

Your submission to Clean Water

Ngahere Dairy farm Rata (Michael Peter Tracey)

Clause

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

Notes

They are set to low, we need to be more ambitious in our targets. Politicians need to see that this is a chance to move a popular issue forward, not a negative, that will cost a load of money. Most farmers are conservationists, and they know some of them just ignore the environment, for business growth, they often get very little support in the rural communities.

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

Notes

Too slow. This is a real issue now; and we can make a difference to New Zealand's future while we have good public support.

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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

Far too slow, this has been driven by sheep and beef farmers saying they need more time. They need to be part of the plan to reduce this time-frame. We could easily target major waterways first and make some real progress.

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

Notes

We are dairy farmers and freshwater fisherman. There are so many levels that this issue has tried to be unsuccessfully simplified. For us we see a need to fence waterways much earlier than 2030, we need to ensure farms by rivers keep the nutrients in the root zone, currently there are some appalling farming practices of river flats, next to 'at risk' rivers. Every commercial business and every council has to be part of an overall plan, if people see others leading, then we will get some momentum. We need to encourage water storage for farming on the east coast of both islands. Taking the top 10% of nutrients from flooded rivers can only be good for everyone. The use of the public money, should be used to support these environmental schemes. The new 'swimming' standards, should be reviewed, and many rivers should have drinkable standards as well, as we drink from all the rivers we fish in, and expect to be able to in the future. The use of Nitrate and Phosphate toxicity as a measure for ecosystem health are important. The exclusion of lakes with a perimeter smaller than 1500m should be included in any master plan for water quality. They could be extent for council monitoring, but still fall within the legislation. The inclusion of any new test that requires a balancing of environmental considerations against economic needs to be very clear in its objections, as this will become a bun fight. I wish to be heard on this submission.