

Your submission to Clean Water

Reiny Scheper



Clause

What are your thoughts on the proposed national swimming target, and/or proposed amendments to the Freshwater NPS to improve water quality in relation to swimming?

Notes

The proposed water quality standards for swimming are too low, as pointed out in the NIWA scientific report. I would like to see the government take this seriously, and use the scientific evidence to base policy on. I am also concerned about the freshwater ecosystems which are in crisis. It is important that the government protects our freshwater plants and animals and ensures that our rivers and streams are clean and healthy. The clean water swimming threshold needs to comply with the "minimum acceptable state" for swimming suggested by the NIWA Principal Scientist in the NIWA Technical Background report for MfE "Clean Water" Swimmability Proposals for New Zealand Rivers (2016). The government aiming low, means that in 15 years time it is predictable that we will not have met these low standards at a time when OECD countries are aiming for increasingly higher environmental criteria. This endangers our clean and green image, our export industries and our tourism industry, as well as the quality of life of New Zealanders.