

Your submission to Clean Water

Jane Young

Clause

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

Notes

I oppose the proposed amendments to the Human Health for Recreation attribute table, which would weaken the standard for swimmability. The E.coli attributes need to be strengthened. I support the inclusion of smaller rivers and streams in the swimming standards, as these are the places that are often used by local communities. In general I would prefer to see the main emphasis be on ecosystem health rather than on human recreation.

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

Notes

I support the requirement for regional councils to adopt a Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI) score of 80 as a minimum threshold, and to develop an action plan to improve the MCI score to above this threshold, or when monitoring shows there is a downwards trend in the MCI, to reverse that trend if a waterway's MCI score is low or declining. I also support the adoption of all the recommendations made by the Land and Water Forum to assist regional councils to limit two key nutrients, nitrogen and phosphorous, in our rivers and lakes. Targets and timeframes: The NPS should specifically include in its objectives and policies the requirement for regional councils to meet water quality targets within specified timeframes. Economic considerations: I oppose the introduction of a new test requiring environmental and ecological considerations to be weighed against economic ones. In practice this will be used to set freshwater objectives or quantity limits that do not achieve ecosystem health. The so-called "balancing" of environmental and economic considerations always ends up in a loss for the environment.

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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

The deadlines that have been proposed for excluding dairy support, deer and beef cattle from waterways over 1 meter wide, lakes and wetlands are unambitious and should be brought forward. The \$2000 fine for infringements is too small to have a significant effect. A few days ago I was watching beef cattle wading in what should be the pristine waters of the Matukituki river. This needs to be stopped now " not in years to come.

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

Notes

Even if we just look at environmental issues from an anthropocentric viewpoint, the New Zealand economy is totally dependent on our having a healthy environment. Freshwater ecosystems are in a state of crisis. We need to take action NOW.