

Your submission to Clean Water

Wayne Parsonson



Clause

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

Notes

New Zealand should aim for 100% rivers swimmable by 2025. I fully support better information available to all communities and cities about water quality (swimmable) through all seasons of the year. Early childhood education centres, schools, kura and many community groups can measure and input into their local data bases, so they become more connected and responsible for their local waterways. I fully support all stock exclusion from waterways, as fast as is practicable. I support waterway fencing with margins of minimum 2 metres each side for "seeps" and 5 - 10 metres for most other areas. Science shows long grass on these margins markedly improves water quality. 3. Monitoring I fully support significantly increased water quality monitoring throughout NZ. The number of sites that have been monitored in the past is quite inadequate. All this info should be readily available to everyone in an easy to understand format, and published in local papers and websites regularly. I live in the Far North / Tai Tokerau and am part of Waioira local catchment group convened by Northland Regional Council with Community and Farmers and Forestry stakeholders participating. We note that the maps you have of our area do not entirely match with NRC maps. I would expect future mapping to work in better with our local authorities, as well as NIWA who have also done water quality work in our area. Maori Water Values - there is a vast, detailed and comprehensive definitions of different types of water in Maori world view. I would expect all government documents to fully reflect their definitions, consult fully with their needs as per Treaty of Waitangi. We need nice positive signage about care values of water. These signs should be bilingual = English and Maori. These should be situated at all important swimming sites, kai moana gathering sites and special waterways that are visited often. They should not have a government flavour, but be iwi, hap, and local groups consulted about wording, place names, and care values. Loss of wetlands in NZ - I would like the government to fully acknowledge that many of our flooding problems are a result of the lack of wetlands in our catchments. This causes big rain events to have a huge impact downstream e.g. recent Edgecombe flood. Locally we have the Oruru River which regularly floods our main access road, with schools closing several times per year for example. Many swamps and wetlands in our catchment are gone - they used to hold the water for longer and allow it to flow out to sea in a more sustainable way. Also, our hill country is over farmed and the low grazed grass does not have the same sponge effect that a healthy forest has in slowing down rainfall flows. I support the government buying back land as reserves for wetlands and swamps in these vulnerable catchments. Fresh water allocation is obviously over-allocated in Canterbury and South Canterbury. Peoples bores are drying up. Farming is sucking it dry, and polluting it. I support reducing allocation by 200% and ensuring it is as pristine as it once was without the Nitrogen pollution. If I had more time available I would give your document more consideration. Do the right thing. Look after our waterways for perpetuity. New Zealand should fully demonstrate being 100% pure.