

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
John	Malloy	I want New Zealand to have clean rivers and lakes, and I want the Government to enact legislation that enables this goal for our descendants.
stewart	doherty	Hi My name is Stewart Doherty I am NZ borne 43 year old and have worked as a river guide in NZ and Austria. Since I was young I have enjoyed recreation in NZ outdoors. I would like my voice heard in parliament today and for my children Amelie and Xaver to swim in a clean river. It is my birth right. I don't think the we need to blame the farmers we need to support and educate them to get our rivers to a swim-able standard. All of our local and central govt policies must be changed. Right Honorable John Key and Tourism minister what should I tell our educated and informed tourist as I guide my boat past cattle excreting in the river and no fences anywhere to be seen? I should add we are in breach of Te tiri te O Waitangi!
Craig Hines	Hines	I am father of 2, I like to kayak but don't want to worry about splashing or falling into contaminated water. I often drive overseas visitors around the country and would love to say, yes NZ is clean... But...
Aasha	Morrison-essex	I am a 27 year old kiwi from Auckland and having been all over the world I am outraged at the state of our rivers in a country that had such a small population and so many resources, there is absolutely no excuse for us to have environmental pollution issues other laziness and ignorance
Marie Thomson	Thomson	I am only 24 years old, and even so I cannot swim in NZ streams and rivers like I could when I was a kid. Future generations deserve clean water. Clean it up!
Nigel	Collins	I spent my youth swimming in the rivers of Hawkes Bay where I grew up. I can't believe that allowing the precious quality of our natural water resources to decline so badly is even up for negotiation. What sort of country do we live in if we can't even take a dip in a local river without getting infected? And who is responsible for the appalling inaction behind this decline in such a fundamental right? Stop the madness!
Jason	Barnes	
Jane	Sutherland-Norton	I want us to start thinking about the future and stop thinking money. Otherwise this beautiful country is going to be in a very bad state.
Sigrid	Klein	Hi, I don't want to worry about if it is safe or not to swim in NZ rivers. Just because the water looks good or okay doesn't mean that it is. I'm 30 years, female from Auckland. Thanks for sharing!
Dean	Webber	Dean, 27, Tauranga, Student. European Human. Brother. Very simple to not put waste into our rivers. Yet we do it. All shall adopt closed-loop systems. All shall localise. Please consider all those whom will inherit the Earth. Consider you Actions, today. With Love, Your Brother.
Sarah	Yates	I am a 29 year old and I want to be able to swim and drink from our rivers and want this to be possible for future generations.
Kymberly	Thomasen	I'm a 21 yr old from Waikato and I want to be able to continue being in the water with my dogs and family like I have since I was young
Miri	Hori	Im a 23 year old Maori - Primary Teacher from Papakura and I want our kids to be able to experience actual clean fresh waters and even swim when it comes to summer. My students in class believe dearly about keeping NZ green and clean not for us but their generation to come and our animals!! Whakatika i o tatou nei awa!
Anna	Featherstone	Hi I'm a 40+ year old mother of a son with cerebral palsy. Kori loves to be in water. It's one of his favourite pastimes. Featured is a photo of him in the river at Bethells Beach. Unfortunately as soon as summer arrives this river becomes too polluted to allow him to do this. How to explain to my son that we allow one of his favourite places to get too dirty for him to enjoy? Would you like to write him a letter saying why your government doesn't support cleaning up his favourite place so he can enjoy the river in the hottest months of the year? Blessings on your decision to support our call for swimmable rivers....all over New Zealand!
Tangiwai	Kohu	Water is life..
Anita	Barltrop	I am a 57 year old New Zealander who has lived in beautiful, clean and healthy New Zealand all my life. I raised my children here and now have grandchildren who I want to have a safe and healthy well as beautiful country to grow up in like I did. It's a New Zealanders birth rite as paid for by their parents and grandparents taxes.
Anne	Rowntree	GLEAN GREEN. GET ON WITH IT. FOCUS ON NEW ZEALAND
T	Judge	Our family spent many happy days at local rivers when I was a child but within my lifetime I have witnessed the majority of previously clean and swimmable rivers in my region become stagnant, polluted or clogged up with poisonous algae. This is heartbreaking and we need to do something about it immediately... ...family trips to local rivers on hot summer days used to be one of the best ways to get everyone engaged with our natural environment, and was one of the special privileges of growing up in NZ. But our younger generations now have seen nothing but poisoned dead rivers. Shame on us for not voting more considerately, and/or the politicians who ignorantly allowed this to happen.
Mike Dee	Dee	I am an adult male human and so am composed of around 60% water. That water is in constant interaction with water from the environment, therefore I obviously don't want dirty water in the environment, and neither should anybody - thank you.
Margaret	Weston	It embarrasses me to accept that we New Zealanders have accepted a standard of living at the expense of our natural waterways. At least on the West Coast here we can and our children and grandchildren can swim in any river that is physically safe for swimming. Please allow the relevant environmental scientists etc to do more.
Kevin	Keys	I'm a 37 year old actor with a 17 month old daughter and a son arriving in Jan next year. They deserve what I and all members of government and indeed parliament enjoyed when they were growing up - water quality that allows them to swim in rivers in classic kiwi summer style. We should all be ashamed that we're casually watching river degradation passively and accepting this most visible form of environmental vandalism. Please act - for my children and yours.
Joyce	Robinson	We need to keep our rivers and lakes clean enough to feel safe swimming in them, for ourselves, our children and grandchildren, but also for our tourists. They come to see clean, green New Zealand, not ugly, polluted waterways. They could have stayed home for that. Do the right thing: keep the standards high.
Alan	Thatcher	When I was a kid we used to swim in the lower reaches of the Waimana River. Now I wouldn't even fish it (assuming fish are still there). I now live in Stratford where the best swimming hole on the Patea River, just 8 km from the national park, is regularly contaminated with coliforms. Not good enough!

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Ruby Powell	Powell	I am a 26 year resident of the Coromandel Peninsula. Our rivers and streams are part of the what attracts our summer visitors which help keep our local business going. We need clean water, to drink, to swim in and to keep our local economy afloat.
rowena	walker	
Lisa	B	I am a 49 year old Pakeha from Trentham, I grew up across from the Hutt river and as kids we spent so many hours swimming and playing over there. I want our rivers and streams to go back to their earlier glory so future generations can know and enjoy the clean and green New Zealand I was lucky enough to grow up in.
Elsbeth	Preddey	I am an active grandmother who loves swimming and taking our grandchildren with me. Last summer water pollution in the Wellington region constrained us.
Tina	Ranson	I am a 43 year old mother and grandmother originally from Canterbury. All my life I have swam in New Zealand's rivers and want this to be possible for all now and into the future.
Thomas	Guthrie	We want our rivers clean before next summer so friends and family can use them again like we use to.
Bell	Murphy	I am a 35 year old pākehā woman who loves this land respects that kaitiakitanga of the environment is our duty as people living here so that Aotearoa is a place were all its people, plants and animals can thrive.
Atutahi	Riki	Im Maori 52 I want All rivers to be clean restord to its glory as it was before, for every one now and the generations to come.
Beatrice	Small	I demand here and now this moment forward all laws to allow moderate risk to humanity in our new zealand rivers are BANNED. All pathogens in water that make moderate risk are strengthened by the use of ALL ALL CHEMICALS ALL CHEMICAL RUNOFF ALL FARM RUNOFF THAT USE CHEMICALS. I command that all laws enabling moderate risk are changed to no risk and educatio is brought into schools on biodynamic principles of caring for water animals and land. Chemical companies mainstream agricultural companies pushing this law serve their own select few greed need and not humankind. not our grandchildren. I dont swim in nz water or oceans due to chemical pollution currently swimming through the surface of our our childrens earth poisoning them more and more people being made sick because of this) this government needs to end their focus on greed and actually help clean up our waterways and grow some depth and backbone. clear out roundup and poisons used on land that pollutes our riverways because pollution in water grows from moderate risk as pathogens feed on chemical and toxic runoff from land. Poisons were invented from wars that they recycled to use in agricultural pursuits. Deceiving evil. My health was severly affected by poison through growing up on my fathers farm around poisons used on his crops killing weeds with poison along waterways. Becos he'd been hoodwinked by agricultural companies to believe they do no harm. And it was a lie. Read culinary pleasures or hidden poisons by Gilles-Eric Seralini & jerome Douzelet. Gilles-Eric Seralini is the only scientist who has done a long independent study on the use of chemicals in the body and the truth about the origin of chemicals and their debilitating effects on the soils (leading to the loss of topsoil) animals and humans. Water is sacred. Sacred to our survival. Sacred to maori sacred to us all. Moderate risk is a violation of everything that is good. It is only greed and profits that would engineer this law to the negation of its effects. The foxton river way is a prime example and there. Look at the putrefaction happening in other lakes and waterways in new zealand. Why? Becos the queens chain should never have been walked over becos the waterways are not protected by trees and plants to filter water before it goes into the lake or river. And it doesnt take a rocket scientist to figure that out!! WAKE UP GOVERNMENT!AS far as I'm concerned you live in the land of the dark ages. I love water and I love to swim in beautiful rivers and lakes but becos of your slovenly lack of respect for something so beautiful and rare and lack of education and your ignorance you know nothing nor do corporates who are built on lies and deceit and greed and no interest in serving people or wellbeing. Foxton rive is the result of your regulations for money and nothing else and your disfunctioning value system which does not include health and wellbeing for the children and people of new zealand. It is our god given right to have high quality natural water and high quality chemical free food. Bio organic farmers could teach you all one very big lesson. IT IS VIOLATION OF US ALL INCLUDING YOU YOUR FAMILIES AND MINE WHAT YOU ARE DOING TO ACCEPT THIS LOW LEVEL UNACCEPTABLE FILTH IN OUR WATER WAYS BECOS IT WILL INEVITABLY BECOME WORSE AS A RESULT. AND IM NOT A FOOL UNLIKE YOU ME AND THE ACTION STATION ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACT SO BEST YOU LISTEN!!!
David	Haynes	I am a fly fisherman who has cast over most rivers of the world. New Zealand was the last, best place when I first fished here but no longer. We can't make more rivers so why are you destroying them for such low value commodities like cow's milk?
Selwyn	Light	I am a 75 year old retired land surveyor and I live overlooking the Motueka River. This river is, fortunately, still swimmable and I want to see it kept that way for future generations.
Lucy-Jane Walsh	Walsh	I was born and raised in New Zealand and remember just ten years ago how I used to participate in boating sports on the Heathcote River in Christchurch. Now it is so polluted I wouldn't touch it with a ten-foot poll. Our beautiful rivers have been given to farmers for their profits and it's time we gave them back to the people
Ian	Burton	I am a keen angler and member of the Gisborne Angling Club and in the Gisborne Tramping Club . All freshwater anglers share similar concerns about the degradation of water quality in NZ rivers. Whilst at either end of the season one wades in waders the middle of the season is done wet wading with no waders.At any time one may fall in a river and end up swimming waders or no waders. When backcountry fishing and camping for a few days a swim is necessary.When summer tramping a swim is often a must.Freshwater is a very scarce and precious resource when one looks at it on a global scale. NZ cannot afford not to legislate for higher water quality. It is not just out tourism income that depends on it but our very future health and well-being.Setting a low standard for wate quality now will likely mean no government will improve water quality until a crisis develops and then it will be too late.With modern techniques we are in a better position to do what would not have been possible years ago.
Sarah Smuts-Kennedy	Smuts-Kennedy	50 -Sensible New Zealander who gets what brand NZ means to our exports, our tourism as well as as a place to call home. That you are even thinking of NOT working towards making our rivers clean shows lack of foresight and intelligent thinking let alone economic sense. Get with the 21st century program and fund cleaning up our waterways.
Heather	Barnett	
Glenda	Tabuteau	I'm a retired radiographer, still active in community, and I think that we should keep our waterways in the best condition we possibly can, for the sake of our future generations. 'Wadeable' and 'moderate risk' are not satisfactory now, and for future generations it will be far worse if we leave it at 'wadeable'. We need to be making decisions that protect the basic, and amazing, resources we have here in NZ! That is a government's responsibility.
Winsome Marshall	Marshall	
Asta	Wistrand	

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siobhan	sweeney	I am a mother. We live in Nelson. Water - the essence of life.... Seems strange to even have to justify how precious it is. So I'll not. Please think clearly about this... Then perhaps You will deserve the title of Great Great grandparents.... Take Care
greg	rzesniowiecki	I'm a 57 year old Pakeha male very interested in good and beneficial policy and legislative settings. We must improve the whenua not destroy it. I've lived in the Motueka Valley region for many years and notice it's quality degrade over that time period. Also of recent years I've visited most of Aotearoa NZ and witnessed the mess made of many of our waterways. Let's fix the problem, for all of our futures.
Asta	Wistrand	
Rocky	Hudson	I am a 49 year old Pakeha woman. I am a New Zealand citizen living for now in the UK and working as a freelance writer. I would like all the NZ rivers to be clean so that they can be enjoyed by all. Until late 2014 I lived near the Heathcote in Christchurch, a river so dirty there were often signs telling the public to avoid contact with the water. Rivers like this are completely at odds with New Zealand's clean green image.
Libby	Grant	I'm a 55 year old public health researcher, mother of four, keen tramp and nature lover from Wellington. I want my grandchildren to be able to swim in our beautiful kiwi lakes and rivers as I did when I was a child.
Peter	Thompson	Hi I am a 52 year old male NZer, I am passionate about the environment and am deeply concerned about how degraded we are allowing this to become. Water is a particular concerning issue for all NZers - I have recently been involved in a court hearing in the Horowhenua where the local waterways are appalling, and where the local bodies have been doing very little to protect / restore them (the hearing was around beach of consents whereby leachate from the local tip discharges into the local stream, and the smell permeates into the surrounding properties). We need to protect the environment (it's our #1 resource)... not give it away for commercial greed / gain. It's everyone's right to have fresh clean water... lets make that the case.
Beks	Easton	Water is essential to all living things...including humans. Why would you want to poison that.
Christina	Winitana	I am a 37 year old Māori woman with two children, my own, Tuhoe. My occupation is as a Service Guide (Librarian) at our city library. I always loved swimming in our local rivers when I was a child and want my children to be able to do so as well, without the risk of any kind of infection.
Trudy	Lane	I'm 43, from the First of Thames coastal area of Pūkoro Miramira where shorebirds migrate and for whom 'wading' quality is just not good enough. 'Swimmable' is fine, though 'Inhabitable' for the local ecosystem, even better!!
Emma	Booth	Clean water was something to be proud of when I was a kid... what's changed?
Ben	Whitmore	I'm a 39 year old software architect. I've also been a farmer and land developer. I see so many countries racing each other towards environmental, financial and medical poverty. I want to live in a country that protects the people and the land, rather than exploiting them at every turn.
Jesse	Mills	I'm 31 from the bay of plenty, One of the best things about growing up in New Zealand is swimming in our rivers streams and lakes
Kyle	Webster	
Mereana	Mastny	
Louise	Miles	I am a 58 year old who used to love swimming in rivers. I want future generations to be able to do this. I am also concerned about the impact of dairy farming on the ecology of our rivers.
Jo	Wilks	
Tim Brien	Brien	Hi I'm a 36 year old NZ living in London, I am greatly distressed at what has happened to our rivers.
Christine	Spicer	I am a 54 year old Pakeha Company Director from Auckland. I believe that NZ has the chance to maintain a clean green environment that will ensure tourism investment for many years to come. More importantly swimmable rivers are a cornerstone of kiwi life that is a national treasure for future generations. Please take a leadership position and aim for swimmable, beautiful rivers. The world needs more leadership.
Kylee	Galbraith	I am on the Orari, Temuka, Opihi, Pareora, Rivers water committee. I have young kids and I want them to be able to swim in all rivers like I did! So please make it swimmable!
Bonnie	Cook	As Tangata Whenua and on behalf of myself and my whanau I would like to say I do not appreciate the money hungry profitising that is happening on our whenua at the moment. Please leave our land, our water, our people alone your greed is not only destroying our whenua, but our childrens future and I will not, shall not tolerate this. You have been warned..
Renate Galetzka	Galetzka	
Katherine	Henry	I want our family to be able to catch fish from and swim in our local river. We love this beautiful country but we can't engage with its beautiful wilderness if it's waterways are all toxic. Please stop dairy intensification and let's clean up the mess. Thank you for all you do.
Louise Hayne	Hayne	I am a nearly sixty year old specialist teacher from Whangarei. Too often we have signs up on the Hatea River saying it is contaminated and therefore not safe for swimming. Too often there are no fences and guidelines for clean rivers are not being adhered to or enforced by council. I feel shame to see the state of our waterways.
Gail	Ingram	I'm a 51 year old teacher, poet and mother from Christchurch. I was brought up in the Mackenzie Country and love our braided rivers, where we swam and kayaked every summer. I want my two children (and their children and their children) to be able to swim and drink out of the rivers in New Zealand just as we did. The fresh-water standard set by the government needs to be set at swimmable for the minimum standard since water is the biggest asset we have.
steven mear	mear	I recently went kayaking down my local river which has been used and abused by the dairy industry for the last few years. The degradation since my last venture was astronomical! I saw No fish (not that I would eat them now) and the clarity has been greatly reduced. Very disappointed with the farmers and the government for letting this happen :(
Karen	Mason	I am a 45 year old researcher who works in sustainable production. I am embarrassed when we have overseas visitors when they learn about the state of our rivers and streams. We are losing our 'clean green' image, not to mention ruining our environment and biodiversity for future generations. We should be caretakers, not takers!

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Pam	Baird	I am a 72 yr old retired but very active woman living on Banks Peninsula. I believe it is a basic human right to have access to clean safe water that I and my grand children can swim in. The degradation of our rivers is atrocious killing the flora and fauna. NZ's 'clean green' image is a joke. Unfortunately we may have repeat incidences of the Havelock North disaster and if this happens we have the possibility that someone will die. Totally unacceptable that our environment is in such a poor state
Tungane	Kani	I'm a 55 year old Māori midwife from Wairoa. Tuatahi ko te wai, tuarua whanau mai te tamaiti, ka puta ko te whenua. Water is the beginning of all life and essential to all life. No water no life!
Priscilla Luke	Luke	I'm a 45 year old NZ Maori woman of Ngaruahinekiterangi descent from Taranaki. This topic means so much to myself and my partner as we both remembered how much fun our rivers use to be before RICH CORPORATIONS came along and pillage the one natural resource that LIFE depends on. The river that we live next to has a quarry next to it. Companies like this one SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED. Please let a change for the better happen so this never happens again.
Lynne Adrienne	Adrienne	
Marianne	Schaeffer	Hi I'm 64 pakeha mother, of five and grandmother of 6 and of course want my children and grandies to inherit clean swimming and drinking water as their NZ heritage
Lorraine	Duncan	The beauty of NZ is largely its natural waterways, we just do not have the right to degrade our water to this extent. We need to leave this country for our children and grandchildren, I'm simply disgusted with this generation of NZers
Denise	Lytle	I'm a mostly Caucasian 35-year-old pharmacy technician/overall retail employee for a supermarket in the US. Although I'm an American, I care deeply about environmental, human rights, and animal welfare issues globally.
Jeanine	Walker	I am 45 years old. I live in Kerikeri and enjoy gardening using organic philosophies. I want you to help protect and clean up rivers and lakes so that the water can be used for swimming, irrigation and healthy ecological environment for animals. I am also concerned about the pollution from rivers that enters the sea, having a negative environmental effect.
Fiona Morris	Morris	Our rivers and just that, they belong to all of us, to enjoy freely, to collect food and to swim in. Clean rivers sustain us and the creatures that live in them. We must have clean rivers - its about respect. Im a 47 year old caring and respectful being. We need to give our future generations a beautiful environment.
Heidi	Mills	Water for life is necessary for all living things & not polluted or profited by a few for their own benefit
Jaguar Kukulcan	Kukulcan	Hi I'm an Auckland based mother of 3 grown children and it's upsetting to think the rivers I swam in as a child are no longer safe for my children and children's children. If not for them, then surely for the vast revenue from tourism . . . this is a serious issue and a threat to life and livelihood
Janet	De Lu	I'm a 60-year-old retired woman in Christchurch and I am concerned about the effect the polluted rivers here are having on the quality of our drinking water.
Anthony	Snelling Berg	I'm a retired NZ citizen from Tauranga and want clean and save to swim rivers and lakes as it used to be. It is not a favour, it is our right to have clean surface waters!!!
Betsan	Martin	I work at National and local levels, including the Waikato and Tongariro areas. I work with Environmental NGO's, Māori, hapū, Sustainability and Climate Responsibility networks and Churches - all say high standards for Clean Water is the bottom line
		I am a grandmother and really would like to know my grandchildren can safely swim and drink the waters in New Zealand !! It is our basic need and right ! To have clean waters !
Monique	Bossie	I'm a 29 year old dental hygienist. I've lived all over New Zealand and have many fond memories. Swimming in rivers and lakes, that's something that should be passed down from generation to generation. Take pride in keeping New Zealand clean before it's too late.
Alejandra	Parra	River and lakes in New Zealand are so beautiful, please don't spoil them!
Isaac	Russell	I am a 38 year old father of two who grew up in and around rivers. I currently live abroad and see the destruction of our water ways each year I return home with my family. I want New Zealanders to wake up and focus on preserving what we have instead of looking for financial gain at the expense of the environment.
Franziska	Hansen	I am a 50 year old woman from Demark, and :I think that a healthy world is good for us all.
Ruth	Corkill	
charmaine	mcleod	how dear you put our childrens lifes at risk,from pollutting our rivers/stream...
Jean	Colmar	I feel blessed to have a stream and wetland area run through part of my Swanson, West Auckland property where I have lived for 22 years. Despite living close to the big city, I see first-hand the benefits of not having stock drinking from, polluting and trampling the stream banks, as I, my children and grandchildren enjoy seeing thriving stream and stream-sideside flora, freshwater fish and koura breeding in unpolluted water. Long may this continue. We all have a responsibility to be kaitiakis of our beautiful Aotearoa, to be shared with future generations.
Kathryn	Seed	I'm kiwi-asian and want to be proud of our clean, green country. Except that I can't be proud of it anymore.
Russell Golding	Golding	I'm a 30 year old landscaper and I think New Zealand can do better! If we use the analogy of a business, being in the red would require swift action to turn things around. The health of our waterways are slipping into the red. This government has diligently worked to get the country's books in the green. Leave a legacy and do the same for our rivers and lakes!
Keli	Manson	I loved growing up in Canterbury. Our best fun as kids were in the rivers and at beaches. I can't find a river I'd let my kids swim in now. Not even in a wide radius of kilometres.
Anita	Halfacre	Mother of four. Would like to be able to take my children swimming without fear of infection, in the Marlborough rivers.
Gunnar Kaschka	Kaschka	I am 55 year old resident permit holder, living in NZ for the last 29 years. When I arrived in NZ you couldn't just swim in most rivers, you could drink the water and there where plenty of fish in them as well as in the ocean. Look at it now! I hope people will wake up. We all have to make a change!
Vicky	Adams	
Robin	Kewell	My kids and I moved from the UK we cannot believe that most rivers in New Zealand are far dirtier than UK ones...it seems pretty obvious as to what the cause of pollution is....in this Land of Milk and Money
Rosemary	Hopgood	I live in Christchurch, and originally came from the Westcoast where swimming and playing in rivers was a big part of growing up. We even used to be able to drink out of our rivers. I am horrified at the suggestion that our NZ rivers should be just wadable. We are supposed to be the clean green country. Do you, our politicians, really believe this is acceptable? Do you not like the outdoors and want you children and grandchildren to be able to enjoy the pleasure of going swimming in our rivers? Please aim higher than wadable, that is just not good enough. I am a mother of 2 young adults who were brought up to enjoy the outdoors. Our future generations deserve to have the same quality in our waterways as I did when I was young. Yours sincerely Rosemary Hopgood.

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Holly	Sutich	I am a 19-year-old kiwi, and I love how beautiful our country is. I have grown up swimming in clean rivers and lakes, I do NOT want this to change for future generations.
Christine	Jorgensen	My grandchildren ... and yours , need pure, fresh, free water.
