

# Your submission to Clean Water

Thomas Gregory Parsons



## Clause

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

## Notes

Aside from its glitter and false hopes, this document is a dishonest exercise in marketing and distraction that misrepresents the issues. It offers distant hopes as if they were realistic, with the real and immediate price being the abandonment of a generation or more to the profiteers who are privatizing and degrading a vital public asset: water. Unclean waterways are not a sudden discovery, but the product of bad environmental practices that have continued both legally and illegally because of governmental inaction related to purely shortsighted and selfish economic choices that have benefited the few, not the many. Without ongoing bad behaviour by humans, these conditions would be 100% remedied 20 years sooner by natural events for near zero cash outlay. Putting off a mere 90% improvement for an additional 20 years is a tactic specifically designed to legally allow the problem to continue while pretending otherwise, while the present bad actors continue to make their profits and are allowed to hand the problems along to the future. There is no more reason to believe in the benefits this document appears to offer than there was to believe in the ten road bridges that the same government promised Northland in an election campaign years ago. So far, zero bridges. This proposal is further made laughable by the government's recent demonstration that a simple rewriting of the standards for clean water could "solve" the problems immediately, at zero cost. Or at least solve them to the satisfaction of this government and those who profit by degrading the environment. A document that offered realistic solutions, or even realistic hopes, would merit serious consideration. Sadly, this government offers neither.