

Your submission to Clean Water

Allan John Preece



Clause

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

Notes

"Swimmable" is far too subjective and open to all sorts of interpretations. Targets must be subject to scientific monitoring of nitrate levels and other pollutants.

Clause

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

Notes

They are not strong enough to make the essential improvements to our badly degraded waterways. We must include provisions to immediately reduce water takes from vulnerable rivers.

Clause

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

Notes

If we are serious about making real improvements to the health of our waterways we must accept the fact that livestock (particularly cattle) are a major part of the problem. Our government and our farmers need to accept that increased costs and some loss of profits will be necessary if we are to make meaningful changes to water quality and the health of our rivers. We must shorten the timeframes within the proposed new regulations which deal with the exclusion of stock from waterways and introduce an effective monitoring scheme. As someone who spends a lot of time on Canterbury and Marlborough rivers I see many examples of blatant pollution by dairy farmers, despite most of our lowland farms being fenced, but no action is taken by local regulatory bodies. New laws are pointless unless we have the ability and will to enforce them. The new regulations also fail to deal with the problem of high country cattle properties. These vast areas of land contain the vulnerable headwaters of just about all of our major rivers yet large numbers of cattle are permitted unlimited access to the unfenced waterways.

Clause

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

Notes

I believe that the proposed new regulations are woefully inadequate to deal with what most New Zealanders now regard as a vital issue for our country. As a country we must be prepared to accept a little economic pain in order to restore our right to clean rivers and to maintain our undeserved reputation as a clean, green environment.