Donald Rutherford	Donald Rutherford	This chronic denial of service by national on the pollution caused by its cash cow dairying is an insult to the people who have advised this and previous govts to stop passing the buck on this issue as it is critical to the ecological survival of this country
Michael Blakely	Blakely	I was once an offender by failing to fence off our farm streams. It is VIP that we do this nationwide. I have since helped with native and exotic planting around our streams and wetlands. I am now healthcare chaplain supporting brain injured people and very aware of the importance of clean water for drinking, cleaning, etc. As a child in the 1940s we could drink from any stream. We must work to make this a reality again.
mike	yule	I'm a 53 year old civil servant in Wellington. I was brought up swimming in NZ rivers, I cannot believe that this birthright has been traded away in the manner it has, with such carelessness and recklessness. And I cannot believe that a water standard of wadable even exists, that it would be anything but a huge national embarrassment to regard this as a meaningful description to apply to anything but an effluent pond.
Paul	Bruce	I am a meteorologist, just finished a 9 period as Greater Wellington Regional Councillor, and I am deeply disappointed that the few streams that Wellington city has, are too polluted for our children to even paddle. It is time to clean up both our urban and rural rivers and streams.
Sabine	de Crevoisier	I am a 57 year old woman living in rural Taranaki and I swim in and kayak on local rivers and lakes, and I strongly believe that we must look after our precious water and keep rivers and lakes healthy not only for our safe use but for the health of all fauna and flora that depend on them. Ultimately it is our health we are protecting.
Kelly	Nicolson	I live in Hamilton and have done since I was about 7. I have seen our Waikato River deteriorate over the years to the point where it is not clean enough to swim in let alone be safe for drinking. It has been a wonderful resource for much of the population but our children will never know what it used to be like to be able to swim in clean streams and rivers if we do nothing to restore them.
Cassandra	Roberts	I am a 40 year old mother of two from Lower Hutt and swimming at Kaitoke is our favourite thing to do in summer!
Lisa	Staples	
p.d.r	lindsay-salmon	I'm in Otago. Have you tried fishing in a river full of diddimo? It is not called snot weed for nothing. As for swimming or paddling in the gooey disgusting mess, that's not possible. When we were kids our rivers were clean, no filth, sewage or diddimo and they were our playground. Let's get them clean again please.
Lloyd	Parkin	I am 89 and want our rivers clean using New Zealand knowledge and clear thinking to achieve this. Let's do it well. Work in with our government responsibly.
Liam Connor	Connor	New Zealand can and should have clean water to swim in and even drink. NZ is a place that attracts people from all over the world for its natural beauty and environment. It is despicable that our government will not preserve this and is willing to allow continued degradation of our fresh water environments for people and it's wildlife. I do not support the governments position - safe for wading. This is unacceptable to me and all New Zealanders that I know. We do not have the excuses of the past of lack of knowledge. We know what we are doing and we know how to prevent it. We have a moral obligation to do so. The government does not have the support of fellow New Zealanders and should listen to this. It is a short sighted vision from the current Government turning short term gains into long term, perhaps permanent, degradation for our country, communities and environment. It is a shameful act of willful negligence.
Tina Rae	Carter	My kids love swimming in 'clean' rivers and lakes in NZ
James	Sykes	I'm a 62 year old male I live within a 100 metres of the Ophi River. I cannot drink the water, swim or fish it, this is utterly appalling. This was one of the cleanest rivers in the south Island but sadly no more. The Govt is standing idly by, they realise that they are destroying our eco system for generations to come. I wonder how they would feel if there children drank and swum in this river.
Kevin	Booth	
Quentin	Forster	I am a 34 year old man living in north Canterbury. I work as a fishing guide and love being able to spend days walking up beautiful clean NewZealand rivers. I'm disappointed at the state of many of our waterways and believe it's the responsibility of the people living in this country to ensure all our fresh water remains clean and swimmable. We have something very unique in NewZealand and need to preserve it for everyone to enjoy forever.
Mark Kraayenhof	Kraayenhof	I am a concerned 49 year old NZer, living in Auckland. NZ needs clean waterways, lakes & rivers to keep its citizens healthy and happy. Healthy means less spending on sickness caused by polluted water, case in point Havelock North water water-borne disease. Happy means more people enjoying our waterways. Mark
Christopher	Rush	As kids Adrienne and I happily with our parents and peers swam in our lakes our rivers in Taranaki. Not today. The Waiongongora River is so polluted with toxic effluent even the the brown trout my grandfather and Chris would relentlessly persue are almost extinct.
Anne Lochead	Lochead	Clean water is one of the most precious resources we have. Without clean water there is no life. We need to protect it to the best of our ability - not just for ourselves and for other species but for future generations as well.
Colleen	Tuuta	Pollution of all our sources of water is totally unacceptable. I want them protected for all the generations of all our mokopuna to come here in Aotearoa.
Elvira Dommisse	Dommisse	
Chloe Searle	Searle	
Lesley	Dufty	We need a future.
Yoshiko	Cowell	I am raising my daughter on my own, I can not afford much but once a year, I borrow my sister's tent and we go camping 90minutes inland from where I live. It is a beautiful river which provides us with so much joy. My daughter gains her confidence in swimming in the calm deep pools of this river. I love to soak in the river as the summer heat rises. We collect the water for cooking and drinking. It is our time to relax, enjoy and be outdoors. So much is gained from our little break and it means so much to me that it is accessible. I am also a tour guide and talking to tourists, I am becoming increasingly embarrassed at the state of our environment. We are so far from being Clean and green, we are falsely advertising Aotearoa as this, and we should stop using this image until we actually are. We need to clean up and raise the freshwater standards.
Rob	Roney	I am a retired teacher and dedicated trout fisherman. I am appalled at the state New Zealand's waterways have become due to intensive agriculture and irrigation. These practices are unsustainable.
Jane	Docherty	I am a 42 yr old NZ'er from Mapua. I am writing to you as I care about the health and biodiversity of our rivers and freshwater resources. I care about my children being able to enjoy pristine waterways that aren't polluted and lifeless. I want to feel proud of the way our nation respects its natural environment.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Rhys	Cornor	Hello. I am 42 yr European, Northland. If you're able to raise freshness standards of our water, please do so. It may not be an easy task so make it the polluters task.
Geoff Ward	Ward	I'm a 68 year old Kiwi who grew up swimming in rivers, streams, and estuaries without a concern in my life - and they were full of eels, whitebait, flounder etc. The current state of waterways and beaches in NZ is a disgraceful degradation of the PURE NZ image and swift government action to reverse the situation is urgently needed.
John	Summers	Thrice married father of nine just on the wrong side of seventy. Growing flowers for market and many other crops on our hectare here at Southbridge. It is scandalous that this Government that calls itself aspirational is aiming to have rivers and streams that my grandchildren will only be able to wade in. Their mandate, their power derives from us the people and is merely a stewardship role and time is well passed when they must be told to exercise that stewardship with an eye not to the next election but to the next generation.
Kim	Lund	58 years old...I like to drink clean water, swim in clean water, garden with clean water....I don't like campylobacter, e coli, shigella...no! I like clean water, what more can I say?
Jane	McCauley	I am 40 years old and grew up with the Hutt River at the bottom of my garden. Swimming in that river was one of my treasured memories of growing up - I want that for all of our kids.
Vivienne	Wilkinson	It's a basic Kiwi right to be able to swim in clean rivers and lakes. We've always done it, we should still be able to and future generations should be able to as well.
Carol	Henderson	Proud to be a New Zealand but aghast at how our streams lakes and rivers are being polluted. These are our most precious and valuable assets. It is CRAZY not to act immediately to protect them.
John	Waters	Our lakes and rivers must be maintained to the highest environmental standards for now and the future generations of New Zealanders a near enough standard is not good enough. We should be leaders in the world for very high fresh water standards at all times we have to set a standard.
Bill	Gibson	I came to New Zealand quite a few decades ago and was really impressed by the wonderful naturally clean beautiful countryside, lakes, rivers and streams. I am now astounded by the amount of pollution allowed into our lovely waterways and restrictions imposed on swimming in these once pristine waterways, and the deteriorating indigenous forests and effects of poor systems of government protection lacking in looking after the New Zealand populations interests of enjoying our wonderful country and its precious environment for each generation, I call on the government to take urgent protective action now to ensure all of the generations now and in future all of our beautiful total environment is preserved for the enjoyment of all. Bill Gibson
Nia	Phipps	I am a mother of two girls. I care about preserving the most precious resource we have. Water. Clean water is a basic human right. And well looked after rivers are essential. Our government should pledge to do its utmost to maintain clean, safe, waterways for our children's future and to ensure our unique ecosystems are not destroyed.
karol		Im a surfer. Spend as much time as I can in the water. NZ citizens are rightfully proud of their beautiful country. We need to sort this water pollution issue out!! Some of the rivers around me are so dirty and its not good enough. Farming practices need to change as we can't prioritise an outdated capitalist farming system over the health of the natural world.
Katherine	Peet	I have had the joy of being able to swim in rivers as a kid and want my granddaughters to be able to do the same - they currently cannot - action to clean up is needed!
Joe	Gallagher	I care about clean waterways as I believe they are one of our greatest assets that we have in New Zealand and right now they are not getting the respect they deserve! They should all be clean and safe to swim in!
Helen	Fisher	I have so many happy childhood memories of playing and swimming in the rivers and streams near my country home. I feel so sad my grandchildren are being deprived of this beautiful Kiwi experience.
Georgia Pringle	Pringle	I am a young student from Invercargill and i always heard stories of how the waihopai river used to be crystal clear and people would swim in it every day. Now all i see is dense green water with the occasional dead sheep carcass floating through town. It is a complete loss for our city our country and our environment.
Lisa	Lamberton	I am a 35 year old who grew up with my family on a dairy farm. I remember it being common practice to see the (unfenced) creeks on the race full of cow poo everyday around milking time. I never questioned whether this was right or wrong - I accepted that it was supposed to be this way because my dad and every other farmer I knew had a blase attitude toward water care. Thankfully, so much has changed since those days. But not enough change has taken place to actually restore or maintain the quality of the waterways across this land. For example, I still drive past countless farms in the Waikato that lack riparian planting, and my own awa (Waikato River) is often unsafe to swim in due to pollution. I understand that the effort we place in improving water quality now can take years to become visible, but the pressures on our ecosystem and hence, our waterways, are compounding faster than the Government can keep up with. If the Government continues to try and maintain the 'pure' image (and it really is just an image) that this country has without committing to genuine action and effective policy change around water care, the 'pure' image will not be a cash cow for much longer. There is only so much smoke and mirrors that can be used. I have had feedback from a lot of tourists over the last two years that they are shocked to find Aotearoa is not the pristine land they expected. And it is so sad that my response is - yeah I know. I sincerely hope that this changes soon and the Government commits to really improving water standards. I look forward to a time when I can tell those tourists Hey I know it looks bad, but believe me, this Government is really focussed towards cleaning up our waterways and making real changes to keep this country healthy and clean.
Arnim	Littek	At age 58, I live alongside the Manawatu Estuary, which is a world conservation site in theory, but not in practice. With support the river can recover, and could live up to its international RAMSAR billing.
Rachael	Ouwejan	I'm a 36 year old mum of three kids. We live on a lifestyle block adjacent to a river and downstream of a dairy farm. The kids and their friends love playing in the muddy creek but it smells and they ended up with infected scrapes when they last played like this :-)
Barbara	Pascoe	We need clean rivers. They were there clean before us, get them clean again. Our survival and the survival of the ecosystems we depend on, depends on clean rivers and oceans. I am a 56 year old with adult children.
Craig	Brechelt	I am a fifty two year old male truck driver that wants a cleaner environment.
Lavinia	Fife	Hi, I am 44 year old woman from the Hokianga, two years ago I went swimming in the Hokianga Harbour and became violently ill as a result of accidently swallowing water. I found out there were n swimming 'signs further up the beach . I want safe water everyone
Sherilyn Bradshaw	Bradshaw	
tanya	barker	
Wetini	Paul	I am a 36 year old Māori of Ngāti Awa, Ngai Tuhoe and Tūwharetoa descent and am a father of six. I want my children to live in an environment that is honoured and to have swimmable rivers. As I did when I was growing up.... Our rivers were plentiful and abundant with food 20 years ago.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Celine	Kearney	I am the daughter and granddaughter of South Island sheep farmers and North Island dairy farmers. I understand what it is to work on the land and depend on this to raise a family. But there is much too much pollution going into our waterways and aquifers. This is a direct result of intensification of dairying and other horticultural uses of water. The river I used to swim in in summer is no longer safe to swim in. Why have you set policy levels so low that this is legal? Your government's single minded and undemocratic response to the use of water in agri business e.g. taking away the powers of Ecan to make decisions about water so policies can be put in place that favour agri business over recreational river users is absolutely disgusting. And it's the same all over the country.
Karen	Parata	I grew up going to our local river (Waikanae river) every summer. This experience gave me a solid foundation to respect and protect my environment because it encouraged social interaction, increased and maintain my physical health, enhanced my mental wellbeing and now it gives me happy memories. How many children born today will get that experience?
Brooke	McIntyre	I grew up swimming in the river & playing in the creek. I love the quality of NZ's water lets not destroy it! Here is a pic of beautiful lake taupo, i just hope that they do not allow the introduction of carp!
Marie	Watson	I am 65 years old and retired. I would like our rivers and lakes restored to their natural pristine state so all New Zealanders can enjoy the natural heritage of our beautiful country
Alex	MacKenzie	
Hank	Rebmann	I'm now a 59 year old ngati pakeha living in Waitati. 30 years ago I travelled the world and was so taken by the natural beauty of NZ so I seddled down here. At the time it was safe to drink from any stream! Do that now and you risk your life!! Shame on the regulatory authorities, especially the national led government!!!
steve	connor	53, self employed male from Auckland who likes to fish and white water raft around the central north island. your statement to provide wadable rivers and water ways as a solution is simply unacceptable, a cop out, in the to hard basket, we say we are clean and green...either give up this mantra or act NOW!
Shelley	Hackett	Hi I live in rural Auckland on five acres with my husband and teenage daughters. I have a stream running through my property and farming and forestry are the main land uses around me. Every time it rains my stream turns brown and it takes days for it to clear. It would be great to see an improvement in the amount of sediment that get washed downstream.
Merv	Smith	This is my land and I enjoyed all the swimming in rivers all my life. I would like for my children, grand children and great grand children as pictured to be able to enjoy the same with all the health it brings.
Jenny	Roumieu	I am very concerned about our fresh water streams and rivers. We regular have cows grazing in the stream next door . I belong to a group called Clean streams Karamea, to try to help with riparian planting.
Tim	Barrie	
Noeline	Cole	I am a mother, kiwi kids should be able to swim in our waterways, putting farming before having clean fresh water is disgusting I will only vote for parties that have this as a minimum standard.
zigmaz	inta	im watching this beautiful land get trashed
Roberta	Campbell	Playing and swimming in the river is an important part of childhood and adulthood. We want to preserve the natural environment and our ecosystems.
Jill	Martel	It is very disappointing that rivers will only be wadable' not swimmable. This is a continuation of the environmental degradation that has occurred under this government.
alana	zazulak	Im a 40 yo kiwi, i grew up bathing in our rivers, id like my kids to continue to do so.
Anne	Hunter	
Elinor	Anderson	I am a Massey Manawatu student and I walk down to the Manawatu river every evening for my mental and physical well-being, after sitting and studying all day. I see plenty of people fishing in the river, sometimes up to their waists. There are often birds on the shore and in the river that I like to watch. The beauty of our country is unmatched in many areas of the world and it is our responsibility to see it maintained for our, and future residents' well-being.
Elli	Aloupis	I'm a 66yo Auckland retiree and hope to enjoy our country's rivers without getting sick.
Layling	Stanbury	I'm 25 years old, and i've lived in Christchurch my whole life. I used to be able to swim in the rivers and streams surrounding and in Christchurch. I can't any more. what's worse is that it's going to effect our drinking water too. Please change this.
Gary Farrow	Farrow	I'm a 29 year old Pakeha journalist. I have grown up in Waitakere, and spent a lot of time around beautiful crystal clear rivers coursing through gorges in the Waitakere Ranges. I want to be able to continue to visit those sort of places, and for my descendants to experience them too.
Robyn	Nicholas	I am a 38 year old Early Childhood Teacher, who would like to see New Zealand's rivers, streams and water ways be safe. Every generation of New Zealanders should be able to experience the freedom to be able to swim in uncontaminated waters. It would also be nice not to lie to the rest of the world about our ridiculous claim of being 'clean and green'. We stand to make far more revenue for New Zealand through 'green' technology and can at least hold our heads up without the blush of shame on our faces. Please remember that you are upholding not just your honour and character but ours as well. Please make your lasting legacy from your time in government one that you can hold your head up high, look the children of New Zealand in the eye and say wedid this for you, not for profit.
Evans	McCready	I am a 64 year old european who is self employed.We used to use Lake Karapiro but in the last couple of years we haven't been that keen as the water quality has deteriorated. There is a heap of weed which makes running a boat difficult. Unfortunately my kids wil not have the opportunity to enjoy swimmable waters if something isn't done soon. I remember when I was a kid and the effluent from the farm that was discharged straight into the creek and then into the river. It's just got a lot worse as intensification has taken over.
michael francis edens	edens	i care because new zealand is my country and i'm patriotic
Nick	Heaton	
Piki	Tupaea	I am a 24 year old Māori (Tainui) I am sick of the deteriorating standards of our country and fear the future for generations to come.
Helen	Young	I would like the water to be cleaned up! I would like to see the rivers and lakes to be clean enough for my gradchildren and their children to be able to swim and fish in them when they grow up like we did as children. What happened to clean green New Zealand we need to get back to that NOW!
Kim Veenings	Veenings	why would anyone want 3rd world conditions in our country when the government sells New Zealand as clean and green :/ water usable for all
Bodhi	Ferris	I am a being of this earth and wish to protect that which is good and beautiful and alive in this planet

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
linn	koevoet	<p>To whom it may concern.</p> <p>I am 60yrs of age, New Zealander, Retired, Male, and have lived alongside the Waitaki River most of my life.</p> <p>I am an avid fisherman targeting Trout and salmon as well as whitebait and flounder and eels.</p> <p>I am a recreational fisherman not a commercial fisherman.</p> <p>As a child , I could swim and drink the water in our pristine river, without fear of catching any infection.</p> <p>In the last 20 years the water quality in this previously pristine river has deteriorated to such a degree that in the lower reaches below the state highway one bridge you would catch some form of stomach ailment if you consumed the river water untreated.</p> <p>What has changed since then. Dairying and Irrigation.</p> <p>Politicians should compare the records obtained by NIWA and compare the readings at the Waitaki Dam and the State Highway One bridge to observe the damage being done to the river by these two groups.</p> <p>New Zealand 100% pure. What a joke.</p> <p>Currently Environment Canterbury is attempting to push through water quality levels that are 70% toxic to aquatic life. in the lowland rivers and streams of Canterbury.</p>
Edward T.W.	Walker	<p>I Am 39, Tangata Whenua From The East Coast, I Love Aotearoa, My Grandfather's Are Members Of The 28th Maori Battalion, C Company...</p> <p>Water Is Life, To Me This Is Our Mothers Milk Of Which All Life Flows, Every Single Molecule Of Water Has Been Around This Earth Multiple Times Far Longer Than What Humans Have Been In Existence Upon Earth...</p> <p>This Life Sustaining Substance Has Traveled Through The Air, The Clouds In The Sky, Fallen Upon The Desserts, Been Soaked And Quenched By The Dry Earth, Trickling Through In To The Underground Chasms Deep Under The Surface, Bubbling Up Once Again Seeing Light The First Time In Centuries Eagerly Sipped By A Deer Travel Through The Forest Secreting Through The Skin Layer Dropping Upon A Leaf Mixed With The Photosynthesis Giving Life Once Again To A Mighty Trees Of The Forest, Struck By Lightning Burnt Into Vapor Traveling By Air Once More Rising High Amongst The Clouds This Time Chilled Into A Beautiful Snow Flake Adrift Falling Ever So Softly Caught By An Infants Hand, Giggling Through The Warmth Of Soft Winter Furs Carried In Her Fathers Arms Such Pretty Patterns That Melt Away With The Child's Lick, On A Journey Once Again Inside The Warmth Of This Young Girl Sneezed Adrift Yet Again As I Float Upon The Breeze Like Dandelion Seeds, Moisture Rich Set Adrift As The Heat Urges Me Forth To Lock Once Again With My Cloud Family Tumbling Once Again This Time Into A Hard Round Ball Of Ice Hurling As The Ground Rushes Toward Me Shattering Upon Impact As I Am Introduced To Form A Part Structure Of A Massive Glacier Slowly Carving And Grinding Out New Valley Walls Smooth Is My Power Shifting Boulders That Are As Huge As An Eleven Story Building And Weighs Three Times As Much, Centuries Pass Yet Again Upon My Slow Arduous Journey, A Huge Shuddering Crack As I Am Suddenly Let Go From The Sheet That Hase Entrapped Me For Well Over Ten Thousand Years, Set Afloat Amongst The Pack Ice Jostling For Position As The Current Carrie's Me Swiftly Along Amidst The Deepest Of The Sea Until The Warmth Softens My Bindings Once Again Amalgamation Into A Massive Ocean Body Of Water, A Huge Funnel Of Water Twist Me Up And I Am Airborne Again Through A Squall, The Tornado Pushes Me Higher And Higher As The Phenomenon Disperses I Am Flying Once Again Having Traveled Around In Side An Upon The Globe Eleven Times I'm Once More Above Racing Across Continents In The Slip Stream, The Sun's Rays Penetrating Right Through Me, The Upheaval Of Dense Warm Air Pushes Me To Heights Of Endless Years Befor This Time Caught In A Torrential Downpour I Land In A Garden Where I Am Mixed With The Earth Once Again This Time Soaked Up By A Cultivated Planted Root System, I Become The Luscious Fruit That Gives Energy To This Person Eating Me, The Same DNA Structure As The Baby All Those Years Befor, This Time Becoming Part Of This Cultivator...</p> <p>I Am Now The Bases Of Folic Acid, Enriching The Reproduction Organs As I Am Ejaculated Into The Next Journey Of My Life...</p> <p>ME</p> <p>MY NAME IS EDWARD TE WHAKAMAUMAHARA WALKER...I AM 39 YEARS OF AGE IN THIS FORM, I AM TANGATA WHENUA FROM TE TAIRAWHITI, KO IWI MAUI AO AU</p> <p>AND YOU BUGGERS ARE STUFFING IT UP FOR OUR CHILDREN, OUR GRANDCHILDREN & THERE GREAT GRANDCHILDREN...</p> <p>PLEASE STOP YOUR GREED, IT'S KILLING US ALL...</p>
Jack	Randall	
Josie	Steenhart	I'm 35 and was born in Nelson. Our rivers are one of New Zealand's most wonderful and important features and I don't think it's too big an ask that they are looked after...
Nicky	McGuire	I am a 48 year old mother of 2 living in Porirua. When I was a child - living in the South Island - we could go hiking and swim in the Lakes and rivers and pretty confidently drink water out of any stream. Now I'm not so sure.... There really is no good reason for this not to be the case aside from the greed of a few. Our beautiful clean, green country is slowly being ruined.
Brian	Kendrick	I am a 78 yr old 4th generation European Kiwi and I am concerned at the condition of the environment we are leaving to our descendants when we enjoyed considerably better. All of life on this planet depends on clean water and air and poison free soil. To legislate for anything less is not only irresponsible but represents legislators who are out of touch with natural reality.
Leanne	Pooley	We are a small country at the bottom of the world. We don't have ancient ruins or a West End Theatre district, we have the natural beauty of the place. If we destroy that, we'll have milk and nothing else.
Damian Sugrue	Sugrue	This Country has gone from clean and green to dirty and brown and mostly since dairy has become the force that it has...swim-able rivers not to mind drinkable rivers should be the standard in a country that promotes itself as clean and green to the World. When you have to tell visitors from overseas to not go in to whatever river it may be, how long will it be before the tourist dollar decreases?...whatever about the local NZ'ers who have been ignored completely by this government. our rivers and lakes are a disgrace...Lake Ellesmere in Canterbury looks fluorescent green on the weather map...a picture taken from space and on the ground it is more disgusting...all attributable to intensification of farming practices on unsuitable land. Warnings were issued that this would happen but were ignored...Something meaningful has to be done now otherwise all that will be left will be open sewers that nobody will be able to use.
