

Your submission to Clean Water

Wellington Tenth Trust - Te Atiawa/Taranaki Whanui ki Te Whanganui a tara (Morris Te Whiti Love)

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Clause

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

Notes

The move towards a swimmable water quality target is to be applauded. The use of the colour coded assessment system makes this understandable and the limits set are sensible if a little complex. The objective of continuous improvement is also of benefit. The mapping of the main river systems and their ratings are also clear.

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

Notes

The amendments to the Freshwater NPS are generally accepted however this submission will focus on the attempts to clarify the meaning of "Te Mana o Te Wai". In the Wellington Region to establishment of multi-stakeholder groups called "whaitua" may assist in the clarification of the meaning and potential implementation of Te Mana o Te Wai however this is not part of the National Policy as a process. Are these matters to be clarified on a region by region basis prior to that escalating to the National Policy Statement? That may be an acceptable approach. For iwi Maori there will be water bodies even parts of rivers and whole lakes where the desire for a much higher water standard than is the norm in a District reflecting the term Te Mana o te Wai. These matters need further consideration and uncertainty will remain.

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

Notes

Stock exclusion from waterways especially those of high cultural significance should be a matter of some priority. An example are the two Pencarrow lakes in Wellington which are of high water quality however the streams leading into them are accessible by livestock. Fencing areas where downstream there are identified high value water bodies should have some priority.

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

Notes

In the Wellington District much of the impact on many significant water bodies comes from the urban settings where there are cross-overs between sewer and stormwater systems along with infiltration into the stormwater drains which discharge to streams. This work is on-going to work constantly to improve stream water quality.