

Your submission to Clean Water

Hamish Rennie

New Zealand

Clause

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

Notes

Swimmability is too narrowly defined by e.colli alone - the median approach makes sense. Perhaps use the phrase generally swimmable instead of swimmable.

Clause

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

Notes

As long as the stock does not include sheep then I am comfortable with it I would strongly oppose any move to include sheep as sheep provide a means of maintaining the grass at a level where it would not become a fire hazard and sheep do not enter the rivers or create the levels of problems with water quality that stock like cattle do. We have looked at this very closely with Environment Canterbury and Ngai Tahu and have found that if we provide alternative stock watering areas close to hand sheep will preferentially use the alternative stock water. Allowing sheep to graze the margins of rivers prevents the establishment of long dry matter that creates a significant potential fire hazard in our areas especially during droughts and with fishers and other campers using the area. The lower grass level also aids public access and safety as they can see more easily where to walk. For some of us the costs of fencing along the rivers for sheep - especially with the risks of losing the fences after floods would be a significant impact on our operations - especially for lifestyle folk. The ECan regional plans address sheep adequately and there is no need to require a nationwide ban

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

Notes

The maps that accompany the release of the package and the failure to release the package with the relevant tables, plus the unfriendly website (you really need to do something about making it easier for the average person to make submissions) did not reflect creditably on the package or the Ministry.