Peter	Towers	I have watched water quality deteriorate over the last 20 years in this district, due to the practise of intense farming methods. The local rivers are now no longer swimmable due to the presence of didimo slime. In the past these rivers and streams were a source of family fun, pleasure and relief during summer.
Cathy Tyler	Tyler	Izzy age 11 and Oliver 6 age - hopefully their children will be able to swim in the rivers if we sort this issue out now. Thank you, Cathy Tyler (Mum age 46)
Christine	Phippen	I am a 51 year old female and I grew up swimming in the rivers. It is unacceptable what has happened in the past 30 years. It is terrible that in one generation we have lost our rivers. Our children deserve better than this. I even remember travelling around the South Island as a young adult and drinking out of some streams. It would be crazy to do that now. What a tragedy! We want our rivers back the way they were. Wading is not good enough. Please help restore the fantastic resource our rivers once were. Please make them swimmable again.
Steenhart	Tony & Jude	We are a retired married couple and are dismayed at the state of our rivers and streams.
Steenhart	Tony & Jude	We are depressed about the lack of action toward reversing this problem
Steenhart	Tony & Jude	We are a married retired couple and are dismayed at the current state of our rivers and streams. We are depressed at the lack of action to reverse the problem.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
chris	manson	I grew up in Selwyn when the river was clear and had fish. Now it is polluted and running low due to poor water management. We need proposals and plans to look after and regain a healthy environment. To do any different is to support money over people and the environment
Lorraine	Bell	I am from the Wanganui River currently living in Central Otago When I was a kid the waterways in this country were clean you could stop anywhere and swim and play in this country YOU CANNOT do that now and my grandchildren will not be able to let alone their grandchildren WATER is the essence of life clean them up now I'm sick of seeing contaminated waterways aren't you?????Grrrrrr
Jo	Curtis	I'm a 50 year old woman living in Huia, Auckland with two teenage boys. Born and bred in NZ the thought if not bring able to swim, fish or purely enjoy ANY waterway in this country is simply devastating. NZ is known for so many wonderful things and the outdoor life around water is one if them.
Rata Gordon	Gordon	I'm a 28 year old woman who lives on Waiheke Island. There is nothing that I find more rejuvenating than going for a swim in a river or in the ocean. We need our water to be clean and fresh! I work in the field of mental health and there is mounting evidence that having access to clean and healthy natural environments has a hugely positive impact on our mental health. Our people need swimmable rivers.
Patricia	Jacobson	Water is essential to life. Without clean pure water nothing lives. Surely that is the least we can ask for ourselves and our children and grandchildren. Our motto was always to leave a place better than what you found it. This applies to our country.
Joanna	Hayman	I'm a 60-year-old European tutor from Auckland and Karangahake. I grew up swimming in the NZ sea and rivers. As children growing up close to nature my kids would immerse themselves in water whenever possible. This is what children do, with no thought that they may get sick from doing so. I want my future grandchildren and great-grandchildren to also grow up to treasure this planet we inhabit and enjoy the ability to swim in rivers anywhere in New Zealand. This I consider a basic human right. It's one of the most important issues there is. The photo shows my daughter and partner swimming in the once unswimmable (because of mining waste) Waitawheta River. It took 60 years to once again be swimmable and for fish to survive in it. The planned mining in the Karangahake Gorge could spoil all this. Please let this NOT happen! Protect our water, without which there is no life.
Michael W McLaren	McLaren	
Colleen M	Brooker	Aged 76, located in Auckland but grew up on a farm so appreciate the vital importance fresh 'clean' water is to people. Don't accept a level of 'pollution' that will increase general ill health.
Stephanie	Johansen	I am a mother and grandmother living in Palmerston North, and am aghast at the state of our rivers and streams. Our children should be able to swim in unpolluted water as we did when we were young. Please listen to our concerns.
dennis	dorney	I am a 76 yo pensioner.I have friends in Australia, some of whom have visited me in NZ, and others who expect too. How am I to tell them that NZ is not 100% pure: that in many places its toxic enough to be a health risk? Will they still come?
Sandra	Marino	
Shamsi	Rock	I'm a 42 year old company manager, but foremost, I'm a mother, & a grandmother, and I want my kids and grandkids to have safe rivers and streams to swim in. I'm calling on the government to raise their standards of what's 'acceptable' and do better.
Catherine	Murupaenga	Clean water is an absolute necessity for human and environmental health. Access to clean water to meet our basic needs and live dignified lives is an inalienable human right. Therefore, all citizens are absolutely entitled to take firm action to defend and protect our rights to clean water should they come under threat or attack. If our elected representatives and Governments don't appreciate (a) this one simple fundamental fact, and (b) their critical obligation to protect our rights in this regard (putting people and our natural habitat's well-being FIRST before subordinate business, industry and corporate profit-driven privileges), then those politicians and Governments must be incompetent, negligent in their duties of trust, or corrupt – in any case, making them unfit and undeserving to maintain office in Aotearoa.
Bronwen	Chapple	I'm a 74 year old grandmother and great grandmother and I consider it appalling that any government could consider even a small amount of pollution in our rivers is okay. I want all rivers, lakes and the sea to be free of contamination of any kind. I want my great grandies to have the freedom to delight in nature the way I, and probably you parliamentarians, did.Time to slow down on dairying for start.
jenny wilton	wilton	I am a retired teacher and I want all future kids to be able to enjoy clean rivers and lakes like I did when I was young. It should be something all New Zealanders can enjoy!
Darren	Johnston	I am a 51yr old from Wanganui. And would like to see my Grandchildren swim in the rivers and lakes in my area without getting sick from pollution
lindsay	ryan	
geraldine	edwards	I am 64,self employed,nzer,female.Its a disgrace that the rivers have reached this point!! We need our rivers back to the state that they once were,clean and green!!g
Danielle	Hrstich	Hello, I am a 26 year old graduate architect who grew up in Auckland and now lives in Wellington. Please think of our future generations when setting the minimum requirements for freshwater in NZ. It should be a human right to be able to swim in any lakes or rivers around the country and not have to worry about getting sick. It is extremely scary to think that the government could set the minimum standard so low as to suggest children could get sick if they decided to swim in their local lake. Even though I live in the city I consider our environment to be the most important thing and I am sure most city dwellers agree. Thanks, Danielle
Fred	Hirst	I'm a 71yr old retired medical specialist from Manawatu. For the sake of the nation and its peoples we need to aim for nothing less than the goal to be swimmable in our fresh waterways. Wadeable is not a quality standard - it is pollution.
Michael Chatfield	Chatfield	Clean water-ways are not a luxury. They are a necessity for a diverse, healthy ecology. And correspondingly, for a healthy and diverse economy. The choices we make economically are implicitly ecological decisions. The current economic rhetoric is that 'If we can't quantify it then it has no economic value". This is patent lunacy! Our largest agribusiness, dairying– and the primary source of this issue - itself, relies on ecology to thrive. Yes, there are fertiliser supplements, drenches, and super grass hybrids. However, when the ecosystem of beneficial microbes becomes exhausted from pollution and overproduction, the land becomes inert; dead. Financially, it fails to return any quantifiable economic value. The assumption that ecological well-being is a lower priority than 'economic progress' is naive at best. In reality it is a myopic outlook that cannot perceive that in the long-term medium term agribusiness is defecating in it's own well – literally. And in the medium-term, we will have destroyed the possibility of most other ecologically sustainable economic alternatives. This, surely, is our gravest foolishness. On the whole, we, as a country need to be making decisions that are larger than directives that are solely – or even primarily – based on 'quantifiable economic returns'. Instead there needs to be a shift in focus toward creating industries that work in a more symbiotic relationship with ecology/ecosystems. There are other options. Even within the existing envelope: Goat milk, for example, yields a much higher return per litre, yet which is much more sustainable and efficient in terms of resources. These actions and decisions might not directly affect the daily lives of politicians. However, as the choices we make economically are implicitly ecological decisions, where we head will increasingly affect the lives of communities that, due to no fault of their own, have no practical means to make changes. And in the long-term of these decisions will, with a great sense of irony, effect the economy for some considerable time.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Richard	Hallam	I'm a 42 year old UK ex-pat who has been a New Zealand resident for thirteen years, and I am shocked at the state of this countries rivers. When I left the UK they had just recognised the value their of fresh water resources from a social perspective, and every time I go back I'm pleasantly surprised to see that yet more rivers and streams are now swimmable. Even the Thames right in the centre of London is now well within the safe guidelines! Sadly this country is going in the opposite direction. As a keen wakeboarder I have seen the options for rivers we can use rapidly declining due to contamination. I have a five year old son who I'd love to take out, but fear for his health were he to accidentally swallow any pollutants (i.e. just the water itself). As a boy I used to swim in the river and I'd love to do the same with him, but there's nowhere local I'd feel safe to do so. Frankly it's a disgrace. It's also a false economy, as people will still use our rivers, and therefore the healthcare system will become further burdened as a result. We're robbing Peter to pay Paul, and the worse thing is that it's the people of this (supposedly) beautiful country who will suffer. Moreover, the poor state of our rivers is symptomatic of the bigger picture, and having spoken to some of the scientists at Victoria University where I work, we are not far off a point where the same contamination that is an issue for our rivers starts leaching into the general water table we use for human consumption (some are fairly confident this has already happened). Let's not wait until we have a public health disaster on our hands to do something about it, and fix the problem now.
John	Kent	I am 80 and have held a trout fishing licence for 66 years. I am a retired GP and have written trout fishing guide books describing 700 rivers and 150 lakes in both islands. David Hallett photographed and I won a Montana Award for Calssic Fly Fishing in NZ rivers. I have given 2 talks at the World International Fly Fishing conclaves in the USA. I am appalled at the rapid deterioration of rivers and lakes in NZ and know many American anglers no longer visit NZ because of our polluted waterways.
Jeremy Stead	Stead	Hi there, I'm a 30 year old male from Auckland. Having spent so much time in the outdoors around our lakes and rivers, I want them cleaned up so we can enjoy them. Also, it sucks watching our native flora and fauna disappear from them.
Eleanor	Parker	I am a 53 yr old grandmother who is very disappointed that the government is so shortsighted as not to see the importance of fresh, clean water. Now and for the future. Shame on you.
Pamela	Jones	Im a 55 year old educator who moved to Waipawa, Central Hawkes Bay nearly one year ago. Originally from the Waikato Im used to having freshwater nearby. Although, the Waikato wasn't always swimmable I enjoyed its majestic nature and cultural significance. In summer 2016 many friends came to visit CHB during our longest summer break. We were all unanimous in wanting to swim in the local te awa o Tukituki. However, we had concerns about the health of the river. We made enquiries with the information centre and regional council. Locals were more reliable! Despite concerns we spent many days picnic-ing, paddling, swimming and cooling off in the Tukituki until it dried up and/or sludged over. My concern is not so much for us and our needs but the RIVER itself. Its a privilege to have so much water in our lives and have so many people who care and to appreciate the community of life within it. I want to add voice to petition for clean, healthy swimmable waterways so my grandchildren may return to Aotearoa and experience its magnificence in safety and with pride!
Raelene	Lombard	
Pearl	Watson	24 year old artist, grew up in nelson, every summer i go back to visit family and friends over xmas and spend a majority of our time at local river swimming holes or beaches. Over the past 10 years alot of those swimming holes i used to swim in (maitai river, lee valley, aniseed) have become more and more unclean. I remember when it used to be clear sparkling water when i was a kid now its all pretty murky and one of the spots we used to swim at by collingwood st bridge now has a drain going striaght in it, i think from street gutters. I hope to be able to keep spending my summers swimming in fresh clean water, esspecially in the nelson region
John	Bryant	Clean rivers and lakes are integral to so many species survivaland pleasure. They will sustain and nurture us long after money has disappeared. Let's take care of them kia kaha team
Ravaani	Ghaemmaghamy	I am a 49 year old foster caregiver, parent, wife, Disability Support Needs Assessor, friend and community member. I spent the first 16 years of my life growing up on Lake Erie in the USA at a time when it was described as a dead lake. They cleaned up that huge body of water and we must do the same. I love fresh water and really mourn our family's inability to swim in the Waikato River here in Hamilton because of the pollution.
Anna Robinson		In my world (the real world), rivers are available for swimming in safely, are clean and abundant with life. They are not a commodity or something that we treat and squander for commercial gain.
Karen	Whitla	Swimmable
Heidi Ross	Ross	I am a 59 year old European medical receptionist from Queenstown and I would like to keep Lake Wakatipu clean. I have noticed over the years the run off affecting the lake bottom in the shallows. Freedom campers bathe in the lake with soap and shampoo, also not good. I want to keep the lake clear for generations to come!
Leeann	Waaka	I am a 40 year old Ngapuhi who grew up on a farm enjoying swimming in Mangakahia river and catching and eating the then abundant Eel in this beautiful river. I want my kids and my Moko's to also enjoy clean safe waters to swim, bathe in and to be able to eat from.
Robin	Blackmore	I am 75 years of age and I am appalled at the incompetence of our government over water issues in failing to realise that prevention is better (and far cheaper) than cure. All waterways must be swimmable as a minimum standard!
Iain	Abercrombie	I'm a passionate fly fisherman and I'm horrified to see the damage irrigation and intensive dairy farming are having on our rivers. when it comes to polling next year, this is a deal breaker.
kim	smith	safe for wading is a real cop out
Terence	Hohaia	I am a 56 yr old Māori and our whānau have whenua in South Taranaki that the Mangahume awa runs through. Our whanau have collected shellfish and whitebait from the mouth of this awa since my parents were kids. We want this awa to remain clean and free of contaminants. I want clean rivers and lakes!
Chris	Lewis	Many of my friends from overseas believe that New Zealand is a clean and green country and I to tell them that we are just like every other country out there that can't seem to figure out pollution. This is sad until people actually come here and then find out for themselves the real truth.
Anna	Clarke	I'm a 21 year old Environmental Science student at Victoria University of Wellington. I am originally from the Northland region and have spent my whole life swimming in a river at many points along it's reach all the way to where it meets the sea. I have a dream that one day it will be possible to drink from any river in my region, so that if worst comes to worst people will always be able to access drinking water wherever they are. I believe that with good planning and good hearts we can change our water and create ways for us to coexist in a beneficial way with our nature and our environment.
Ric	Swemmer	At 64yo, i have seen more than enough degradation of water resources in NZ & elsewhere. Just the other day, several towns in Hawkes Bay suffered polluted water supply. This does not happen without human intervention/activity. Farming is the likely culprit, given the chemicals being put to legit use in that industry, to treat or fertilise. The methods have to change if ppl hope to save this special small country.
Cushla	Dillon	I'm a 53 year old filmmaker and mother, and having grown up swimming in the lakes and rivers around Rotorua, clean water was what I've taken for granted. Now the purity of our water is at risk, I realise I have to do whatever I can to keep it safe. Our waterways are like our own bodies bloodvessels. I would'nt tolerate tainted blood in my system, as I would soon get very sick and die, well as far as I'm concerned that is that same for our rivers.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Tina	Tibble	I understand it may have been too long ago for you to remember the sheer joy and freedom of being a kiwi kid. You're an adult now with adult sized responsibilities. I understand you have so many demands and pressures put upon you and the stress of this leaves you spent with no energy to consider the pleas of a bunch of liberal hippies, you have what seems like far bigger issues to address. I understand you want the best for your family and you're working hard to leave a legacy for them to benefit from. I believe you can and will listen to our plea because your grandchildren and their grandchildren will give reverence to your memory for being brave enough to say enough! Give your progeny the gift of a healthy New Zealand ecosystem and the pride of knowing that their ancestor was responsible for that gift. You're brave, your voice is enough, you can do it. I'm not asking you to save the whole planet, just our little piece of paradise. Please.
Emma	Crowther	My children and grandchildren should be able to enjoy our waters like we do. We are caretakers and guardians and must take our responsibility seriously with integrity and strength.
Joan	Waldvogel	I'm a 71 year old retiree. I learnt to swim in the river on our Taranaki farm and spent many hours as a child swimming and playing in the river. We happily drank from it. It is a shame on us all that today's children are not able to do this because we took our eye of the ball and let our rivers become degraded. The minimum goal must be to make them swimmable again and the ultimate goal to make them drinkable.
Anita	Bocchino	I immigrated to NZ 31 years ago when I could drink water in the bush and swim in all local rivers. This government is culpable. It has hastened the demise of our once clean green country favoring profit over our environment.
Desmond	Bovey	I came home from 30 years in Europe to find rivers I used to swim in and even drink contaminated. Here is my partner beside a Canterbury river on his first visit to Clean Green New Zealand.
Cameron	Frecklington	I am a 37 year old expat living abroad in China who one day wants to return home with his two kids and have them swim in the Rangitikei by my parent's house or teach my son to fish in one of Lake Taupo's many streams.
Debbie	Woolcott	I'm a 45 year old mother of two active boys who love getting outside. We all want to be able to swim in our local rivers, especially the Hutt River through out the whole summer season.
Simon	Barr	Stop pandering to the farmers. impose realistic water quality and quality measures. Stop your cronies controlling water and restore real democracy to regions like Canterbury.
Aisha	Le Frantz	I have two young children and I'd love for them to be able to swim safely in our rivers as I did as a child. That means jumping off rocks, putting your head under water, doing backflips and generally having a good time - not just 'wading'! Not to mention the safety of the poor creatures that live in our waterways. Please do the right thing and safeguard our natural resources for future generations.
Taylor	Foster	I'm a 17 year old student from Auckland, and I care about this issue because I value the lives of the animals living in these unsafe and dirty conditions.
Vere Murdoch	Murdoch	I am a 76 year old pakeha -retired Builder, born in Invercargill and now resident in Auckland and was able to enjoy clean rivers and lakes in my younger days
Sarah	Le	I am a 31 year old registered nurse and a mother of 3 young children. I want our rivers to be safe and swimmable, even drinkable, so that my children can experience the fun of swimming and playing in rivers and streams without the fear of them getting horribly sick.
Leeann	Morton	I am a 47 year old nurse and mum of two young children who live near Lakes Hawea and Wanaka. It seems my children will not have the same freedom to swim and wade in lakes, streams and rivers like I did. We must put a stop to further high density farming ventures and heal our waterways. They have come second for far too long, and our native fish have also paid the price. Attached is a photo of my gorgeous kids enjoying the beautiful Clutha River here in Wanaka. A strong brave river which has many many demands placed on it through irrigation, hydro electric dams and intensive farming run-off. Please act to protect it and other precious waterways for our children, and our children's children. Kind regards.
margot	gillard	I'm a patriotic 5th generation kiwi, born under the shadow of Mt Taranaki, now residing in beautiful Raglan. I want to be able to swim in the harbour and ocean Every day with my grandchildren like I did as a kid.
Taylor	Foster	I'm a 17 year old student from Auckland, and i care about this issue because i value the animal's lives who are living in these unsafe and dirty conditions.
Nic	Sur	I'm 43 year old and I have 2 kids and I want them and the future generations to be able to swim in clean rivers and lakes. Please show leadership in this matter and take the right actions ! Thank you !
Debbie	Spilker	I am a 48yr old small business owner and mother of 3. I believe it is our responsibility to keep our water clean for the sustainability of the diverse flora and fauna that make our country unique and also waterways that are safe for our children and future grandchildren to play, swim and fish in.
Elizabeth	Palmer	I am a grandmother of four and a mother of 3 children. I would like them to be able to swim at the rivers and enjoy the bio diversity of the rivers and streams in to the future. It makes me sick to think this government would undertake such a short sighted and false remedy to an increasingly worrying problem in our waterways... then no doubt boast about the statistics of our clean waterways. Who are the fools?
Huia	Lambie	Let's get families swimming in rivers again as our family and wider community did in the 1950's/60's in Canterbury.
Graeme	Higgins	I live on this planet and my children too. There is no excuse for letting the quality of our environment deteriorate anywhere for any reason. The government has the unique responsibility conferred on it by the people to manage our resources so they are never over taxed or abused.
Tracy	Price	I grew up swimming in our rivers and I want my grandchildren to have the same experience. We can't consider our country pure or clean, green NZ if our waterways are not safe to swim in.
Lisa	Maria	Kia ora koutou, I am a 46 year old pakeha/maori professional who has lived in many small towns and cities throughout New Zealand. When I was a child, it was a given that all could safely swim, play and collect ka from your local stream/river/lake. The decline of water quality is now very evident and it will not be an easy challenge to fix but the proposed freshwater standard suggests a moderate level of pollution (posing a moderate risk of illness/infection), is permissible and acceptable. I understand the pressures on our freshwater water resource (e.g. intensive land farming, sedimentation, over-allocation), from selected economic interests but these should not over shadow our environmental and socio/culture interests associated with these ecosystems. Restoring our streams/rivers/lakes to improve biodiversity, kai moana and water quality will benefit the wider community and other economic interests, such as tourism. I have travelled to many countries throughout the world, where pollution is prevalent. I somewhat smugly would think of Aotearoa's clean waterways of my youth. Now I'm embarrassed that we use the fraudulent 100% pure image to entice travellers, who cannot safely cool off in a stream after enjoying our magnificent landscapes. This standard needs to be aspirational, immediately halting the degradation of freshwater systems, with a long term goal to return our freshwater to a swimmable state.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Greg	Skipper	I am the manager of a spring water bore in Taranaki, even with the majestic Te Maunga Taranaki and its pristine waters, they are quickly turned to being effected by discharges and bad land management. This includes overseas and local industry as well as farming. The TRC and NPDC do a great job to manage the resource but financial pressure to surrender to so called progress, by the NZ Govt. means NZ green policies are actually because of opposition and protest from the people not because the management in government does a bang up job. If you eat and live the waterways and sea surrounding NZ you do not wreck it, therefore the wrong people are in the power seat....this is not a pakeha/ maori opposition issue, this is all pakeha/ maori getting the right people in....vote hard....vote for the Environment....it needs our voice. regards Greg Skipper
Rose	Williams	Im a current medical student in Otago and feel that this government is not looking at this issue seriously as well as longitudinally at the real issues regarding climate and land.
Amanda	Moxey	If we don't have clean water what do we have ? Clean fresh water in NZ is essential to maintain the health of our ecosystems. 100% Pure NZ needs to be aimed for now.. we are losing it, we can no longer take it for granted.. Look overseas for lessons learned .. please I beg you, for all New Zealanders. Before it's too late and the clean up is so great a future political term will need to start the clean up process (the politicians will be our kids)
carol	Kirkland	I am a 55 yr old female imigrant. I would love the rivers to be clean and safe to swim in, as we led to believe they were when we first came over in 93
Deborah	Petch	Growing up as a child in the Hutt, Wellington I enjoyed wading/ swimming in rivers so why not our next generation unfortunate now cause I now live in Auckland where rivers are not....a mother 7 and grandmother of 12.
Heather	Denny	I am a retired lecturer living in Auckland. I have a grandson who is nearly two and a half. I want him and his children to be able to enjoy clean fresh lakes and rivers and to be able to swim in them. Water is the gold of the future and vital for our well-being and that of our environment. Wading quality is manifestly not enough.
jill	jacomb	I'm a 67 yr old ex teacher soon- to- be grandma who cherishes our NZ pure image for my grandchildren & all who will inherit this beautiful country of ours. Our rivers & streams are our country's life blood. Once destroyed they will be irretrievable & our current status as a tourist mecca for those who love the outdoors will vanish.
Lesley	Seyb	I grew up on the banks of the river Avon in ChCh we had a market garden property in what is now the red zone as a child the river was a playground for us with canoeing fishing the river was safe and clean, every few months a dredge would clean any over growth of water weeds and debris from the river, today nothing is done.
Janet	Robson	To whom it may concern Water is so precious it should be the government's main concern. We need our rivers to be clean and healthy for our generations to come. Please do everything in your power to make this happen. Thankyou
Bridie Laffey	Laffey	I'm a female pakeha High School teacher who lives and works in central Auckland and I believe we need to start protecting the lakes and rivers of this country.
