

Your submission to Clean Water

Miriam Jane Odlin

Clause

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

Notes

I think the timeframe is too long given the danger to our freshwater ecology as recently pointed out by a number of reputable sources. Having targets is an improvement on having none and an encouraging sign of government finally taking the situation somewhat seriously. The swimmable target, as per our renewable energy target, should be 100%. We are so blessed with a low population density, high rainfall and economic means to chose how we use our land, there is no need for the recent and foreseeable damage to our rivers and lakes.

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

Notes

It is proposed that regional councils "implement the NPS" yet they are not, as I understand it, given tools to do so. They should be allowed to put moratoriums on aquifers and they should be allowed (and encouraged) to apply levies for nutrient discharge. This will allow councils to apply a sinking lid policy to meet targets for water quality. They set a level (kg nitrogen / m2 for example). Landowners over this level pay and those under are paid. This keeps the money in the catchment and encourages non-polluting land use as well as discouraging polluting land use.

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

Notes

At a minimum the Land and Water forum recommendations should be implemented.

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

Notes

As recently pointed out by the OECD and the Prime Minister's chief science advisor and the PCE... New Zealand is in the process of overreaching its environmental limits. It is a travesty that we have watched the degradation of water quality for the last 10 years and nothing was done. The irrigation grants need to stop. Agriculture needs to be brought into the ETS - which would make it meaningful. This will invariably prompt some short term economic pain for dairy interests and long term diversification of the economy and land use. As indicated by the dairy price drop two years ago, the commodities market is fickle and we do better without it than we expected. At the moment we are squandering a national resource (freshwater) that most nations don't have the luxury of accessing, let alone squandering. You will have heard the clean green marketing arguments, the rivers for our grandchildren arguments, the biodiversity and recreational arguments for clean water. I hope my voice is one of a resounding chorus.