requirements like this? However, the overall plan of excluding stock from waterways is a good one, and the allowances for occasional crossing of stock is a practical compromise.

Clause

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

Notes

Although the Clean Water plan is on the whole good, I think it focuses too strongly on the concept of swimability. While being able to swim in our many rivers and lakes is important both culturally and economically from a tourism standpoint, it is important to put the ecological health of these freshwater environments first. In many cases, swimability and ecological health will be achieved in the same way, but the natural state of an ecosystem should never be disrupted just so that people can swim in it.