Paul Shannon	Shannon	I am a 66 year old Hamiltonian who as a young person was able to safely swim in the Waikato river. Now after years of rates to the Waikato Regional Council I am appalled that the Waikato river is still so polluted we cannot safely swim in it. A wader policy is just not good enough
Susy	Stokes	I love the outdoors and believe it is every kiwi's obligation to look after our environment. As an outdoor professional I am disgusted at the Governments lack of agenda for this important issue. NZ is not Clean and Green as we claim to be.
Hamish	Ward	I'm a 31 year old Kiwi born & bred in the mighty Manawatu. Having grown up in & around rivers they are a vital part of my family's recreation, education & memories. From swimming, fishing & boating to camping & tramping, there are so many aspects of our lives that are positively shaped by having fresh, healthy, drinkable water wherever we may be in our great country. To set such a low standard for our waterways in New Zealand is absolutely criminal! It not only erodes our international reputation for being a clean green 100% pure country, but must also have a detrimental flow on effect for everyone who lives within NZ - that we should only expect low standards set by our government. Imagine how depressing that must be for the majority of Kiwis who have been here for generations & cherish the fact that we are privileged to enjoy fresh water. Imagine the children who would grow up not knowing this & just accept polluted rivers & streams are a way of life in this country.. It is more important than ever to set high standards for anything relating to the wellbeing of the environment we live in. Our waterways would certainly be one of the most important aspects of this. The environment CANNOT & MUST NOT be taken for granted. It is more important than making money, as once the environment is ruined, species extinct, what good is money then? Set high standards for our waterways, if this comes at cost to our farmers & exports, so be it. In the long term, money spent on improving our environment will surely reap rewards. To set low freshwater standards is shortsighted & seemingly caving into financial & global pressure. Comparing ourselves to other countries to give the illusion of being clean & green is simply not good enough. We must forge ahead in the area of environmental protection & show the world what can be achieved with ingenuity & determination to look after the environment for ourselves & future generations.
Vanessa	Tipoki	I'm a 43-year old Mum, sheep & beef farmer and resource management planner. We have the Tauanui River running through our farm in the South Wairarapa - which is a significant waterway for indigenous fish. The last two years it has dried up over summer, stranding thousands of our previous native fish. Members of our community (including my 4-year old son) spent weeks moving live fish in chilly bins to another river that was still flowing. Although the last two summers have been very dry it is worrying how many resource consents for groundwater irrigation takes have been granted in a short space of time & the impact increased abstraction is having on the water table. & it's not just that these tributaries can't support life anymore - but the wider implications also for stock water & domestic use (including our local community water supply!!). This government needs to be conscious that there is a backlash brewing in the rural centres. The ridiculous roll out of intensive land use is starting to bite - not only with water quality but also water quantity. Ignore it at your own peril.
Jacky	Tate	I have lived in Dunedin for over 40 years and love the area. I am a natural health practitioner. I think it is quite shocking that our rivers and lakes are so unhealthy, preventing safe fishing and safe swimming. Also our groundwater is heading in that direction. We need to act now to clean up our waterways
juli	cooke	Clean & safe water is NOT a privilege, it is a RIGHT. We want clean water, NOW.
greg	bell	Swimmable rivers is the Lowest standard I can ever accept. I used to be able to drink from 90% of all NZ rivers, including the Manawatu river, where I used to train on as a NZ kayaking representative.
Anaru	Ranapia	Our Awa are the veins of the land from which we take sustenance for all eternity Anaru Ranapia 35 year old Maori Tane from Ngati awa Whakatane. Occupation: 3D/2D Animator
Ken	Sims	Been fishing all my life. Worked for part of it. Learnt what I know, what I feel and what I love on rivers, beaches, forests, mountains and oceans. Thats important enough to fight for.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Casey	McPike	I'm a 36 year old mother of two from Central Auckland. We've spent many happy holidays together as a family in Taupo and Queenstown - arguably two of NZ's top tourist destinations. I want future generations to be able to enjoy NZ's water, just as we do now. New Zealanders and tourists should be able to swim, feed the ducks, fish and play without fear of getting sick, and with a healthy environment in place for wildlife.
Kelsey Thomson	Thomson	Hi, My name is Kelsey and I am a 24 year old woman originally from the Waikato, now living in Wellington. This issue is important to me, because as a child I was never allowed to swim in the Waikato river due to heavy pollution. I still feel embarrassed when guests from overseas see the dirty river that winds its way through our entire city. I would love to be proud when I show off my hometown, and have people be able to swim (in the safe parts) of the Waikato river. New Zealand is beautiful, let's only enhance that.
Marianne	Macdonald	Clean rivers are essential. 'Swimable' isn't good enough!
Hannah	Shingler	I am a 19 year old student that has grown up surrounded by the beautiful Waitakere Ranges. I am lucky enough to experience safe swimming at the clean Lake Wainamu, Mokoroa Falls, and many other places. But I know many people do not have this privilege or understanding of how a river and lake can be so clean and healthy. The worse that can happen is that people believe the current state of many of our rivers and lakes is the norm, when it isn't and it is a very very serious issue.
Sue	Kelly	I am 69 and have specialised in water treatment ,predominantly in Canterbury, for over 27 years. The significant and unrelenting increases in Nitrate levels in groundwater due to intensive dairying practices is gravely concerning.
juli	ooke	Clean and safe water is NOT a privilege, it's our RIGHT.
Paul	Redican	I am a 45 year old professional who grew up swimming in NZ lakes and rivers, I am horrified by the rapid degradation of New Zealand's waterways , in fact many of my childhood swimming spots are no longer safe for swimming. This is not in any way acceptable. I strongly oppose the rampant destruction of our environment at the expense of short sighted profit .
martin	Fryer	I am a 62 year old Company Director who is a keen fly fisherman and user of our rivers throughout NZ. It is an indictment on this current government that rivers should be classed as wadable only. We are doing what other countries are now trying to clean up! Tourism brings more money than agriculture does presently.With our rivers looking like sewerage ponds do you think this will continue!! Federated Farmers and Government need to work together to re instate our rivers and wetlands
Jane	Ellis	I'm a 59 year old owner/operator of a New Zealand outdoor clothing compan, born and bred in New Zealand. I want future generations to be able to drink from, swim in and enjoy clean rivers as I have been lucky enough to do. This is the head of the Waitaha River on the West Coast near Ivory Lake. It is pristine water such as this that we should be able to enjoy throughout New Zealand. The increasing pressure to use our rivers for irrigation, the pollution through overuse and seeing them as valuable used not left is of huge concern and, I believe, a major issue for all New Zealanders.
Hannah	Shaw	We have 2 children under 3 and wish that they can have the same childhood fun in our rivers that we had growing up in Aotearoa. It should be our right to have clean and healthy water to enjoy. Our property backs on to the beautiful Motupiko river and the thought of our children not being able to swim there makes us feel very sad. The blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) situation has worsened in recent years. We are seriously concerned about the state of NZ's water. Our bore water is contaminated with E. Coli which made me very ill after the birth of our 2nd child this year. We had to spend \$2000 on a filtration system so we could safely drink and bathe. It's a very worrying situation. As a nurse I value human and environmental health highly - to say the least. Something needs to be done urgently. Clean green NZ is going to be a thing of the past if we don't. Attached is a photo of our family sitting at the river a couple of months ago.
graham	bennett	please find attached a review of my recent exhibition HEED focusing on degraded waters and featuring the work entitled POOLING IGNORANCE comprising unheeded signals in a pool of water from lake Waihora (Ellismere) The review is in the current issue of Hong Kong based magazine World Sculpture News. Graham Bennett www.grahambennettsculpture.info
Kieu	Pham	I'm a 30 year old NZ European/Vietnamese administrator and am asking for you to please use your position of power to speak for the people of NZ and demand better standards for our waterways. I grew up swimming in rivers around New Zealand and am disgusted at the mistreatment of our waterways around the country. I want future generations to have the same joy of a refreshing dunk in the river as we all had growing up. Please support swimmable as the absolute minimum standard of our waterways - ideally with water clean enough to sustain the life of our native species that live in the water. Thank you! Kieu Pham, Northland, Wellington
John	Montgomerie	73 years young, retired farmer. now do extreme tramping trips and have seen the pristine headwaters of many river systems throughout NZ. That is how the lower rivers should be. We can not accept that anything less is acceptable in water quality. It is a copout and lame excuses that lead to fouling of our waterways. havelock Norths recent problem should be a wake up call too. We do not want to leave my grandchildren to say in 50 years time, it is all too late to do something !
Mariska	Noordik	I'm a 45 year old woman, enjoying life in Rai Valley and spending us much time as I can in the outdoors. Attached a photo of one of my favourite walks following the Pelorus river. All rivers in NZ should be swimmable. Hope the Government will finally listen
Ezra	Shield	I'm Ezra, a 20 year old public relations student. I'm vegetarian and I don't want our rivers to be dirty anymore. I wish that in summer we could go down for a swim instead of having to travel for a few hours. We need to start taking care of our environment or we will be out of a place to live.
Grace	Sharp	Our country is so beautiful, and a part of that is the beautiful waterways, streams and rivers. I'm an amateur photographer and I love to seek out waterfalls, and beautiful streams through our native bush. My photo is one I took of my husband recently at Kaiate Falls
Louise	Booth	
Lyn	Ross	I am a retiree in the wellington region and am saddened by the state this country is in.....water being a big issue ...The standards need to be raised not lowered :(Restore our water to a good quality
Janine	Duckworth	I am a 54 woman from Motukarara near Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere in Canterbury. I want to be able to take my dog for a walk and swim in the Waikirikiriri/Selwyn River with my friends and family like I did when I was young.
Andy	Paulin	I am a 72 year-old retired person from Canterbury. I am a keen fresh-water fisherman and I used to come across families enjoying an outing to their local rivers to play and swim and picnic while out fishing. No more. We have lost many rivers now to pollution. when swimming in rivers, there is no smell of chlorine as is apparent at swimming pools.
Gordon	Baird	I am 53 years old and am employed as a school teacher in the Tasman region. I believe that our waterways form a major part of our national identity. It is a responsibility for all people of New Zealand to protect them and ensure that they are able to support a diverse range of living organisms and be safe for recreational use. This includes swimming and drinking. For too long we have tolerated the environmental impact on rivers by economic activities. The polluters should take responsibility for their wastes.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Gary & Beryl	Husband	We live beside Lake Rotoiti out of Rotorua. We love yachting and having our grand children stay and swim in the lake. Even with the water clean up efforts for the Rotorua Lakes there are some professionals who would recommend we do not swim in the lake.
Benni	Krueger	I'm a 46 year old Māori dairy farmer from Taranaki and I want my kids to be able to swim in clean rivers like I did when I was young.
Selina	Thompson	I am a 49 year old New Zealander and Chiropractor with 2 young children from Taupo. I definitely want my children to be able to swim in fresh water rivers, lakes and oceans.
Malcolm	Hadlum	I am 66, white male from the Horowhenua and involved in many environmental groups.
Matt	Fyffe	On behalf of the Ecofest Trust. Our mission statement is to leave the environment in a better state than we found it. Lets all make it so and make polluters clean up their act....
Raihe	Rutene	In the 47 years of my life. I have witnessed the continued pollution of our rivers and water ways. I was fortunate to experience as a child the clear, clean water of my local creek leading from Lake Waahi to the Waikato river in my home town of Huntly. You could see the tuna(eel) and Koura(cray fish) in the creek back then. This creek is a stepping stone in my life. For it not only provided kai(food) for the many whanau(families) in the area, it taught me to swim, snorkel, paddle waka(canoe) and respect for the many water ways of Aotearoa/NZ, including the Moana(Ocean). Where I now spend the majority of my recreational days scuba diving, snorkelling, fishing, surfing and waka ama(Outrigger Canoe paddling) with my family. I'd hate to think what the next 47 years will bring for the future generations lakes, creeks and rivers and ultimately the ocean. For all rivers lead to the Ocean. If we do nothing today and accept the Governments proposed minimum freshwater standards. Then we leave our future grandchildren a life of not knowing what true freedom to swim or gather kai (food) where ever they please and to know that water is a resource for all to enjoy and not for those(governments) to dictate to you, who, how or if you can enjoy the resource that is life. Clean Up New Zealand Lakes and Rivers!
peter	jones	I am seventy year old NZ bloke WHO VOTES.I am appalled by this governments sticking plaster approach to this most precious asset,The Key government should be ashamed of the way they treat NZ and Nzers.they are only interested in chasing the almighty dollar for short term gain.
Francesca	Horsley	
Ann	O'Grady	Water from on high - me loving being beside the beautiful Lake Pukaki.
Angie	Rountree	I am a NZ Maori who is returning to NZ in the next 5 years after living in Melbourne for 31 years. I have bought a house in Wairoa and am aware of the various problems they are having with what was once their pristine river. I fully support your efforts in cleaning up and restoring our lakes, rivers, and streams. Angie
Ross	Bailey	I'm an avid 63 year old Trout fisherman, hunter and trapper. I well remember the wonderful sight of thousands of mayflies in the evening air with trout rising all over the river, but alas I haven't seen this since the early 80's before intensive dairying became the norm. I would love to be able to show my grandchildren the same rather than just telling them about it.
Kerryn	Valeontis	I grew up swimming in clean rivers in south New Zealand, and I want to keep swimming in the beautiful clean water in this country. We need to keep the rivers and lakes clean for us all to share!
Peter	Whitmore	
Bree	Calarco	I am a 26-year old Australian with family in NZ, and I visit south NZ on holiday every year. The clean water is so valuable for us and the fishes to swim in, for tourism in NZ and the environment.
Cheryl	Lewis	I am a retired librarian who worked in conservation. I don't think we can promote New Zealand as environmentally friendly when we allow rivers and lakes to be poisoned by algal blooms.
Simon	Mahony	I'm a 52yr old computer programmer from Wellington, originally from Hawkes Bay. Water is rapidly becoming the most precious resource on the planet. Clean water is not a luxury or a nice to have. We need it to survive. We take food from it. And in NZ we also use it recreationally in all sorts of ways. Trading the quality of our water for generations to come for a few million dollars today is unacceptable. Lowering standards to make it easier for polluters to set up and run businesses is unacceptable. Protect our water. PLEASE. We elected you to serve the people of NZ, not some nameless corporate masters. Please do your jobs.
Klara	Furjan	I am a 48-year old south New Zealander who loves swimming in the rivers with my family, friends and dogs during the great summers here. Our rivers need to stay clean so that people, dogs and fish can swim in them!
kirstie	stevens	I'm a 21 year old from Upper Hutt and being based around the river my entire life I want the future generations to have the opportunities as I did. I care about this issue because it is our environment and our rivers. If we do not care for them now then the potential damage cannot be undone. We will be destroying our assets and our name as clean, green, New Zealand. It needs to be dealt with now for the benefits of our children and the further future generations.
Adele	Coombs	I'm an Australian that chooses to live in NZ because of the beautiful environment. Its very important to me that the rivers stay clean so we can all enjoy them because the amazing rivers & mountains are some of the best things this country has to share with the world.
Philip	spencer-harris	I'm a 50 something year old family man who is concerned about the environment being destroyed before my children have a chance to enjoy it.
Sue	Langton	I live in Auckland and help look after a Private Scenic Reserve on the Coromandel. This is one of Aotearoa's most important streams as it has no trout or Gambusia. We swim in its upper catchment splendour but downstream where cows get into it, it is too polluted to swim. Septic tanks don't help. Careless use must stop!
Carolyn	Sygrove	I am a 56 year old self-employed woman living in Nelson. I have been very concerned with the reports of poor water quality across the country as well as witnessing firsthand, the deterioration in the water quality in our local Maitai river. Our family and our dog love swimming in the Maitai river. Over summer the popular river pools look quite stagnant and they have contained a toxic black algae that is lethal to dogs. My belief is that the forestry and farming as well as stormwater runoff is responsible for this change in water quality. The problem exists country wide and we need to do something about it now.
Hazel	Phillips	Kia ora my name is Hazel Phillips. I am a Ngati Mutunga women living Kaikoura. I want my moko and their children and all the generations to come to be able to drink clean water and play in clean rivers. Our waterways need protecting not just for us humans but for all living flora and fauna who we cohabit Aotearoa with. Take for example the baby seals who spend time upstream while their mothers are out at sea.
Vanessa	Mill	

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Blair	Treadwell	Aged 87, I am a retired hospital medical consultant. I believe that it is outrageous that our lakes and rivers are significantly polluted. The causes are well established with government policy concerning poor farming and too many animals responsible.
Shirley	Wilshire	
tim	hanna	the future for Southland lies in sharing our environment with visitors including fishermen. Degraded rivers betray that future.
Trudy	Anderson	I am a Mum of 2 in Alexandra and hope that land use change does not impact on our ability to swim, fish and enjoy our local waterways, the Clutha, Fraser and Manuherikia Rivers. This photo is of my kids and their cousins under the Alexandra bridge.
Gillian	Preece	As a child I spent many hours swimming, gathering water cress and koura and just enjoying summer holidays in the rivers and streams of this wonderful country of ours. Now 75 years old, I certainly would not swim, wade or even kayak in our local streams and rivers, least of all eat any fish or plant life from the riparian strips. It is not too late even now to revive our fresh water sources, but it requires strict laws and remedial planting and fencing among other things to rectify it. My vote will go to whoever makes a genuine effort to clean up our water sources and the aim should be for potable water everywhere.
Rich	Saunders	Gillian.
Trudy	Anderson	I am a Mum of two residing in Alexandra. We love hanging out in the Clutha and Manuherikia River and hope that the impacts of land use change do not impact on our ability to do this. This photo is of my kids and their cousins on the banks of the Clutha looking towards the Manuherikia confluence with the Alex clock on the hill in the background.
Fiona	McDonald	I'm a 45 year old mother from Christchurch and I want my kids to be able to play in any river, stream or creek safely. I watch them enjoy that they get from water play and it should be accessible to all kids without having to travel for hours to find a 'clean' stream.
Pat Bolster	Bolster	
Tracey	Reid	Hi ...I live in Temuka where we have water all around us ...I grew up here where we use to swim everyday down at our rivers ...now we can't even let our dogs swim in them ...and that came from the council last summerplease fix our waters ...
Emma	Wylie	I'm a 25 year old university student in Auckland who grew up swimming in the streams on our farm and surrounding lakes in the Waikato. It is completely unacceptable that the government regulates the water quality as anything less than 'swimmable'. Your duty is to protect your people, largely through regulations such as this. Kiwi's are outdoor people, blessed with an incredible natural landscape - yet without regulation we are at risk of losing this. After living in Europe I was often embarrassed by the way NZ's 'clean green image' or the 'Pure NZ' campaign was a laughing stock - because they were distinctly aware of just how hypocritical and inaccurate those statements are considering our policies. You have a chance to make progress towards changing this right now, please take it.
Linda	Keall	Hi, I am a 58 year old teacher/turned administrator, living in Christchurch (for the last 30+years) with my now grown up family. I grew up swimming often in local rivers in the Hutt Valley and we often picnicked with our young children at Canterbury water spots- Ashley, Selwyn, Waimakariri, Ashburton rivers as well as Christchurch streams. I want to be able to take my grandchildren-to-be for the same experiences - swimming and playing in clean local rivers and Christchurch streams.
Wesley	Webb	I'm a 26-year-old PhD candidate in ecology, and I care deeply about the health of our rivers. Our ecosystems are highly connected. When rivers are eutrophic and murky, aquatic plants, vertebrates and invertebrates suffocate, and in turn our waterbirds suffer. This degradation is a major issue for our 'clean green' image
Ngara Royds	Royds	In My 82 years living in the south island I have seen what the government call 100% pure N.Z. turn into a total joke !! We have sold this beautiful country down the drain to the few in the dairy industry instead of the majority in tourism
clayton	tansley	It really saddens and angers me that our rivers are in such a state. It seems unfair that the rest of New Zealand pay for the policies or lack of that allow for the polluting of our rivers for whatever reason. Being Māori, I have a deep connection to the land and if the river is sick, so is the land and therefore us or at the very least have a lesser quality of life. We used to swim in these rivers on a hot day to cool ourselves, now we look at them from a distance. The saddest thing about it is, if nothing is done what do we have to look forward to.
N	Barton	
Joan	Gifford	I'm 73 year old recently returned to live in NZ because I now appreciate the incredible country we live in. I also appreciate that clean water is the ultimate in life and leads to so many benefits for all.
Viv	Van der wal	I am a 58 year old mum and this was our childhood swimming hole. It is now surrounded by cows and cow poo.
Gordon	Hampson	I run a 5-star enviro-friendly accommodation in Golden Bay, Tasman. My wife and I are well traveled internationally and have experienced the downgrading of so many environments in countries worldwide. Clean water in our rivers throughout New Zealand is an absolutely vital part of the experience of our overseas guests as they travel.
Marion	Eldby	It has happened so quickly so we have to do something drastic to get our waterways back to where they were when I was a child. We can do it if our heart is there to keep mother earth nourishing forever!!!
Michael	McCutcheon	Hiya, I'm Michael, a library assistant from Auckland. When I was a child I loved to swim in unpolluted streams, rivers and seas and I want all generations to be able to do this.
Scott	Hindman	I am a 5th generation Pakeha who is lucky enough to be the Dad of two young boys who both love to swim in our local river and lake. Being able to swim in our natural environment is a quintessential part of growing up in NZ. We cannot allow the greed of industry to destroy our country. Fresh water you can swim in is a must. Water is precious. We must protect it not only for ourselves, our kids, and their kids kids... but for the entire ecosystem of our planet. Water is life.
Colleen	Ireland	I am a 67 year old woman who still likes to swim in the Manuherikia river just down the road. Already these are times when there are toxicity issues in my local river. I want for us all to be able to swim freely in rivers as we did when I was a child.
Kate	Simmonds	I'm a 35 year old Pakeha Environmental Engineer from Kerikeri. In the past I've worked doing state of environment sampling for the Northland regional council. I've seen first hand the impacts of not protecting our rivers from discharges and farming. I am a mother and want my kids to be able to swim in clean rivers like I did when I was young
Sarah	Edwards	Myself and my partner live in Timaru and have watched the decline of the rivers around us in the Canterbury Plains with great sadness and helplessness. We are outdoor people, and my partner grew up here. Every year for the summer holidays, our local rag prints out the same list of local swimming spots. Over the time that this list has been printed, those spots have become non-existent due to low flows, subject to cyanobacteria warnings, excessive nitrate content, or just dried up altogether. This year I have friends with young children visiting from Australia, and I know that there is NOWHERE that I can safely take them for a river swim within about 2hrs drive from here. The pursuit of profit over all means, the lack of stewardship from those most able to give it, is unforgivable. Take the opportunity to change this! I hope that I am one of thousands of voices making sure that this decline does not continue, and fighting for it to be reversed. Bottom line? Swimmable.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Becky	Cox	I am a mother of 2, living in the Bay of Plenty and my kids LIVE in and on the ocean and the surrounding tributaries. I want them to be able to share this with their children and to raise the water standard not only for them, but for all the other life and eco-systems these water ways support
Elaine	Lloyd	I'm a 68 year old grandmother from Blenheim and think that New Zealand's clean, green image is being sullied by the government not legislating effectively to improve the poor water quality of our lakes and rivers. People are getting sick if they swim in them and countless fish have died. Act responsibly now to provide us with the best water quality possible.
Christine	Beaver	31 year old from the far north - Christmas time splashes in the river to cool down , what's not to love! Integral part of my identity as a kiwi
Rob	Clarkson	I'm originally from the UK but settled in New Zealand partly due to the clean fresh waterways which I love to fish, swim and sail on. I want it to stay this way so my children can do the same. Here is a rainbow trout I caught in in the Mavora Lakes.
Eleanor	Harris-Brouwer	I am 62 and live in Twizel. One of my main reasons to come to NZ 27 years ago was to get away from the pollution in Europe. I want NZ's rivers and lakes to be as clean as they were then.
Andrew	Sellens	I'm a 52 year old Pakeha from northern Southland. Although our local rivers are relatively clean, and often swimmable, they are under pressure, especially in the winter when dry dairy stock is kept locally. Sometimes local farmers actually graze the river beds with cattle, so riparian strips are mythical here.
