

# Your submission to Clean Water

**Pamela Margaret Wells**

## **Clause**

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

## **Notes**

It will be determined in the Regional Plan by catchment and presumably following consultation. It will be a drawn out process both to get general agreement and then implementation and monitoring...probably all I could say is that it is a start. Furthermore there is conflict already within the proposed objectives.

## **Clause**

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

## **Notes**

The proposed amendment to Objective B1 requires the life supporting attributes of fresh water to be protected while at the same time as providing for productive economic opportunities, which is open ended and potentially far reaching. It could include large scale irrigation schemes and intensified agricultural land use activities. Given they have the same priority, assessment of proposals that relate to water quantity will not ensure that environmental outcomes are achieved and as water quantity is a major source of the degradation of many rivers in New Zealand already as illustrated in the TV documentary on the Selwyn River, this objective will not necessarily provide for a good environmental outcomes for rivers. Natural flow rates are already a contentious issue - therefore Objective B1 is contrary to the purpose of the NPS.

## **Clause**

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

## **Notes**

This is essential and has been happening slowly but it needs to happen within much shorter time frames, perhaps relating to the significance of the current status of the water quality of the waterways and rivers in each catchment.

## **Clause**

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

## **Notes**

The recent OECD Environmental Performance Review of New Zealand highlights the already well known environmental degradation of our waterways, which was an inclusive analysis of what many citizens are well aware of in their particular location. The well documented (TV documentary on two types of dairy farming is a perfect case) unrelenting drive to increase intensification is contrary to achieving good environmental outcomes and protecting water quality for the benefit of all citizens in New Zealand. Factor in climate change and there is a greater imperative to manage our freshwater resources in an environmentally sound manner now.