Marjan	Lousberg	I'm 70 and retired. When I arrived in New Zealand 45 years ago I loved the beautiful clean rivers. My children and I enjoyed many holidays exploring them. I want my grandchildren to be able to do the same without danger of being poisoned.
Raine	Shirley	I am a 71 year old superannuant and it is imperative that our water must be a healthy part of our heritage. New Zealand is supposed to have a clean green image so please keep it that way. Water is a vital part of that image.
Jo	Morrissey	I am a 54 year old woman who knows that water is the thing without which no life survives. Do you understand? NO life survives without clean water - no plants, no animals, no humans. Do you have children? Grandchildren? Nieces? Nephews? A spouse? Parents? A dog or horse or other pet? Do you want your dog to get sick when she drinks from the polluted river? Do you want your children to get sick when they eat the fish from contaminated rivers? If you care about anything other than money and short-term profit, then you MUST NOT lower the standards for New Zealand's water.
John	Sanders	I am 64 years old sports shop owner from Christchurch, who has seen the gradual degradation in South Island rivers over the last 20 or so years. Lowland waterways are particularly affected, but we are also now seeing a decline in upcountry waterways. The current standard of wadeable rivers is not what most New Zealanders are happy with, and more stringent requirements should be put in place to have swimmable waters. My photo was taken at one of Canterbury's worst affected rivers, the Selwyn. Not only did this used to be a pristine river for all kinds of recreation for locals, it was once one of the major spawning streams for brown trout. The decline in water quality and very low flows from extraction, have reduced this fishery to at best the estuarine part of the lower river. I wish to see something done to redress the state of waterways to a swimmable standard, thereby enabling a return to close to the recreation values of the past. John Sanders
Roxie	Orr	I'm an Australian and I have lived in NZ for 16 years. I have two sons and I would like them to know that they are part of the clean and green way that NZ offers as one last place on this planet that can do this. Water shortage and unhealthy water is a blight on the planet and NZ has the capacity to create healthy and plentiful water.
Tim	Hamilton	I'm 22, in wellington, Rongiotu, working as a tourism videographer. It is important to our economy that people are able to swim and fish in the water. I can't put enough emphasis into how irreversible the effects can be and how much money goes into our economy because the water is clean. Tourism took over from dairy as NZ's largest export earner. Farming is no-longer the backbone of the country. A clean environment is.
Stan	Falloon	Aged 49. I'm shocked that our country has such polluted water and want the government to do something about it.
Bill	Connelly	
BART	FINNIGAN	age 53, when I was young no one ever checked a river to see if the e coli count was safe enough to swim, nowadays it seems you are probably more likely to get ill rather than drown, do you really think most new zealanders want to wade in our rivers ? do we want to wash ourselves after getting out of our rivers to prevent getting or passing on infectious bacteria? . is the real reason people see our rivers as green due to algal blooms ? we know there is a link between agriculture , horticulture and water quality, this is not rocket science, make a stand and do something about it .
Jamie	Boynton	Kia ora, I am a 43 year old resident of the Eastern Bay of Plenty, I am of Maori and English decent, and I live in Opotiki with my Wife and two children...I am constantly concerned about the water quality of our rivers and surrounds as there is often dirty run off from the surrounding farmland into the rivers that also pollutes our beautiful beaches. As a result of this there are many areas within my local environment that I don't frequent because of the poor water quality. This is very concerning for me, my whanau and our community. I want to feel secure in the knowledge that we are all able to swim and take sustenance from our local water ways without fear of ingesting this pollution. Our waterways are already full of pollutants and a lowering of permissible levels will only further this degradation and worsen this problem. My children, and their children have a birth right to a clean, sustainable environment, where they can gather food, play and share our natural resources with birds, fish etc, without fear of pollution. One way to achieve this is to implement planted 'buffer zones' along waterways. Please keep NZ clean!
Janie	Nolan	I am a middle-aged woman, living in Dunedin. I grew up being able to swim in local waterways, it was a quintessential part of growing up 'Kiwi'. Alas, most of the waters here are now polluted and this saddens me deeply. The waters are life, a sign we are caretaking our land for the future generations. Economic decisions made regarding the mono-farming of the dairy industry have proven to be an environmental disaster for clean, green New Zealand'. Driving through Canterbury where they are using so much water to green the pasture for cows food. It is untenable and joined with the faecal pollution caused by cows, well, it is easy to see. There are other industries contributing also. It appals me that our government needs water only to be safe for wading! Please remember that governments are the servants of the people, and this decision is not the wishes of the people of Aotearoa/New Zealand.
Jonathan	Hattrell	I am a 43 year old father of 2 young boys, and I want them to be able to enjoy and swim in New Zealand's rivers and lakes when they're my age.
peter	coughlan	I am a 60 year old married man with two young adult children and work for fonterra as an irrigation operator in Takaka ...i have had two unpleasant experiences with our rivers in recent years....the first was several years ago in the middle of a very hot summer we all stopped at the Murchison camping ground beside the buller river for the night on our way to CHCH.....there were five of us including our female Japanese student homestay....we all took a dip in the river....two days later the three females in our group were treated with antibiotics for urinary tract infections.....we reported it to the Tasman district council health officer and heard nothing back.The second time was this past summer in southland...we were on holiday and stopped at the Iron bridge over the Oreti river when we were teenagers that was our swimming hole for many years along with hundreds of other locals.....this past summer it looked terrible and was extremely murky and i understood it hadnt rained for two days....we didnt report it as its so obvious.....our councils and the government are letting us down badly.....best regards Peter
Josh W Watt	Watt	
Nick	Miller	Aged 67, former freshwater biologist. I'm already very concerned about the state of our waterways, and the proposed new freshwater minimum standards will only make the situation worse.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Andrew	Nicholson	I fish for trout in our amazing country!! I have seen all the rivers Affected we need to address this very serious situation NOW water should be clean enough to swim in and even drink!
Gary	Beyer	I am a 53 year old male, Director of a local company and live in Orewa. I would like us to be able to hold our heads up high and reclaim the '100% Pure' statement that has brought so many people to this beautiful country. It would also be fantastic to be able to paddle board with my son in the estuary and not have to warn him against the obvious dangers of diving in and swimming around, due to the petroleum based mini slicks that are more prevalent than ever before.
David	McNeill	We're Avocado Growers. A clean environment that grows healthy avocados is what our customers want.
Sharon	Greig	I live in Northland, near the Waitangi River. I do not accept the Ministers of Conservations position that wading ability for water quality is an acceptable reasonable threshold. This threshold is too low and will not protect the future health of our rivers and water in NZ. There must be a greater government focus on returning NZ waters and rivers to health within the next 10 years.
Jackie	Abdust	I'm a 56 year old Kiwi who grew up on a farm in the South Island Southland and learnt to swim and fish for trout in the river below our house. It is my greatest hope that my children and grandchildren and future generations of Kiwis can continue enjoying clean uncontaminated rivers anywhere in New Zealand
John	Keene	Swimmable not wadeable for all watercourses
Nicky	McLeod	I'm a 44 year old mother of 2 school aged children and I don't see why we should accept that it's OK to hand an environment over to our children that is more degraded than when our generation took over responsibility for it. If our children then accept the same level of decline while the NZ environment is in their hands and then their children do the same where is it going to end? Eventually we will have polluted our own pond so badly it will become toxic to us.
Carolyn	Theiler	I'm retired and deplore the destruction of our rivers and banks by greedy farmers - so evident when taking a visit out of the city.
William	Shkopiak	I'm a 68 year old fly fisherman from Lower Hutt who enjoys getting outdoors as much as I can. I want my children and their children to also enjoy the pleasures of a clean river - fishing, swimming, boating - when they are 68 years old.
Jason	Pemberton	I grew up on the lakes outside of Hamilton water skiing, swimming, kayaking and more. The water is an integral part of our wider family's lifestyle and health, and the proposed minimum standards would make this impossible. We can do better than this, and we will do better than this.
Megan	Toms	I am a 46 year old NZ European who has lived in the Hutt Valley for most of my life. My brother and I spent our summers swimming and playing at the river when we were growing up and now my 2 children and I (12 and 14) spend a lot of time at the river walking the dog, bike riding and in the summer swimming as there is a great swimming hole just down from the Kennedy Good Bridge. Someone has even put a swing rope in a tree over the river so we can all jump off it. The ques are long during the summer with everyone waiting for a turn. If the river is not clean enough to swim in where will all these people go for free fun. The river is a life source and needs to be looked after so that current and future generations can spend many happy hours enjoying them, like I have been lucky enough to do
Steve	Judge	I'm a 49 year old engineer and I have enjoyed swimming and having fun with my family at my local Tasman rivers. I'm regularly reminded by my employer that they strive for constant improvement. Yet when it comes to the environment our Government is happy to endorse minimum standards. We need to understand that our rivers and environment are a national treasure and to allow them to be degraded is not acceptable.
Hannah	Clement	
Christopher	Carter	50 YO Hamiltonian - these are my 2 kids (+ 3 others) swimming in one of the few clean rivers within 90 mins drive of Hamilton - the Kauaeranga. I live right next to the Waikato, but my boy and I swam there at Wellington Beach last year - he got sick. The WRC has abandoned enforcement - zero prosecutions for pollution in 4 years.
Alasdair Clark	Clark	
Chris	Graham	
Greg	Pilkington	I'm 53, and promote NZ and the clean green image around the world. One of the biggest selling points has been my telling people how I drink out of my local rivers.
Brett	Taylor	I'm a 36 year old father who wants his kids to be able to do sweet bombs into rivers without getting ill from what's in the water. Our rivers should be places of life, not sewers. Better standards have to be set.
mike	Tracey	We should be working towards the goal of 100% clean rivers and lakes, it does not matter how long this takes, the important thing is we have not ruined our rivers yet. Some will be much more difficult than others, but its the system and responsibility that counts. The Manawatu was argued about and a lot of time and cost was wasted, if we all accept some responsibility it this issue, we will be able to move forward in fixing our rivers and lakes. We need water to farm, and this will only be accepted if what we do is not detrimental to the environment. Dairy farmer, orchardist, with rivers or our boundaries in the Rangitikei and in Kapiti.
Kate	Jensen	Hi I'm 53 and I live in Alexandra, central Otago. I have been swimming in and enjoying the manuhierikia river for years. Recently dairy farms went in at Imakau and in the Ida valley. The Ida and Poolburn streams flow into the manuhierikia. I know that dairy farms mean cow poos and wees are spread in the fields and there is massive water use. We have hardly any water here, it is one of the driest, hottest places in NZ. I have noticed that the water level in the Manuhierikia has dropped considerably over the 2 years since dairying arrived here. The ecoli count has gone up too. It is no longer a fun place to swim. Dairy farms went in at Patearoa and the river became too dirty to swim in, not much has been done about that. Now it looks like the same is happening here. I am told that regulations for dairy farms are more stringent in the north island and we in the South Island haven't caught on yet. There needs to be consistent policy throughout the country. It takes generations for the waterways to be cleaned. Here we have the chance to stop the pollution in its tracks before it gets too bad. This needs to be done NOW. Nzers expect to be able to swim in our streams. It is those who don't have money for their own pools or to go to the swimming pool that suffer directly. Imagine a stiffling hot day and no way to cool off except having a shower. That is what we face. Please get policy up to date before it's too late for our rivers and the flow on affect, our marine life.
Mike	McGlynn	I am a freshwater fish specialist working in Northland's dune lakes, waterways and wetlands. Over the past twenty years I am witnessing a gradual decline in water quality and habitat. The main causes are farming practices. I have witnessed the demise of several wetland habitats which are now in pasture.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Benjamin	Rood	Honorable Members of Parliament and to all others whom this may concern: I am 34 years old, I'm a software engineer. I have degrees in science and art. Most importantly I am an 8th generation New Zealander. I employ the state to honour the legal and moral obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi to protect our rivers and waterways. They belong to all New Zealanders, not those who exploit them or the land for profit without care, without scientific scrutiny, and without consequence. Just because farming or any other industry practice has an historical legacy is no excuse when we now know the long-term effects are environmentally disastrous. As taxpayers ALL Kiwis have to bear the burden of the pollution and destruction on our rivers and water ways. Therefore, you have the moral duty to spend our money as time in the better service of stopping polluters and ending the culture of exploitation of our country's rivers in the name of laziness, corruption, and greed. Thank You.
Marie-Louise	Ward	For the first 20 years of my life I lived in the beautiful Maruia Valley with the Maruia river running past our farm. As children we spent many many hours swimming and playing in the river. As young child I thought the river was the most wonderful place, and that we were the luckiest children in the world. Now, many many years later, I want all NZ children to have access to clean water ways, and to experience the fun we took for granted growing up. I especially want my grandchildren, and their grandchildren to have clean rivers and water ways to play in. It's totally unacceptable that our Govt does not see clean rivers as a priority, and allows pollution to make our rivers and water ways a health risk to all. Shocking, and disgusting to see what has happened to our beautiful country through greed, indifference and negligence.
Briar	Prastiti	I am 24 years old, and I have personally experienced both the joys of growing up with a near-by river, and the disappointment of it becoming un-swimmable. As a kid, we would go to the river as a family almost every weekend and shared some treasured memories. It's so important for kids to be able to connect with New Zealand's natural environment. Later on, the river became polluted. There were a number of dead lambs around, and the water turned dark and filled with slime and algae. We eventually never went back. It was such a shame. Please reconsider the decision to impose this legislation of rivers being allowed to pose moderate risk of infection. We should be fighting pollution as a nation, not endorsing it. Think of the future, the people who will be living here, the native species that will suffer from this, please.
Patricia	Wilcox	I'm a typical 'senior' Pakeha. On my first overseas trip to Israel in the eighties I remember our bus stopping alongside what was once a stream (but by then could only be called a gutter) of slimy orange/green putridness. I felt my heart surge with gratitude for the beautiful country I lived in, where clear streams ran freely alongside lush roadside growth. As I write this my heart is heavy. No more can my grandchildren freely explore our creeks and streams. So much has changed in such a short time. Surely we can now begin to bring about a new change, to restore our natural heritage to the beauty of the past. Please take action now to restore what we have loved. Thank you Patricia Wilcox
Gary	Beyer	
Ben	Pavitt	My name is Ben, a 30yr old conservation worker living in Nelson. I grew up in Christchurch and have seen first hand the deterioration of all the local, lowland streams and rivers we used to bike to, to swim and fish in as children. I would like to see this degradation stopped and ideally reversed, for the sake of the flora and fauna and for the sake of those that rely on freshwater as a means of recreation and gathering kai.
Jennifer Ward	Ward	I'm a NZ old enough to remember swimming freely in all of the rivers surrounding where I grew up in the Manawatu. Now this is impossible. I urge the government to stop allowing the externalisation of environmental costs from Dairy farming and the like. It is time to restore our natural habitat to safe levels for all.
Pete	Smaling	Hi --- am semi-retired (62 yo) male and a passionate freshwater fisherman for over 30 years. Currently located in Sth Canterbury and am dismayed at how the water take from rivers on the Canterbury plains is destroying our rivers. Similarly in Hawkes Bay where I used to live. Have watched rivers nationwide deteriorate over the decades --- surely there is nothing much else we can do to ruin them completely. Time to wake up NZ >>> Fresh water is our future. Politicians ... if you want to bury your heads in the sand, try burying them in sand at the Tuki Tuki (H. Bay) or the Opihi (Sth. Canterbury) ... or better still, talk to Fish & Game who have details and data that will bring tears to your eyes. Also, time for local body politicians on regional councils to wake up instead of looking after their own interests which are in obvious conflict with their brief to protect our waterways. I would be keen to escort any interested politician to river sites around NZ many of which will never return to their former glory.
Betty	Bayley	When I grew up our family hiked and drank water from crystal clear and healthy streams. We must think ahead and leave a healthy inheritance for later generations. Healthy streams equal healthy people.
Denise	Bunn	As a resident of Wanaka, I am shocked at the degradation of the water in what was once a pure lake. Nutrient run-off from farming practices has contributed to lake 'snow'. Once you could drink from the rivers in Central Otago. Now I wouldn't let my grand-children swim in them because of the proliferation of dairy farms in an area whose arid climate makes it unsuitable for dairying. The porous soils will mean that in future the rivers and lakes will be even more polluted and contaminated. The government has poured millions into subsidies for irrigation with the result that taxpayers are paying to have their water reduced to third world standards. What a mockery of the so-called pure NZ image. The government must act to demand much higher standards of water quality before its citizens are all vulnerable to outbreaks of campylobacter such as occurred at Havelock North.
Nick	Chater	I'm 46 years old, an Academic Lead for the Adventure Tourism programmes here at Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, and also newly elected to the Rotorua Lakes Community Board. Education and the ability to engage with and make a difference for our students is dependant on utilising the beautiful rivers and waterways of our region. We have found that it is the interaction of education and the outdoors that is making the difference for our students learning.
Martin	Robinson	Clean water is vital for all river 'users' - flora, fauna, livestock, kaimoana, swimmers, drinkers. Pollution is inexcusable if there are other methods to achieve production. No-one has license to dominate water use/abuse.
Leah	Wilson	I have three children and want them to have the same amazing river experience I grew up with.
Louise Macfarlane	Macfarlane	I want my children, grandchildren and the future generations to be able to swim in our rivers like I did as a child.
nicole	hilton	I live in auckland but grew up on a farm in Northland. my parents and community instilled in me and my peers the importance of taking care of the land and our environment leaving it better than we found it, for the generations to come. I'm not of Maori heritage but love this country and have lived and farmed here for generations. The state of our rivers and water ways appalls me, on a recent trip to the south island rivers i swam in as a young person (20 years ago) now resemble stagnating pools of slime. stop polluting, excessive water taking for irrigation and farm intensification before its too late.
Val	Lubrick	Please save our rivers for the health and enjoyment of all the creatures that live in and around them, and ours!

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Valerie	Butt	We have long enjoyed the outdoors and are alarmed at the degradation of our waterways. Urgent action needs to be taken to prevent subdivision runoff and animal pollution. Dairy farmers should realise that mitigation measures should be part of the cost of doing business. Likewise subdividers.
kelly	Hughes	I am a 54 year old freshwater field technician living near Whakatane and working throughout NZ. Springs, streams and rivers are my life.
Chris	Higgie	I am a 45 year old teacher who loves fly fishing. It is my experience that I have to go further and further up stream to get good, clean water. Yet other pressures mean that some of this water is 'locked' out for other (professional) users.
Jim	Crawford	Our water is a provider of life that must be celebrated . We cannot afford to abuse and destroy it by using it as a waste depository .
Hugh	Robb	The rivers and lakes I swam in as a child can no longer even be waded in. Act now!
brodie	andrews	Retired handyman loves nature
Katrin	Seibel	I am a mother of two and I am deeply concerned with what is happening here in New Zealand. What could be more important than clean water and air, it is a basic human right. We need to step away from polluting our mother earth. We only have this one earth and we owe it to the next generations to come. Thank you
Fiona	James	I grew up by rivers and lakes because my father worked in power stations. I loved swimming and kayaking in the lakes and rivers. I am increasingly concerned about the pressure being put on our waterways by agriculture and other commercial interests. This is detrimental to the environment but also will affect on New Zealanders because there won't be clean waterways left to enjoy.
Amber	Sikivou	Im 28 year old kiwi from Porirua Ive always lived near nice beaches and rivers our people shouldnt be getting sick we should be able to go into clean water whether its rivers beaches or lakes.what happen to clean and green New Zealand this government is letting kiwis and imigrants down i feel saddened and disgusted
Charlotte	Holdsworth	I'm a 21 year old female science student from Palmerston North and I want a healthy, clean environment to live in. We should be able to enjoy our natural resources and protect our native species. We need to start fixing our rivers for our own health and also for the health of the ecosystem.
Judy	Newton	I'm a 50 year old jewellery maker, fourth generation NZer. I care deeply about the quality of our water and think it a priority to raise rather than lower the freshwater standards. The rivers must be able to sustain life and to be able to swim in them is a total necessity. We depend on them for so much, we must look after them to the best of our abilities, not degrade or settle for less than a healthy fully functioning beautiful ecosystem.
Margie	Beautrais	My name is Margie and I am sending a photo of my son Joe, fishing in the Whanganui River. I like to sit on the bank when Joe is fishing. Not because I like fishing. Just because I like rivers. They make me feel connected with the earth and with humanity. They feel timeless. I want the Whanganui River to be this clean all the way down to the city. That would be a wonderful thing. I hope I live long enough to see it!
Erana	Rameka	I am a 26 year old Maori woman living in Auckland and I want to be able to swim in New Zealand's rivers this Summer and for many more Summers to come.
lone	Gill	
Jayne	Bentley	
Gill	Hills	I am a grandmother and want future generations to be able to enjoy clean rivers and lakes. It's a start to healing the world and making it a better place before it's too late.
Sarah	Szabo	I came to NZ in 2002 and have made my home here. In the short time I have been here I have noticed a marked deterioration in the waterways of NZ and my three young kiwi sons don't know the pleasure of being able to swim in rivers at whim like their dad did at their age. If we don't do something now, my future grandchildren won't be able to swim in our water at all! It is our obligation for future generations to preserve and repair our once pristine waters and it is your obligation as up holders of te Tiriti to protect them for our countries ancestors.
Janet Mabey	Mabey	It is VERY important that we keep the health of our water ways clean and pristine!
Emily Rushton	Rushton	I'm a 30 year old nurse and climate change educator. I recently was awarded runner-up young nurse of the year for my environmental and humanitarian efforts. It is important for the health of our population and our ability to cope in disasters, that are almost inevitable in the future, for us to have abundant and safe water. It is the resource people will fight over in the future and we are crazy to have destroyed it so badly already.
Hilde	van Santen	Hi, I am a 46 year old Speech Language Therapist, originally from The Netherlands. I came to NZ because I love NZ nature. I LOVE swimming in rivers, lakes and streams. It is incredible that in the last 8 years the waterways have deteriorated to the current level. Waterways need to be clean, not to be waded in.
Mike	Cronshaw	The clean green image that New Zealand has not cost millions in marketing, it is already established. Don't destroy this legacy that we pass on to the generations to come.
Tina	Boynton	Ko Makeo toku maunga, ko Waiaua toku awa, Ko Mataatua te waka, Ko Whakatohea te iwi, Ko Waiaua te marae. I am a 41 year old mother of two living in Opotiki and I am proud of where I come from. I want the same for my children. Part of that pride comes from our pristine environment, our connection to that environment and the health and well being of that environment. We believe the health of the people is reflected in the health of our natural environment. Kia tupato! Take care not to lower your standards so that Mother Earth may thrive under our watch. Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui!
Daniel Bentall	Bentall	I value our environment and the flora and fauna that it supports, as well as the ability of us and our kids to be safe swimming in our rivers. Those who follow us will not be able to understand why we let our waterways become so degraded, and neither can I.
Cris	Fulton	Our waterways are at the worst level of pollution ever. STOP POLLUTING OUR WATER.
Paul	Broady	I have lived in Christchurch 30 years and have seen the quality of urban and rural streams and rivers deteriorate over that time and especially during the last ten years. Uncontaminated waterways are a necessity for a physically and mentally healthy community and for healthy, diverse ecosystems supporting the native aquatic animals and plants that we should value highly. What a tragedy that as a nation we do not seem to do so. As a biology teacher, over the years I have had to talk more and more about our polluted waterways rather than be enthusiastic about biologically diverse, uncontaminated systems. This is not inspiring for young people and this will have unknown consequences for their engagement as positively thinking citizens.
Arleen	Tanirau	
Sally	Bain	I'm a 43 year old mother of two and a passionate member of community and conservation, the land we live on is not ours to destroy so the top 10% of stuck up politicians to keep their chlorinated swimming pools operating.
Lee Anne OConnor	OConnor	I'm a grandmother ,mother , kiwi living overseas .Grew up swimming in clear fresh water don't screw it up like the rest of the world where clean water no longer exists in many places .Keep this as a gift for our Moko puna

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Jennifer	Tobin	Age 30, female, Waiheke Island, Solicitor. Lets set the best standard for our lakes and rivers. The best standard is swimmable . We are the care takers of earth. Its simple, we must protect our water. I have just returned from 3 months in central America. I have witnessed polluted water. I have witnessed the attitude of indifference and neglect towards water sources and towards rubbish/ recycling. How do we want NZ to be in the future? Water is not something to compromise on.
Rad	Jrad	I am a 42 year old father who wants our kids to enjoy NZ like we did. Water is our first and most important asset and source of life and free entertainment. If we do nothing it will become an issue that will suck all our economical resources (including from farming) and will get this country into depression. Save the water, save the revers, save the lakes, save the future of our kids. PLEASE! ACT! Rad.
James	Masemann	I'm a 33 yr old kiwi living in Auckland but born and raised in the country, I've seen fresh water streams turn progressively polluted due to increased farm activity. Time to enforce restrictions on farmers and their water run-off.
Frida	Inta	Hi, I have lived in the northern Buller for many years, being attracted here for the beauty of the natural ecosystems, but I have watched in horror at the increasing pollution of those beautiful, pristine rivers as the dairy industry has gripped the area in a crazy madness for profit at any cost. Although our beach looks beautiful when the tide is in, this is what is revealed when it is out; not that many years ago those rocks were sparkling clean but effluent runs straight into the estuary now.
Diane	Clarke	
Simon	Quickfall	I'm a 21year old aucklander who loves being in the outdoors and who enjoys the natural beauty of our earth. I believe we have an obligation to keep our land beautiful and clean and should have strict rules and regulations in place to ensure we maintain nature and not let us affect it negatively any longer ! We need to make a change now, otherwise it will be too late !
John	Pennington	
Helen	White	I can remember as a child swimming in rivers up and down the country but now - never. One cow defecating in a river is equivalent to over 100 people doing so. Would we allow 500 people to do that? No.
Anita	Schulman	I am a 47 year old farmer in Otaki. I've just visited Switzerland witch has twice the population and only one sixth of the land mass of New Zealand. You can go fishing and swim in all their lakes and rivers. Fish and the wild life are visible in the water, even in their main cities. They are really careful to prevent toxic discharge and pesticides from entering waterways. That's what I want for NZ. We don't need an increase in the level of poisons allowed in our water. We can do better with cleaning up our rivers and lakes. If the government is not sure how to go about keeping our waterways clean, there are plenty of countries who have already figured it out. Please talk to them!
Heidi	Tacbian	I am a corporate executive living in Orakei, Auckland. I moved to New Zealand over 25 years ago because of the clean green environment which I have watched being slowly eroded over this time. I think this attempt to lower water quality standards for the benefit of a few is shameful. What kind people would even put this forward to consider? Mr. Key, you and your team need to learn from countries like the USA to see what has happened to wildlife and the environment by lowering water quality standards. Learn before you ruin New Zealand just like they ruined their countries.
Alexandra	Woodhouse Appleby	
Peggy	Duncan	I am 73 years old, female pakeha nz. i was brought up in the country and now live on a lifestyle block. My grandchildren do not experience the same type of activities that i did as a child when swimming in rivers.
Sally	Richardson	
dean	cowell	
Jon	Lemmon	I'm a 28 year old web designer and I want to live in a country with healthy rivers and a healthy ecosystem. Our healthy land is our biggest asset. It is the reason people from all over the world are flocking to New Zealand. As climate change progresses, this will only become more important. Let's not waste the most valuable thing we have just to make a few short term profits. Let's think about the long term game. Preserving our water ways is a better way to go from both a financial and ethical perspective. Plus, who wants to live in a polluted country?
Steve	Wagstaff	I'm a 64 year old retired scientist living in Tapanui. Anyone in New Zealand who has witnessed the recent decline in the water quality of lakes, rivers and streams has to be concerned with the government's current policy of moderate risk. I hope future generations will enjoy enjoy swimming in our freshwater.
Jenny	Stone	I'm a 45 year old woman from Auckland, now living in Invercargill. I have wonderful memories of swimming in rivers all over New Zealand and I want this to continue for all - for the sake of our future survival and enjoyment.
Sandra	Allison	I'm a 55 year old New Zealander who use to enjoy Trout Fishing and taking my children to swim in the Manawatu river. Our children of today are missing out on our New Zealand culture which is enjoying our beautiful country.
Leila	Boyle	I am a 40-year-old Pakeha woman from Mt Wellington, Auckland. New Zealand is portrayed as 100% Pure and clean and green to the world in our tourism marketing but we are not! We need to do a lot of work to live up to our international image including cleaning up our waterways. The Government has the ability to do this by ensuring our freshwater lakes, rivers and streams are swimmable. It is the right thing to do for our present and our future - please listen to us and just do it!
Ora Holland	Holland	I grew up swimming in rivers and lakes and its the right all generations that follow to have that same right
tony	matches	I am 53 and grew up in the south island spending all our families school and Christmas holidays camping on the riverside or lake . As kids we spent many hours playing in the water and drinking the water mixed with raro sachets to help cool us of . We hunted for eels and fished for trout to full our hours . It would seem like a sick crime not to protect our waterways that's so important to our life style and future generations.
Rachael	Shaw	I am a young biologist from Wellington who cares deeply about our natural environment
Robyn	Roper	It is everyone's responsibility to ensure the earth & environment is clean & fresh for all inhabitants. The rules are no different to the governments Health & Safety rules, we shouldn't be putting anyone or creature at risk. No government should pick & choose, just like we can't. cheers Robyn Roper
R	Judge	I care about keeping our waterways alive and swimmable because the photos I have to organise of friends and whānau would become much dryer, and less beautifully situated without them.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Jane	Chewings	I am a 40 year old NZ European earth sciences technician from Wellington. Cleaning up New Zealand's fresh waterways is of critical importance to the health of the land, fauna and flora AND to our economic future. A healthy environment and a healthy economy go hand in hand. It is imperative that the current government does not bury it's head in the sand on this issue, or attempt to negate this issue through denial. We must take serious action to reduce pollution of our freshwater rivers and lakes NOW. Political obfuscation on this issue is not acceptable. The freshwater minimum standard needs to be swimmable. Our waterways should be safe for people to collect food from and swim in. The health of wildlife and entire ecosystems are at critical stress levels in many regions of New Zealand, mostly due to current agricultural practices and intensification of dairy. This is totally unacceptable. As a New Zealander I insist that the government make swimmable freshwater the minimum standard and set in place firm measures to meet this target. Future generation deserve to inherit a healthy Aotearoa.
jack	elphick	Over intensive land use has made our waters unfit to swim in. Continuation of this practice will also lead to our water being undrinkable. I am 87 years old and my concern is for my grand-children.
Shanon	McIntyre - hudson	I am a 28 year old businessmen (electrician) from wellington. I want to have rivers and lakes looked after to protect the wildlife living in them.
Aaron	Pucci	I want my family to be able to swim, fish and gather food in clean rivers.
Bob	Calkin	I am an 80 year old Sth Cantabrian and I remember when our rivers were pristine, please create the conditions that will bring them back to this condition
Steve	Limpus	I'm a 50 year old Kiwi, born and bred. Clean, swimmable rivers are part of the New Zealand way of life, and MUST be protected for future generations. This is my family enjoying our summer holiday at the Manawatu River.
Mandy	Hager	Kia ora, I'm a 56 year old woman who grew up swimming in the rivers behind Levin. It breaks my heart to think my grandchild may not have this same experience. Water is life, full stop. This is the most important job you, voted the country's protectors, can do to sustain life. Clean up our rivers now and stop selling off water!
Marissa O'Leary	O'Leary	I'm a 39 year old mother of two, living in Canterbury. I can remember going tramping when I was young and seeing lots of fish in NZ's rivers and being able to drink the water. Now we can't!! I wouldn't let me dogs swim in many of the rivers in case they get sick!!
Toby	Judge	I am descended from people who immigrated from the British Isles and North America three or four generations ago. They seem to me to have been less aware of the quality of their rivers, lakes and streams and how to interact with them safely.
Sandra	Flamank	I as a child I, and my children spent their summers swimming in clean rivers. I want this for my grandchildren.
Giona	Bridler	
anna		because I want to be able to swim in clean rivers like my grandparents did, and also for the ecosystem of our rivers to be restored because they are an integral part in keeping our environment and whole ecosystem well.
Lindy	Jacomb	Clean Water - a precious taonga for each of us; human, animal, bird or fish! Clean Water is a symbol of life itself; being able to enjoy it, whether by drinking, cooking, sport, cleaning, or playing in it, is a human right we all must fiercely guard and protect.
Ian	Duff	I am aged 71 years and I live on 3rd generation lifestyle block in Selwyn district, Canterbury. 30 years ago we could take our children to Coes Ford and enjoy the wayer and the ambience. The Selwyn River has now degraded to a piddling trickle of nitrated water laced with coliforms. Rill on synthetic milk on a global basis!
constantine	harris	As an over 50 citizen, I have seen many bodies of freshwater transform from 'no problem' to toxic, and rivers become unsafe. This is not acceptable, nor is the suggested level of 'wade-able'
Peter	Poulsen	I am a 73 year old New Zealander who has seen the mass degradation of our rivers and some lakes its not right that so few can ruin our rivers for the majority who enjoy our rivers and lakes.
Beverley	MacDonald	My home is beside the polluted Heathcote river. We used to be able to play in the river, but not now. It must be cleaned up!
aki	Kisona	We should take every action to ensure that our rivers are kept clean - not only that our kids can swim in it but also for consumption - if the government is assuming that this is not a good enough standard - then it is the Government that needs to change or otherwise be changed.
Rowan	Anderson	I am a fifty nine year old woman and I would like to tell our overseas visitors that we do have a clean green New Zealand. I do not want to tell them our rivers are for wading only? What the hell does wading only mean? How stupid is this government?
wayne andrew	andrew	
David	PODDINGTON	
Nick	Whiu	There is a better way than polluting rivers to assist river-side cattle without plants to protect rivers and other dirty industry practices. Try grow vegetables or innovate for the pressing global problems of the present - it's more profitable, employs more people and cleaner.
Ann	Weatherall	I'm a 52 year old Wellingtonian who is a professor in psychology. I enjoy swimming and boating. The water quality of the Manawatu river is a travesty. My family and friends like to water ski on it but we are in constant fear of getting sick.
Phil	Jack	Clean water is one of the single most important issues for NZ. We want 100% pure NZ to be a real statement, not an empty lie.
Paul	Gartner	Our waters sustain life without it were all in dire straits if we don't do anything about it.
Sarah	Morris	I am a 39yr old Kiwi woman who lives in Lower Hutt with my husband and two young daughters. We spend a lot of time playing in the Hutt river and all the rivers in our region. I want all of New Zealand's rivers to be safe and clean. Our rivers are the life blood of our beautiful country and support our eco systems and livelihoods. Why wouldn't we work as hard as we can to protect them?
Neville	Reilly	I am 63 year old male .Sick of getting our water polluted by dead animals.That have been poisoned
eve	jones	I am a 45year old mother from Upper Hutt and I want my kids and my kids kids to be able to swim in clean rivers like I always have. Clean Water, to me, is the absolute number 1 priority of our land. We must have clean rivers.
Belinda	Silk	I am a 37 year old Pakeha Nzer. I grew up swimming in Rakaia river and I now live near the Waikato. Rivers are the life blood of our country and the must be clean and save for drinking from! Please consider the long term health of my child and her generation. Ond with toxic rivers is not a NZ I could be proud of.
Rachel	Salter	I am a 45 year old stay at home working mother of European and Maori descent who swam in rivers as a child, free of cares about getting sick from doing so. I wish that for my boy and for his children. What would it take for that to occur? What else is possible here? How does it get better than this current situation with our waters? For me, it is about asking the questions about how this gets to occur instead of focusing on all the reasons why we can't do this. It can be done if we want it enough! The people of NZ want this - what would it take for our Government to listen to us? What would it take for clean, clear, swimmable rivers to actualise here? Its up to you. Its up to all of us.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Margaret Basil-Joneset	Basil-Jones	What has been allowed to happen to the rivers and lakes I used to swim in as a child?? They are polluted and nothing much appears to be doing to rectify this. I feel for the next generation of children in that they won't be able to use them at all at the rate things are being done/not being done re this huge problem.
		I'm a 24 year old from Taranaki and I have grown up swimming in local rivers. I want my children to be able to enjoy these benefits like I was able to.
Akasamati	Thompson	Such a joy and delight to swim in clean fresh water. Our citizens, our children, our tourist industry and our precious ecology should all be able to take the right of clean water for granted
Jonathan	Tailby	I am a pakeha who grew up in Te Hiku o Te Ika swimming in sea & rivers and camping where the only drinking water came from the river. This should be safe for everyone including the next generations.
Belinda Helm	Helm	I am 66 and live in Timaru, where I lived was born and grew up. Our family used to go to the Pareora river, amongst others, and we would swim, dive off the tree down, not to the bottom because we might have been bitten by eels, lie in the rapids with our mouths open, drinking the water. Now there is virtually no water in the river, ie usually about 4 inches depth of water in a stream about 6 feet wide under the bridge on the main road. I am so thankful that I was able to enjoy the rivers when I was younger and deeply sad for this and the following generations, as I see no the rivers only getting worse as the dairying and irrigation increases.
Lisa	Temperton	I just want to hand over a truly clean green new zealand to my kids. Im embarrassed that we call NZ clean and green when it is so clearly not. Dairy Farmers and Industry need to take responsibility for their efforts in ruining our rivers and lakes. No more handouts. Be environmentally responsible in business please. We only have 1 earth. Lisa Temperton
Jayne	Hubble	I am a mother and step grandmother. I grew up in a beautiful relatively clean country with beautiful rivers and mountains. The beauty of NZ is our taonga and I want to see it protected for this generation and generations to come.
Mike Johnson	Johnson	Do you really want to be the politicians who are remembered for stopping this, and future generations of children from the simple pleasure of a rope swing over a river? A cool off on a hot day after a long day on the farm? A family picnic by a water hole used by several previous generations?
Phil	Copley	
		Im 51 year old Māori woman and currently live in the Waikato/Tainui region, however I hail from the Eastern Bay of Plenty and the Tairāwhiti, my respective iwi are Te Whakatohea and Te Aitanga-a-Mahaki. I work as a senior tutor at the local university. The ongoing pollution and unacceptable quality of our waterways around the country requires immediate attention, and the government have an undeniable responsibility to take the necessary action to address this serious matter. It is absolutely deplorable that as a government that you accept our rivers and lakes are increasingly unsafe for people to swim in or gather food from. My wāhau, hapū and I expect the clean waterways are a basic human right and as government it is imperative that you take the necessary legal action to implement a Clean Water Standard that enables all NZers to swim in our rivers and lakes and safely gather food and eat food taken from all waterways.
Sharon	Campbell	Ngā mihi Sharon Campbell
p	hope	Ensuring the country's environment remains pristine is paramount, once this becomes a secondary consideration, in any way, the identity of our nation is damaged.
Nikki	Birchfield	I am self employed in the film industry and have 3 children under 12. I think it is disgusting that our government has such low standards for our waterways. Why would you not want to have the cleanest, best water you possibly can. It makes no sense to me.
Naomi	Compton	I am a 28 year old Kiwi from Auckland and now living in Wellington. The rivers and lakes of NZ are ours to treasure. We are privileged to be able to swim, play, gather food from them and we need to continue to care for them well so this unique opportunity can remain.
Andy	Saunders	I'm a 54 year old Kiwi from Whangarei. I have a stream at the bottom of my garden that is so full of old bikes, mattresses and what appears to raw sewage, because the sewer main in our area can't hack the pace. Quite horrible really - my cat won't even drink out of it, and I see people collecting watercress from there - GROSS!
Rebecca Lovell-Smith	Lovell-Smith	I'm a 52 mother from Christchurch and it is really important to me that our rivers be clean enough for us and our children to swim in. We have a duty to protect the waterways of our country, not only for human enjoyment but for the wildlife it sustains. This issue is of utmost importance to me.
Ray	Hawkins	i am a 70 year old retired carpenter from timaru . When i first came to live in timaru 13 yrs ago kids use to swim in the Temuka river near the main highway bridge now it is so polluted kids dont swim there anymore.
phil	ball	
Susan Peace	Peace	I'm a 30 year old kiwi gal who spent my childhood swimming in our beautiful NZ rivers and would like my children to be able to do the same
		I am a 72 year old retired teacher who grew up in Hawkes Bay and now lives in Wellington. Kiwis should be able to swim safely in our rivers without the risk of infection - as I did as a child. Farm animals should not be allowed near or in our rivers.
angela	coleman	Until this problem is properly sorted, we must drop the description of NZ as clean and green.
Steve	Wagstaff	I am a 64 year old retire scientist living in Tapanui. Anyone who has witnessed the degradation of freshwater lakes, rivers and streams in New Zealand in recent years has to be concerned about the current government's moderate risk position.
		I would just like to be able to go to a local river for a swim, or paddle without worry. I would like to see the flora and fauna that should be flourishing there. I would like this now for myself and forever for all.
Dirk De Lu	De Lu	Your excuses, claims that pollution is just a byproduct of necessary economic growth does not wash. We can do better. That this has been allowed to happen, that we are told to wait decades for some degree of clean up is a disgrace and dishonours our people and country.
Andrew	Massie	This farming stuff is getting out of control. Stop. Please.
		Rivers and waters are the life blood of our country. No one should rest until they are pristine and if this means keeping animals at a certain distance from the water then it must be done either by cooperation or coercion
Anthea	Hatfield	Anthea Hatfield Anaesthetist
Rosemary Neave	Neave	Our wealth and our well being depend on this resource - it is not simply a feel good about being able to swim or not. Water is our lifeblood for businesses, the economy and our communities.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Ruth	Brown	I am a 49 year old former South Islander and I remember fresh clear waterways that I think my own children still deserve
Gwynna	Whiteowl	when I was a child in the 1960's we could swim in any river or lake in NZ and we did so. I grew up in Taranaki, dairy farming parents on a 100 acre / 100 cow farm which was standard size in those days. Its not that long ago even if I do feel ancient some days less than 60 years it has taken to get to this disgusting state with a Govt that just doesn't care. The industrial dairy farming practices have to stop as does any industry that is polluting the land, the waterways the air we breath. Stop.
Esther	Curnow	I am the mother of a baby boy and I believe he should have the right to swim in rivers throughout his life in New Zealand without getting sick.
Sarah	Langi	Swimming in our rivers is our cultural right in NZ. We need to cut back on dairy farming, its ruining our rivers and country and causing climate change too
David	Redshaw	As a 77 year old grandparent I wish my grandchildren to inherit a country in which the waterways are valued as free from degradation. We claim a clean, green image but that cannot be possible if our rivers and lakes are unsafe.
Daph	Smith	Nothing is more central to our Nation's well being than potable, swimmable water. Kindly stop selling (or giving) it away to foreign corporations for their profit, and attend to cleaning our waterways.
Scott	Foley	I'm a 54yr old marketing and design executive from Hamilton. I spent this Cold Kiwi with a gentile man who told me he was doing the marketing for The Green Blues. I told him that this was an 'oxymoron' in the truest sense of the word. Here we have a Government that has done nothing to better the environment since they have taken power and by their inaction have stood by while the previous inaction's of their predecessors drive our country into an open air chess pond. for once cant you just raise the bar, just a little and stop allowing private agricultural entities use the rivers like a sewer. Maybe stand up and give your Green wing something to crow about instead of having to sheepishly admit that there is really no such thing as green blue. Our rivers are dying, STAND UP AN DO SOMETHING! Yours Sincerely Scott
Elizabeth	Tideswell	49 year old archaeologist currently working in the UK. Shamed that for years now the green image of NZ has been failing worldwide. My wish to bring friends to visit my homeland is constantly undercut by the things I have to strike off the list for them to be able to do. Give NZers a reason to be truthfully proud and welcoming. Keep our water clean
Anthony Mokaraka	Mokaraka	
Gary	Ladbrook	Clean green New Zealand. Not in our children's or children's children's lifetime if this minimum freshwater standard goes ahead. Think about the future generations of this great country before agreeing to this misguided policy
Yvonne	Cotter	As a grandmother of 9 I am passionate about the health of our rivers. Our children should be able to swim in our rivers as I did as a child!!
Brian	Habberfield-Short	I am a sixty-one year old builder and community volunteer from Waikino. I swim in my local rivers for fitness and fun. There are risks in that, The Ohinemuri is noticeably poor in water quality. The Waitekauri and Waitawheta are better, but still carry dairy farm runoff.
Graeme Ball	Ball	It is incredibly short-sighted to think that water quality is not important - which is the upshot of the government's policy, no matter how one might like to dress it up. Our 'clean green' image is easily tarnished by hypocrisy. Please ensure more rigorous water quality standards are put in place.
Jacqui	Neumann	
angela	coleman	I am 72 year old retired teacher who grew up in Hawkes Bay and now lives in Wellington. Unless we clean up our rivers, we must drop the clean, green description of NZ. Our children and grandchildren should be able to swim without any risk of infection. Farm animals should not be allowed near or in our rivers and streams.
Liz	Johnston	I have lived in Hawkes Bay for 30 years and watched our local river deteriorate. I no longer enjoy swimming in it
Greg	Barron	Am 69 year old potter / ceramic artist with strong interest in environmental issues and the need for sustainability in all areas of our lives, climate change is threatening our existence and governments helpless
Sarah	Johnson	I'm a 37 year old graphic designer from Hawke's Bay and I want my kids to be able to swim in clean rivers like I did when I was young.
Kerry	Browne	I'm a 48 year old General Manager. I think we need to invest in technology and regulation that allows commerce to flourish but that protects our rivers 100% and leaves them pristine and something we can continue to be very proud of.
Amber	Dunn	
Jessie	Copland	I am a 35 year old Mum from Southland and I want my family to be able to swim and fish in clean waters.
Margaret	Dawson	Hi, I'm a 60+ year old artist. I don't have my head in the sand but I wants to put my head under the water when I swim in NZ rivers and lakes. Preserve the rivers in good order for people and for fish and plants that live in their waters.
Kirsten	Browne	
Mahe	Ha'unga	I am 56 years old Tongan man migrated to Aotearoa back in 1997. Those days we were able to swim on every river. It would be nice if they able to do that as well.
John	Joyce	I am a keen fly fisherman and swimmer.
Sally	McAra	I'm a 49-yr old Pakeha and I remember swimming in rivers in Canterbury when I was a kid. I want future generations to be able to play in rivers!
Margaret Franken	Franken	We have serious problems with our waterways. This is not only about the obvious impact on our enjoyment of our natural surroundings, and ensuring this for successive generations, but like, child poverty, this is seriously going to harm our image internationally.
Freida	Maverick	My 7 year old nephew was ill for several weeks after swimming in the Kaiate river. Kids should not get sick from swimming in rivers!
Marie	Roser	I'm a 56 year old pakeha female, my background is social work and I reside in Napier. Water is our most precious resource without it everything would perish. My husband and I enjoy fishing and would often head out to a river for a trout, but these days, not so much because of the contaminated rivers and lakes around Hawkes Bay. I would love my grandchildren to be able to go to the river for a swim and not risk picking up some lurgy from the water. Come on NZ keep our lakes and river clean.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
mike	Cunliffe	I am over 60 years and have seen a steady decline in water quality in my lifetime ,water is one of the basics of life show some respect! Mike.
Tanya	Lyders	I'm a 50 year old Information Analyst from Dunedin who grew up on a sheep farm on the Taieri Plains. I no longer feel that I can swim in or use the water in the streams and rivers in our area owing to the amount of pollution and run off that is present in these waterways. Proposing minimum standards is merely an excuse for allowing the steady denigration of our freshwater standards. I am strongly opposed to accepting third world standards for water quality. This water belongs to everyone and to the aquatic life that rely on the water for survival. Agriculture and industry do not have the right to pollute it. Our health and wellbeing depends on clean waterways. Do we really want the situation in Hastings to become the norm for New Zealanders?
Judy	King	New Zealand's natural environment is its true wealth. Isolated for millennia, our land was pristine and unspoiled until people arrived. With hindsight we can regret some of the actions taken by ignorant pioneers, such as introducing mammals which would predate many native bird species to near extinction. Now, with the benefit of education and research, we have a unique chance to maintain our current high standards and preserve our clean and green land. Taking a decision to allow a safe level of pollution in rivers and lakes is not only uninformed and ignorant, it is too big a gamble to take. Not only will our kids endure and pay for our wanton pollution, but tourists will look elsewhere to seek clean green wilderness experiences in countries such as Finland or Norway where the environment is protected not exploited by government legislation.
maggie	wilkinson	The minimum water standard should be all waterways to be safe for humans and other animals to swim in. Anything less than this is pollution.
Colleen Murray	Murray	The health of the rivers depend on us. Humans are not on this planet to destroy, we must protect the water, the earth the air...
Deborah	Priest	I have just had my first child and I want her to be able to swim and fish in New Zealand waterways with out concern of her health just like I did growing up!
Michael	Fraser	I am a woman aged 56, who lives in Porirua. I used to be able, like many people around my age, to go swimming in any body of fresh water. Now, there are so many signs up alerting me that this river/stream/lake is not swimmable. I want generations of Kiwi kids to go and swim in their nearest body of water...without having to check if the water-quality is up to it. Fresh water is one of the necessities of life. Without it, we are lost. Please help us to get it back.
Alexandra	King	I am a 30 year old male and work as a Workforce Planning Consultant for a large public sector organisation. Within this role I am acutely aware of how we are growing as a country. However, growth needs to be balanced with stewardship, particularly when it comes to our environment. We are impacting not only our ecosystems but ourselves and our future generations. We have a greater responsibility than we are currently undertaking to be a better custodian of our beautiful country.
Catherine	Davis	I am a 32 year old office worker in Invercargill. I want to be able to take my daughter swimming in our rivers and lakes, feed friendly eels, and try whitebait or shellfish when she's older. I want my country to be a world leader in how to be 'clean and green'.
Jenni	Percy	Kia ora I am a Wanaka resident, born in Taihape and lived in both the North and South Islands of Aotearoa. I urge this government to respect and honour our environmental obligations to our children, our selves, our community. Water is not a limitless resource, there is no alternative. I urge you to take the many scientific studies, for example Dr Mike Jolly's report on Havelock North seriously. It is spurious and disingenuous to do otherwise. Water is life, it is under threat as supplies are commodified, used for polluting energy extraction. I am Pakeha, female and 55 years old.
James	Emma	Safe for wading'. Seriously? Is that the best we can do? We can't sell ourselves to the world as clean and green if tourists can only wade in our waters. New Zealanders deserve more. Set the bar higher.
Emma	Abernethy	I'm 28 years old. I remember not so long ago, how good condition most of our rivers were, the fishing used to be a lot better. For too long, farmers have been allowed to draw off too much water for irrigation, stock is allowed to roam over river beds and as a result, our rivers are dying. Now is the time to act.
Margo	Verveer	I want my kids and generations to come to be able to enjoy New Zealand's clean rivers and lakes
Andrew	Kercher	I am a 55 year old. My family and I are living in a rural NZ community for the last 23 years. I love the country and its outdoors with a passion. I am deeply concerned about the state of our rivers and native wildlife depending on them. Please take appropriate action while we still can. Please do not deny my children's children the joy and lifestyle that makes NZ so unique. Ensure that all rivers are clean enough to drink from and swim in.
Paddy	John	No increased dairy farming at the expense of our waterways. Environment before profit!
Brenda Jeffery	Jeffery	Neither my age, occupation or ethnicity are important. The health of the rivers /waterways and the life within them IS. They die - WE die. Try reading the works of Viktor Schaubberger
storm	powell	I am a 52 year old woman who works full time and has a passion for our beautiful country. Don't you think enough is enough. You really have sold out. Please don't ruin what is left. Our creeks lakes rivers should maintain our clean green pristine expectations. It's what they always were and what they should remain. Anyone who lowers those standards shame on them!
Richard	Chalklen	I am 65 yrs old and I work and live in Waikato Tainui Iwi .My hapu lives on the banks of the Waipa river. As a child I swam caught tuna, fresh water mussel and gathered watercress from the small subsidiary water ways. Increased farming and effluent seepage into the river has created a wading situation NOW. Any lowering of freshwater standard will turn our life source into a cesspool .
Osman	Mansoor	I am a city person with a grown family. 20 years ago my kids swam in rivers and streams around North Canterbury, as I did when I was a kid. I know there must be a balance between dairy farming and the environment, I don't think we have achieved this. Clean water is a limited resource which must be protected.
Maggie	Meeks	I work in public health. Water is vital for health. It will cost the country more in the long term if we don't invest in clean water now.
Petra	Sumpter	NZ is marketed as a clean eco friendly place to live but does not always walk that talk - we need to stand tall and believe and fulfill our own marketing!
Kimberley	Salmond	Water is life. NZ waterways should reflect our culture. Clean, fresh, and abundant with life. Not dank, gross and scary. What type of world are we leaving to future generations with our indifference?
Alison Clay	Clay	What is the government thinking...definitely not of this country...keep it clean and kiwis only
Petra	Sumpter	

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Tamsyn James	Parry Mc	New Zealand is one of the last sanctuaries of clean water in the world. It is the life blood of our nation. Are we really willing to give that up and have rivers where we cannot swim and drink and frolic. It's too late to want it back once it is gone.
Petra Virjean	Sumpter Primeau	I believe that it is the governments responsibility to enforce the environmental laws to ensure that the greatest polluters, dairy farms, are taking responsibility for the run-offs of the effluent produced by their herds. The system should respond quicker and the penalty much higher. It is all our water!!!!
Tony	Gabolinscy	Clean water should matter to everyone. As a true born Kiwi I want my rivers and lakes to be used for recreation, swimming and drinking. Not used as sum farmers sewer or a miners dump site.
Rod Monique	MacKinnon Lute	I'm 73, I've done a lot of things from working for the coal mines, truck driving, professional musician, schoolteacher, timber worker, University, handyman....I grew up in the most beautiful environment in the world... I traveled all through NZ and never once needed to have any caution about the purity of the waters I swam in or drank.... I want that for my children and my children's children and I can't think of a single good reason why it shouldn't be that way.
Rose	Makea	I came to New Zealand 10 years ago from the Netherlands for the beautiful nature. It's so important to keep it beautiful and pure!!
Hannah	Abraham	Im 62 Machine operator Hastings. I need my grandchildren to be able to swim in clean rivers as I had as a child. Our water ways were and should be the best in the world.
nicki		
Richard	Brayne	Please think of future generations and standby the clean green image that NZ is supposed to signify?
May	Sahar	Clean free water is the most basic essential for life on our planet. As a 60 year old mother, and a grandmother to be , one day, I want water to be treasured and protected, for me and all the generations to come.
Susan	Barker	We cannot rely on the current methods of keeping our streams clean.The Clean Streams Accord allows streams less than one metre wide not to be fenced or have buffer planting. If you drive thru the countryside e.g. thru the Waikato there are many examples of cows grazing and walking next to small tributaries and guess what? They all feed the bigger streams. No wonder we have increasing degradation of our water ways. I want a government that cares about stream helath.
Helen	Ough Dealy	I am a 57 year old Pakeha female. I have been an active conservationist from the age of 16 when I tried to stop the Pakuranga stream from being canalised as part of a Biology Project while at Pakuranga College. We failed. I have not sent a photo as am too embarrassed about the state of the so-called fresh water in my area - I live in Russell, Bay of Islands where the bay turns brown after a heavy rainfall from the silt washed downstream from all the rivers and streams. Only place where this is not happening is Tangatapu wetland which is being restored thanks to local efforts (Living Water, Eastern Bay of Islands Preservation Society, Russell Landcare and others). The will among locals is there - but we need the will not the won't from government to help fund these projects and to penalise those who leave the waterways nude of riparian plantings.
Peggy	Yates	I am a 60 year old wife, mother and Nonna and grew up with a stream at the back of our section where I my siblings and neighbourhood kids spent our downtime playing trying to catch fish and crawlies and bugs. I believe it is the right of my bambinos and NZ's future generations can enjoy clean water to play and swim in, it should be their birthright, nothing less is acceptable. We also need to conserve the natural habitat in these waters.
Vivien	Fergusson	I'm a retired teacher and recall regularly swimming in rivers as a child. I deplore the degradation of our waterways that has now made this delightful experience unavailable to children today.
Ric	Stacey	Clean swimmable rivers for my grandchildren please !!
Domonique	Lampshire	
Reece	Lemaire	I purchased property in a pristine valley with a pristine river as I enjoy swimming in a clean river and 10 years on I won't even walk in it, thanks to the two dairy farms now up stream and their raping of the environment!
Megan	Salole	
Robert	Schraders	I have just retired and have lived in and around Palmerston North since my children went to primary school. On days off, we often went swimming in the Manawatu River. Now my dog doesn't even want to swim in it! A country with sick waterways is like a person with leukaemia. I urge you to take every available means to make our rivers and our country healthy
Joshua	Vial	I am a 37 year old entrepreneur who spends most of my time travelling trying to increase our high tech exports. When people hear New Zealand they think All blacks, hobbits and natural beauty - trashing our rivers is trashing one of the things that makes us different in the world and makes it harder for me to do business.
Nicki	Beattie	I'm an organic farmer and I want to keep the rivers clean.
Sahni	Bennett	Clean up the rivers!!!!
Philip	McKnight	Water is a free element that needs to stay free and clean !! Not a dumping zone for industrial waste to make people's sick for the hospital industry or corporate office! !!
Dick	Thomas	I deal in water for my business. I believe we can do better for my grandchildren than the bill proposed
Rod	Inglis	I am a business owner, and also own a share in a Hawkes Bay farm with streams running through it. I am 64 and have owned and operated a number of businesses and won an export award. Let's make NZ Pure stand up to scrutiny. Our key industries and earners of Overseas currencies like Food and beverage exports, and Tourism depend on it. We are a beautiful country with wonderful waterways that all Kiwis and visitors to the country should be able to admire and enjoy. Eaters and drinkers of NZ food products should have confidence in their clean and healthy origins. Farmers, towns and cities have a duty to protect an essential national and natural asset and keep our waterways lakes and rivers clean and swimmable. Government policy should ensure this is achieved in the best and most efficient manner.
Dawn	Shearer	I'm 54 & live in Blenheim. I believe we need swimmable rivers for recreation & to maintain freshwater & saltwater ecosystems. All three are vital to the ongoing health & survival of the human race.
Debbie	Schneider	I am a 51 year old Administration Manager from Auckland who loves and very proud of our beautiful country and it's once clear, clean, full of life, rivers and streams. Shocking that we are not able to swim in them and that the life in them is dying.. This Government and the Dairy Industry need to be accountable to the rest of NZ for the damage and need to sort it out NOW before it is too late.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Michael	Freeman	The consistent degradation of New Zealand lakes ,rivers ,and streams over the past 30 years has changed the way I live . 30 years ago I would happily swim in the local rivers . Now days the pollution count is often so high with the increased intensive dairying in our area, that it is no longer safe to do so for much of the year . International tourists aren't blind to this situation either . It's time for All live stock to be fenced out if our waterways .
Brigitte : Lorenz	:Lorenz	I am a 69 year old counsellor living in Auckland and I would like to see our rivers and waterways to be safe and clean for all to be enjoyed.
Barbara	Menzies	I am a 65 year old Pakeha grandmother, and have worked as an educator all my adult life. I grew up in Dunedin, where we revelled in easy access to pristine rivers and lakes for picnics, swimming and fishing. Please commit to preserving the water quality that you also relied on growing up, and give your own children and grandchildren a reason to be proud and thank you in their turn.
Elizabeth	Gazzard	
Johannes Prinz	Prinz	Water ways are core of NZs beauty, agricultural activities and play ground of future generations. Maintaining their quality goes above all other priorities. What good is life itself when surrounded by poisoned water.
Dennis	Viehland	I live near Lucas Creek in Albany. So do thousands of other Aucklanders. What an impact it would be if Lucas Creek was a swimmable river again. We can do it, it mostly take a will to do so.
Allene	Kapohe	I am 69 years of age and it makes me feel so devastated to see the terrible condition of most of our rivers, lakes and waterways. Is this what we want to leave our descendants?
Chelsea Robinson	Robinson	I'm a young woman from Waitakere and I have grown up with a stream, a part of the Whau River at the back of my house my whole life. This creek has been a core source of nourishment and inspiration for me, a water body that is filled with eels as well as more and more plastic bottles, silt and pollutants from factories in the area. I studied Resource Management at university and I've seen the degradation of our RMA over time. I have lived in countries where drought is constant. And I am so deeply grateful NZ is not a place where drought is constant. Please let's ensure our inspiring ecosystems that serve all life forms have clean water running through them. Everyone I know in Government is making a joke about wadable water at the moment. And it's funny. It's funny that that is even considered momentarily (let alone officially) to be a useful way to measure water quality. Not to mention that our economy is built on water. Swimmable is a minimum. Thank you.
Robin	Hoare	I'm a very old codger who enjoys swimming: unfortunately there are no pools in my area (no wonder the drowning rate is so high). I've participated in a group swim across our harbour five times but wonder about the risks involved now: so many unfenced farms upstream! About time Government did something really effective.
Adrian	Cochrane	I'm a 22 year old male pakeha studying computer science at Victoria University of Wellington.
Craig Hines	Hines	My name is Craig, father of 2 beautiful kids. I want them to be able to splash in the rivers and lakes if they want. I like to kayak, water gets everywhere, it shouldn't make you sick. I want to show people from overseas our rivers and lakes and say yes they are still clean.
Brett	Blackford	I love our waterways. It's has to be protected and clean.
Keith Tihema	Beale	
chris	Hurst	
David	Ayre	I am a 66 year old retired teacher from Nelson and I want my grandchildren and my children and all my family to be able to swim in clean rivers as I did when I was young.
steve	wilson	i have lived at the mouth of the opihi river for 20 years ,we caught nice fish here then now there are no fish and even when you catch the odd one you can not eat it. water is a stink hole.
Sharon Tracey Harth	Harth	Kia ora - I am a 58 year old maori/pakeha Occupational Therapist from Raglan. Over the years I have lived and traveled extensively throughout NZ. One of the things I have been proud about is our beautiful clean, clear waters. Especially up until a few years ago - the streams we could DRINK out of ... We could swim anywhere. I wish the same for my children and theirs ... Clean water to swim and play in ...
Rosy Thomas	Thomas	Our rivers are being destroyed.... the worst is yet to come if we sit and do nothing to address water, rivers and health in NZ
Michael	Kettle	I have a family of 4 children and we all swim, fish and white bait our rivers and surf, so we need clean rivers. It's a big part of our life.
Nico	Woodward	I'm a 32 year old male, working in the emergency department of a large hospital in Auckland. As kids,we used to go on family holidays to great spots around the country and swim everywhere. Nowadays, i would avoid most river holiday spots as they are just not clean enough to safely swim in. We are losing one of our childhood recreational activities, and will mean our children and a whole generation will miss out on being able to use clean rivers. We are leaving nothing but a mess for our future generations.
Kanjini	Devi	I am 47 years young and have been teaching Yoga for more than 20 years. Though I've been here almost 5 years, I truly believe in your clean and green NZ and that surely includes swimmable rivers!
Katie	Larsen	I'm a Kiwi born and voting professional working in business and sustainability. I know that laws help business, including farming remain competitive as they raise the playing field. Keep NZ competitive by keeping NZ clean & beautiful!
tom	burgess	Do the right thing now so our kids will not curse us in the future.
Tamia	Hurtado	
Maren	Behrend	I am a 60 year old English language teacher who lives in Auckland. My students come to NZ because they think it is a safe and clean country. I want our waterways to be clean for my students and for my grandchildren to enjoy.
Paul	Riddler	As a child i grew up in the Hutt Valley; we would while away many days down the Hutt river; now , today you can't even take your dog down there for a swim. Why does progress; industrial dairy farming and like; have to involve destroying the very environment; rivers and streams; that supports these industries, is that not by definition; totally insane.
Sue	Pirrit	
Jo	Mill	
Raimo Kangasniemi	Kangasniemi	
Johnny	Mulvay	I am a 65 year old Artist and Engineer. I have Wwoofers from all over the World staying at my Waihi property and enjoying in the Summer swimming in the river at the end of my street. They don't have this at their homes and they take with them good impressions of New Zealand
Pat	Wood	I am a trumper and want to keep an honest clean green image for our kids and tourism

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Thomas	Huggins	I grew up swimming in New Zealand's rivers and want the upcoming generations to have the opportunity. This may sound idealistic but it is more than recreation. To me, a swimmable river is a sign of a balanced and sustainable ecosystem.
Jay Connor	Connor	Save NZ Water !!!.
Charlotte	Burton-Bell	Stop poisoning our rivers and lakes.
Cimino Cole	Cole	I have dedicated the last 42 years of my life to the Mahurangi River, in which I first swam after a school football match circa 1962. Make no mistake—New Zealanders care about their rivers being swimmable, and National is on a hiding to nothing if it thinks this policy will play out well for it.
Wu Joong	Joong	Water is Necessary for Life, Not Private Business!
Noel Andrews	Andrews	Grandfather of 6 lovely girls want them to inherit a pristine New Zealand, not ruined mad the evil desire for profit
Nick	Chapman	No person or company has the right to pollute public waterways, everybody has the obligation to dispose of their waste responsibly. Profits do not justify pollution!
Adrienne	Oaks	I grew up in Southland (on a town-supply dairy farm), before large-scale intensive dairy farming was the norm and I remember when the Edendale Dairy Factory was just a small, seasonal business. Back then, the only things we had to worry about in the creek were the eels. We spent a lot of time as kids messing about in and around the water. It was an integral part of growing up in the country and I wouldn't have missed it for the world. In my lifetime, I've seen Fonterra build an empire that seems to stretch into every nook and cranny of Southland and Otago. It may have lined some people's pockets with cash but I hate what dairying is doing to the landscape, waterways and environment of Southland and Otago and on my last visit home, was appalled to see irrigation for dairying in parts of Otago where I never would have dreamed seeing large dairy herds before. I don't believe that this type of farming is long-term sustainable or ultimately good for the country.
Jonthan	Hayes	Rivers,Lakes Streams and the Sea must remain clean for the future generations and tfor us.The enviroment is the future. With out it , will mark the eventual end of the human race for good.
Marc	Summers	I'm a 31 year old male. And want NZ to be clean like it used to be!
Lynn	Davidson	I am at 57 year old writer and teacher. I love my country and want to think that my (as yet imaginary) grandchildren and my very real children and I myself can swim in clear, clean extraordinary NZ rivers.
Stuart	Oldham	
mark	kalksma	
Styx	Growler	I want my kids to be able to swim, eel, fish and play in CLEAN rivers. Don't be selfish, do some good for the planet instead of helping farmers make a buck.
Elena	Philp	I'm a 68 year old from Auckland and it's distressing to see the lie of 'clean, green New Zealand' being promoted while our waterways are being polluted by farmers and industrial effluent.
Alan William	Preston	56 year old westie guy living in Northland. Our rivers and lakes are too cold for me to swim in but that is not the point. (I lived in Japan for 10 years and loved the clean rivers there) If you don't get , you have no right to be in government. Undrinkable is unthinkable.
AJ Bowler	Bowler	
Edward	Carter	
Lauren Zamalis	Zamalis	We want clean, healthy rivers - nothing less.
Lynley Hunter	Hunter	57 yo female teacher from Auckland. I want my grandkids to be able to see our native freshwater species in the wild and not just in old books.
Jo	Hair	I'm a business owner from the Waikato. Growing up life revolved around swimming, & enjoying adventures around the Waikato & Waihou rivers, Lakes Taupo, Tarawera & Roto Iti. As a teenager I dove into rivers that were crystal clear in the Ureweras. These are memories I treasure. My parents collected drinking water from a local 'secret' spring. Life was great. Sadly today I would now NEVER swim in any of these locations. We need to get back on track. And it starts with CLEAN water.
George	Cassells	Name is George Cassells, I'm a 28 year old Kiwi and have been living in Queenstown, NZ for the last 17 years (or so). I am writing and sign my name because this is so obviously a terrible, greedy, short-sighted idea that I wonder just how much concern you lot making these decisions actually have for anything?! You understand that this will destroy our country, right? You all recognise that the rivers and water supply is already thoroughly exploited and contaminated as a result, yes?! Surely, surely you care more about the land we all literally live on than the chance to afford a new kitchen sink. Surely!?! It seems like a constant uphill struggle trying to stop certain humans from destroying the Earth, and this is just one more step in the ever-constant slog to simply keep the world from burning with greed. Seriously, you want to drop the acceptable minimal standard below swimming? They're lakes, rivers and streams! If we can't swim in them then they're not clean!! This is aggravating to write as it should all be beyond obvious not to take this action. How dare you or anyone makes this decision, even if it were chosen 'democratically'. It is incredibly small minded and will have potentially permanent detrimental effects on the environment. Our environment. Our land. Our country. Our responsibility. Yours too. Stop dropping the ball and pass if it you don't know how to play in a team. Don't ruin the game for everyone. Sincerely, George Cassells
Tom	Bennion	I am a 53 year old father of 3 kids (6,9,12) & I want them to enjoy clean rivers as my family did when we were young. As an environment lawyer I am well aware of that this is a matter of government prioritising our long term needs over the short term obsession with growth in farming at all costs. We need to set standards like we do in food and biosecurity to provide the best and be the best in terms of systems and practices that ensure clean water in all our waterways.
Vance	Rees	
Marnie Barrell	Barrell	Teacher, 65, NZ European. We will not accept anything less than 'swimmable'. It's not too much to ask that our rivers can support life.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Claire JAMES	Jenkins DEWAR	A solo parent, student, and mother of two who has cut the family meat intake down to three nights a week and dairy intake to a single litre in order to afford to buy organics. Surely this demonstrates how import clean water is to me as a mother. It is our life force. To kill our rivers is to seal the fate of our children. They will not thank us for a vibrant economy when the cost is the environmental health of our nation. We can live without every luxury we enjoy today, but not without clean water. The picture is of my son excited to find a live crab because at the nearby beach where we live everything is dead or dying. Buried under or poisoned by land run-off. I hope you see my images as a remind of life and how children play. Water pollution not only encourages unnatural and unhealthy life styles away from our world, it is killing us. All of us.
Maggie	Nicol	I am a 50yr old Australian woman who has been on numerous visits to your beautiful country. I have so many Maori friends that I have been able to see NZ through their eyes, rather than as a tourist and one of the joys for me was swimming and fishing. Keep your rivers clean, not just for visitors but for all your peoples.
Jill	Roberts	Dear NZ Government, I am a language teacher and events coordinator from Geraldine, Canterbury, and also mother of two children aged 12 and 13. Geraldine's rivers are so polluted that for the last 5 summers it has been impossible to take the children swimming. It is an absolute disgrace what has happened here in Canterbury in my children's lifetime! Due to irrigation our rivers are now only a shadow of what they were when my children were little. Not only are the flows incredibly low, but thanks to fertilizers and a huge increase in dairy farms in our region, the rivers are now also rife with Cyanobacteria and E.coli. Geraldine relies heavily on tourism but it is increasingly difficult to promote a town whose river is toxic and potentially lethal to pets and young children. The old adage of it is the price of a strong economy is no longer viable. Don't you see that without a healthy environment it is impossible to have a strong economy in the long run? We are so isolated here that you may not be aware of how we are perceived by other countries; however, when I was in Europe last year I read many very damning articles about the state of our environment. If nothing drastic is done to improve the situation, we will soon loose tourism, which is one of our greatest sources of income! So please, for the health of our people and the health of our economy, take drastic action to save our rivers! Kind Regards, Jill Roberts
Laura	Draper	I am a 21 year old kiwi student who has many great memories of swimming in the clean lakes of Te Kaha, yet am disappointed to see the state of the Manawatu river and other large rivers. I hope these sick and dirty rivers can one day become healthy and clean again for us all to enjoy
Te Kahui-iti	MOREHU	wai maori he taonga tuku iho o matou tupuna rangatira. Ko au he kaiiaki tuturu o nga taonga tawhito. Water is a treasure passed to us by our ancestral chiefs. I am a guardian of these ancient treasures. I am of the Te Tao U tribe of Kaipara.
Brett	Murphy	I'm a 55 yo dad I grew up in Gisborne where the sea and rivers were our recreation we caught fish, (very plentiful) jumped off the bridges, swam, rowed for the school and had swimming holes and swings for FUN. These are rights for our kids. I want them retained or revived. My daughter is missing out on her rights to have a healthy interaction with her natural environment . This is NOT acceptable.signed: B Murphy
Denise Forrester	Forrester	I know water is a valuable commodity and it is also more valuable than gold. the Government is well aware of this. I request you honor your privileged position given to you by the people and keep the rivers safe by removing moderate risk and enforcing high standard instead
Thom	Taptiklis	I'm a 37 Wellington kayaker. I want to be able to drink from the rivers I explore and swim anywhere without getting sick.
Irene	Marks	I was born in NZ 64 years ago,have children and grandchildren and have cherished our beautiful country. It makes me so sad to see the fast decline in our rivers. Every effort must be made to protect them. Lets clean up our act and make it a priority to have our healthy waterways back. If we are not careful NOW we will lose all that is good about our country.
Kahukura	Te Kiri	We need to keep up with our CLEAN, GREEN ENVIRONMENT. .. little by little we have unfortunately caught up with the bigger and polluted countries around the world at the detriment of our country with a lot of things; PLEASE don't lower our standards anymore for the sake of saving a few dollars for the short term.. It will cost way more in the future to try and fix it then you (the government) will save now. Keep our beautiful waterways the way they are meant to be. For the sake of our future generations and our beautiful country.
SARAH RUSSELL	RUSSELL	I am a retired and live in Raumatī South. I have 3 children born around 1980. We used to go swimming in lakes and rivers and never gave a thought about pollution because all our rivers were clean. We even drank from crystal clear mountain streams. We had the most beautiful pristine playground. Sadly that's not going to happen with my grandchildren. About time to take the environment seriously and stop poisoning it for profit, especially as climate is warming up and exacerbating the effects of all the poison we put onto the land which runs into our rivers. EPA, DOC, Climate Change and all those govt agencies which are supposed to be caring for our country, all need to start being their names - eg they have words like protection, environment and conservation in their job titles. If we don't start looking after this world we won't have a future..
Eva	Brodie	Mother of 4. Good drinking water is most important for good health as body is mostly made up of water.
Tessa Meek	Meek	
Rupert	Small	Please do everything possible to bring our rivers up to a standard suitable for swimming (and beyond) and maintain such a standard. This is the very least that needs to be done with our national waterways.
Bronwyn	Judge	This is the water quality of the river closest to wear I lived in 2009 when I took the photo. I would expect it to continue to be as clean and swimmable in 20 years time.
Alex	Cable	When I was young we used to swim and fish in the rivers and I want my children and grandchildren to be able to do the same
Tessa	Rowland	Dear Ministers, I live in Auckland city. I am 30 years old. Perhaps one day we will meet; at the edge of a vast quiet river under the warm fading sun.
Joan	Panting	I'm a primary school teacher. Part of the curriculum endorsed by this Government requires that we teach sustainability. I therefore find your stance on clean water deeply hypocritical.
A Fiona	Campbell	I am 65, grandmother of three spirited boys. Returned to Wgtn last year after 15 in Australia, to be close to them. I'd like them, and all future generations, to be able to fearlessly have fun exploring, drinking from and swimming in our rivers and streams.
Petra	Snellingberg	I'm a 45 year old mum of 8 year old twins and a 10 year old and we live in Tauranga, the Bay of Plenty. Plenty of pollution in the bay, I tell you! We LOVE hiking, swimming, kayaking and being outside. Some of our local water holes are now inaccessible due to farm runoff. As a young kid I went eeling and we caught and ate the tuna. Now we can't and don't. It's a tragedy! NZ is fast losing its clean, green image. The pristine water ways of the past are no longer safe to drink from or swim in. Something needs to be done now to reverse the trend so future generations can enjoy the great outdoors too. The environment must start coming first, before profit! The time to act is now.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Helene	Furness	
Kendra		As a mother of two children im passionate that they are able to swim in our clean waters. Come on let's keep our country clean for our future generations!
David	Corballis	I just want water standards to be as pure, clean and fresh as possible. If we weaken our standards at all, it's a slippery slope. Health suffers as does our reputation as a country
Alex	Hallatt	This is a picture of me wading in the Tekapo. We love to camp and fish here and I used to swim in this river, until the sheep farming was changed to dairy and the run off made the river unsafe to swim.
Raewyn Alexander	Alexander	Water is what we need for life to exist, many kinds of life. Stop hurting and killing the people, animals, and plants of this country with atrocious water-care, (and other travesties). Care for our water, care for life.
David Chilvers	Chilvers	Our rivers and lakes are increasingly unsafe for people to swim in or gather food from, and our animals and rivers are suffering for it. Swimmable is the minimum level needed.
Jason	pole	40 yrs old kiwi hunter gatherer dont want 1080 poison rivers polluting our sea or any poison want my kids to enjoy nz as i have rivers are earths blood for starters
Andy Williams	Williams	All rivers should be swimmable at least MOST of the time; water is life
Matthew	Brightwell	I am a 42 year old Maori from Gisborne and this is just one issue amongst a myriad of others this corrupt corporate run oligarchy owned government has failed on.
Annemieke	Kleine	
Kris	Vollebregt	I'm a 55 year old mother from Wanaka with 3 young adult boys. My parents were lucky immigrants who realised how precious this country was. I grew up on a 100 acre dairy farm in the Wairarapa and loved to swim in the Tauherenikau River at the end of our farm - relatively pure apart from the times a farmer upstream used to take his cows through. Our sons grew up on the shores of the South Island Lake Rotoiti, one of the most pristine lakes in NZ. We recreated in the Aorere River in Golden Bay regularly. And now they are grown and we are in Wanaka, swimming, paddling, windsurfing, boating in Lakes Wanaka and Hawea and the Clutha and Hawea rivers, even though Lake Wanaka suffers periodically from diquat applications. Look at how waterways define our small family! This story is repeated all over New Zealand. Who are we? What are we worth - if we cannot look after our beautiful country??? It must be legislated OUR WATERWAYS MUST BE SWIMMABLE!!!! No buts, No brainer, Pure and Simple. These boys are of the age when soon they may have children. We MUST advocate for the generations to come. Do Not be short sighted in this!!
Duncan	Wilcox	I am a 60 year old life long fly fisherman and I have been very privileged to enjoy the stunning rivers & lakes of New Zealand. But more importantly, I would like the folks who live long after me to have the same palpable enjoyment. Please, make our waterways clean again!
margie	grant	I'm an Occupational Therapist, counsellor and outdoor instructor and I've been working for the Department of Conservation on remote islands for the last 7 years. I have a tattoo on my leg that primarily symbolizes the wai or the waterways of NZ as I respect them as a unique life force and also something that is distinctly special about our country - or was - our pristine water ways that come down from the catchment areas in our beautiful maungas and find their way out to Tangaroa. A lot of talk is about how we're stuffed as a species if we lose bees. True that. But our waterways are just as essential and just as under threat but it is SO MUCH easier to rectify this problem. Respecting life, respecting the wai, it's not rocket science. Neither is doing the right thing.
Christofer	McGuire	I am a 61 year old science teacher from Tawa and I want future generations including my grandchildren to be able to swim in and use clean rivers. I also want the tourists and the industries to be able to use clean water. It is in everyone's interest to keep our rivers clean.
Emma	Clune	
Talei Watson	Watson	I'm a 57 year old woman who works in the hospitality industry. After seeing the dirty, muddy waters in Australia, I don't want NZ's 100% pure image tarnished by our rivers being polluted. As if 1080 poison being dropped in our waterways wasn't bad enough...
Linda	Hoang	NZ having a wonderful clear river throughout this country would make it only more beautiful. I would say everyone who loves this country would appreciate this.
Vincent	Rowe	Water is more than an Essential Element, it is as Valuable as Oxygen for Life. Degrading the Quality of Water is an appalling threat to the Quality of Lives in New Zealand, if it is allowed to proceed. I feel that if anything the Quality of Water ought to be Raised, for Goodness Sake!
Pat	Scott	I am an 81 year old grandmother of 10 and great grandmother of 2. I live in Outram, Otago. I taught science at secondary school for many years and have been active in my community and the environment all my life. The health of our community and living ecosystems depends on healthy water, water that is not contaminated with harmful bacteria or toxins. When our children were young we had picnics by rivers and they swam and played in the rivers. It is the birthright of all New Zealand children to be able to swim in clean and healthy rivers.
Jennifer	Falconer	I learnt to swim in NI rivers and streams, huge fun. Great way to learn about understanding the flow of water. Plus all the school pools are closing!
Hemon	Dey	I am a 39 year old father of two young children, living in the beautiful Motueka valley. I want my kids to be able to swim in clean and safe rivers which are free of contaminants from agricultural practices that are increasingly becoming more intensive and industrial. We have a responsibility to our environment, to keep it for the future generations to enjoy as we have done when we were young. Please protect New Zealand's rivers.
Sarah	Muir	
Darren Page	Page	I have a deep love of new zealands freshwater ecosystems after spending years fishing and swimming in rivers and lakes across the country. I also value new zealands native freshwater fauna and believe it should to be conserved for future generations.
Ivan	Duffy	Hi, I'm Ivan Duffy. Now 35 I grew up in Kerikeri in the beautiful bay of Islands and always had a river near by our home (both over the years) which we swam in often daily over the summer. The idea that we could have had a river flowing past the front of our house that we couldn't even wade across - let alone swim in - without running the risk of getting sick makes me sad, angry and just a little horrified. Having travelled considerably around the world people consistently bring up what a beautiful country New Zealand is and how they'd love to visit. Unfortunately this is now more down to marketing than any actual fact. It's no longer safe to eat fish caught in our rivers due to 1080 poison drops and now we can't even be assured that we won't get sick just by WADING through our waters. This is truly awful, heartbreaking stuff and a government that thinks that reducing standards is an acceptable way of dealing with pollution really need to have a good hard look at themselves and what they're doing. Whats more the people of NZ need to have a serious look at the people they have put into power and decide if this is a real representation of their own ideals. Something needs to change and it needs to change before the rest of the world sees through the marketing lies of our tourism board.
Lucas	Putnam	Hello. I'm a 46 year old NZ citizen. I just recently took a trip to the Waikato and was shocked at the amount of farms I passed that had animals grazing and relieving themselves directly into the waterways. I call upon the government to help farmers to sort this out. Please.
Hilda	Stedman	We must think of future generations and look after all aspects of the environment

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Christine	Jorgensen	My grandchildren deserve to have clean, fresh, abundant water! As do yours too actually!
sue	gregory	Why why oh why, in this age when standards of hygiene, work safety, food preparation, (to the n'th degree) and regulations about other contaminants (such as cigarette smoke) are being set ever higher, why are we letting something so precious as our waterways be let go? I'm a 69 year old ex health professional, and I'm truly shocked and saddened. Please, please reconsider the minimum freshwater standards.
Gavin	Scott	75 year old retiree now enjoying fly fishing and swimming in the Hutt River. Out mountain biking today (10/10/16) saw this white fluid from a culvert feeding into Bulls Run Stream, thence 50m into Hutt R. Coming from house building area at very end of Riverstone Dr, Upper Hutt. Attached photo. Also extremely concerned at the ongoing degradation of the nation's fresh water and the dodgy efforts to stop it, and the inept governance setting wading standard for water quality. Must be a red herring proposal! What are they hiding?
Gavin	Mcnaughton	Im a family man 3 children.i used to enjoy swimming in most rivers as a kid an drinking from some.i want my kids to enjoy these things too.
Vivienne	Anderson	This generation of leaders has a responsibility to protect the health of our waterways for future generations. The idea that filthy waterways are inevitable shows short-term thinking and a profound lack of vision.
Yachal	Upton	Born and raised in the Nelson region, I have watched even our local streams degrade; heavily effected by upstream dairy activity leading to runoff and sedimentation. This caused almost complete destruction of native eel, koura, and fish populations. I also still have the blessing of access to pristine alpine streams, both back home in the Nelson region, and around my new home; Wellington. I know the contrast, and I know what level of universal water quality I aspire to for my children. Would you allow large number of livestock, or polluting runoff of any kind in your swimming pool? I think not.. This is far more than a swimming pool at stake. This is our nation, our ecosystems, our taonga.
Georgina Titheridge	Titheridge	I'm a 31 year old from Christchurch, and can't imagine a world where my family can no longer enjoy this beautiful country and it's rivers. It would be absolutely heartbreaking.
Phoebe	Wilton-Stuart	I'm a nineteen year old student from Hawkes Bay and I want to be able to take pride in the words 'clean green New Zealand' and improve our quality of life by conserving our rivers and lakes rather than watching them deteriorate throughout my lifetime.
Christine	Jorgensen	My grandchildren deserve to have clean, fresh, abundant water as do theirs! As do yours too actually !
Mary Ellen	Warren	During a recent stay at QE Health in Rotorua, I watched as many international visitors came to check out Lake Rotorua. I hope they went home thinking New Zealand lived up to its 100% pure image
Carolyn Hopa	Hopa	I'm a 54 year old Maori living on our Waikato dairy farm. I am Tainui descent and actively participate in riparian planting and environmental restoration projects, including projects that assist in cleaning up the Waikato river, which was returned to the Tribe and is a environmental embarrassment. My children, grandchildren and all future generations deserve clean water as a legacy!
Heather	Blissett	47 single mum of 4. We love the outdoors. Cant even swim with kids and dogs in river in summer
Phillippa Martin	Martin	I am 63 and a grandmother with three grandchildren growing up to enjoy the same river as I did - the Waikawa in the Horowhenua. We produce raw milk from our farm and value clean food from a clean environment.
Julie Burns	Burns	The essential protection of our water for future generations is a solemn duty of you as Government.
Stephen	Casey	As a 59 year old married man of 37 year's with 3 grow up kids two married and one in a partnership with 5 grandchildren, it's not safe to take them too our rivers and our local lake takes it's water from a polluted river. Can't walk my dog or take my grandchildren to the river out of fear of death because of toxic algie blooms in summer . Unfortunately I will be long gone like our river, before our water is safe again.
Michael	Gaastra	I'm a 26 year old pākehā from the banks of te Waikato - a little city called Kirikiriroa (Hamilton). I grew up swimming in this river and over the years the health risks involved have been increasingly pu into question. And leisure is one thing - but as I see NZ's fresh water reSSources being sold off to overseas investors with next to no return to NZers in parrallel to the systematic degradation of our local water supplies... It relly makes me wonder who our ministers represent.
Crispin	Balfour	I am a 61 year old keen trumper and swimmer of Maori and British descent who emigrated to New Zealand because it stood for values I cherished: Fairness, equality, ecological mindfulness, clean air, clean water, clean oceans.
Jack	Woodward	Sadly these no longer seem to be important to this government, but it is not too late to change.
Paul	Clark	I'm a 90 year old retired engineer from Auckland. My late wife Mary and I tramped all over NZ and swam and bathed in beautiful streams and rivers wherever we went. I want my 14 grandchildren to be able to have the same experience. I attach a picture of Mary relaxing beside a bush stream in the Kaimais.
Sharyn Broni	Broni	I am a New Zealander living in London and I frequently visit my family back home. I also want to return when I retire to a country that has clean lakes and rivers. This government position makes a mockery of NZ Tourism's 100% Pure boast. I am appalled that safe for wading is regarded as a standard.
Tanya	Cumberland	I am a mum and a concerned citizen. All people should be able to swim in clean rivers in NZ now and into the future.
Jane	Moodie	I'm a 71 year old pakeha woman(now urban based) who helped to plant 15,000 trees on our riparian land on the Awhitu Peninsula over the last 20years in order to try and uplift the mana and wairua of the awa and whenua. We need to do a lot more of this.
Pat	Baskett	I am a 72 year old grandmother of 6 and I want my grandchildren and their children to be able to enjoy clean swimmable rivers and lakes as I did when I was young. Furthermore I want to ensure tha our precious wildlife also has clean water.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
marnie	kent	I'm a 48 year old Consultant from Christchurch and I believe it is my child's right to have clean water and for her children and grandchildren. Polluted water has a snow ball effect on people's health as well flora and fauna. No amount of money can buy back fresh water. Contaminants sink into the sediment, dirty water turns water turbid, particles in the water absorb heat, warm water kills fish and other aquatic life. Is this the world we want to leave for our children? Governments of the day think short term gain which has detrimental impacts on long term outcomes of environmental impacts. The people of the day are the voice for the future, not one person or a few people.
Deborah	Tobin	I'm a 33 year old early childhood Teacher and mother of 2. My fondest childhood memories are of swimming in the river and I believe this is something every generation should be able to enjoy. I also believe it's vital we protect our natural water supplies.
ken	keys	I belong to Guardians of the Aquifer in H.B. and we have been fighting for Water Protection at all levels..be it stopping Fracking.....resisting over-stocking.....demanding more research into our precious aquifers...challenging the export of free water to China while our own drinking and recreation waters are being polluted. The groundswell is growing as witnessed by the local Council voting rebellion where the majority of development proponents has been overturned and the new Regional Council will have a majority of Water-protection voices.
Ross	Chapman	
Jillian Sullivan	Sullivan	I'm a 59 year old writer and grandmother living in the Ida Valley, Central Otago. I love to swim and spend time in the Manuhirika River with my family. We need to safeguard our rivers and ecosystems for all of us.
Sinead	Jenkins	I'm a mother of two young boys and I want them to grow up fishing and swimming in clean rivers.
Deb	Paulson	We will end up a third world country rated water very soon . The government needs to force the reduction of dairy cows on farms. The run off is polluting new Zealanders water at a alarming rate. This is unexceptable considering how far away from other countries new Zealand is. Dairy farming is not nor ever been the back bone of new Zealand. Sheep farming was.
Angela	Markham	I'm 38 years old, when I was a child we could swim in almost every river close to us. Today we can't. This is issue is so important. Our river waters should not be contaminated for any reason. For the government not to save this precious commodity is absolutely abhorrent. We are custodians of this environment so it can be left for future generations to come.
joy	hodson	The state of our rivers is bad enough , we should be cleaning it up not making it worse. Do the right thing by the land and stop this now.
Latasi	Koro	I am a young Pacific adult, well aware of the huge impact that our environment has on our health. Investing in clean water means an investment in a healthier future for all New Zealanders. C'mon government, don't let us down.
Jane	Sinclair	I'm a 54 year old artist from Masterton, living on the banks of the Ruamahanga River. We love living next to the river and my boys and their friends have spent their childhood enjoying the swimming, fishing and bird watching. It has been a great educational and healthy way to bring up the children, and build their confidence around water. My youngest son has now gone on to study Outdoor Education and guess what his favourite activity is? River kayaking !
Peter Nicholas	Nicholas	I am a retired Senior Lecturer [The University of Auckland] who is, after visiting the South Island recently, extremely concerned with how the Government has encouraged the intensification of farming [dairying] in Canterbury. This can only lead to pollution of waterways in that area as has happened where such farming is carried out in the North Island.
Jacqui	Miles	Aotearoa is a beautiful country and I'm so lucky to live here. I grew up near Whangamata and I'd love children today to be able to swim in the rivers that my siblings and I did growing up.....clean and fresh water.
Lucy	Lamb	I'm an 85 -year-old with an extended family who all enjoy our beautiful mountains and rivers and I want these precious things to be unsullied for future generations to enjoy.
Louisa Yockney	Yockney	
Julie	Jane	
Deborah	Mainwaring	I am 67-yr-old former instructor who came to the Eastern Bay of Plenty 30 years ago with my husband and small children from the UK and USA. We were shocked to find that clean,green New Zealand had rivers used for industrial waste and that the license to pollute was issued for 15 to 25 year stretches by our regional councils. The lack of protection for precious waterways has only got worse over the years and we find this a woeful testament to governmental and environmental mismanagement and disdain. It must stop. Clean up our rivers for the sake of our people -- which is the best profit you could make in the longrun. Don't let us see our Rangitaiki River in this state, ever again. And then do something about The Black Drain of the Tarawera River, for heaven's sake!
carolyn-rae searle		Swimable' should be the absolute minimum standard allowable.
Kathryn	Beatson	Our whanau has lived beside this beautiful spot on the Motueka river for over 100 years. We need to preserve this tonga for future generations. The quality of the clear waters attracts people from all over the world and therefore pumps money into our economy. Letting standards slip would not only jeopardise our beautiful waterways but also our tourism industry and our clean green image.
Liz	Hibbs	I live in town where volunteers take care of our waterways, working to clean them up and keep them healthy. But in the country, where the water should be cleaner and teeming with life, the rivers and streams are sick and dying. It's an outrageous situation and it's not good enough for us today or for our children tomorrow. We need standards that protect our environment - not its polluters.
Gilian	Clark	Retired engineer, disappointed in the extent of pollution affecting the streams and lakes, and the government inaction in general. This may help to elicit some support to the case for action and start the process of remediation.
George	Harper	i really feel that our rivers are so precious and under such threat. We can live without meat and milk but not without water. We must consider future generations.
Caitlin Emms	Emms	I am a 29 year old mother and I want my son to be able to swim in the rivers like I did when I was a kid
Angela	Hoskins	We cannot drink money. Please invest in ecologically sustainable economy. The future is in our water, in our air, in our soil. Please use the power you have for betterment. Like you said you would when we elected you. To Help and Serve.
Andy	Colwell	

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Bridget	Gibb	We grew up never thinking about the safety or cleanliness of water. How in such a short time can you have allowed NZ waters to have become so filthy. It isn't just people affected, the land and the creatures cannot survive without clean water. The government's lack of standards and of action is a disgrace and an embarrassment. The water and land gives you life too and your life is dependent on it's health. It cannot be treated as our dirty dumping ground any longer.
Helena	Fierlinger	I am a 68-year-old grandmother, and it is very important to me to leave a legacy of clean water to our children and grandchildren. My generation were able to enjoy clean, unpolluted water to fish and swim in, it is our duty to leave the same to the future generations. It is a very simple principle, I feel a bit embarrassed to have to explain it.
Adam	Shand	I'm a 43 year old white, male, IT consultant who is looking at a change to farming as a career. Our water is literally our life. If we want to have healthy families and communities we have to have healthy waterways. It's essential.
Alex	Stone	I'm an artists based on Waiheke Island. I thin the state of New Zealand's fresh waterways is deplorable. In less than a generation, we have gone for fresh clean water - and an expectation of this - to lowland rivers that are essentially toxic livestock effluent drains. This is a failure of government of the highest order, and a legacy no-one can be proud of. Right now we need to implement policies that will lead to all rivers in New Zealand being of a swimmable standard.
E	Boonen	I have four children growing up and becoming contributing citizens of New Zealand. I know that they are inheriting a place unworthy of them. In our lifetime we have experienced the decline of our natural environment which has been willingly squandered for economic purposes, but worse still the profits no longer secure a future for New Zealanders instead it continues to finance profit for global conglomerates. I am ashamed of our government and the political choices which have allowed this to form our present situation. Stop the destruction before it is too late.
Katie	Obmoser	I am a 37 year old professional mother of two young children who deserve the right to clean water. Shame on a government who does not do everything it's power to keep new zealand rivers and lakes pristine. For the wild life, for the people of New Zealand, visitors and for a future with hope, beauty and respect.
Kate Taptiklis	Taptiklis	
Bridget	Winstone	It is time for the government to take some very positive action to save and restore our waterways to the pristine lakes and rivers that they were not so long ago. Don't be the government that let present and future generations down by allowing business to ruin what is so special about New Zealand. Act now before it is too late.
Paul	Sotiriou	
Silvia	Cipres	
casey	keen	im a 35yr old mech engineer who loves our country. lets strive to keep this planet/country amazing/pure to totally enjoy everything it has to offer
Judy	Lamont	I am a pakeha female, 78 years of age and clearly remember our childhood. Being able to go to any river and safely have fun to frolick and swim without having to watch out for signs saying 'not safe for swimming' or whatever. We could also use the same river water for our parents to boil the kettle lunch. The fact that our descendents do not have the same ability to do as we did is a disgrace to how succesive governments have failed to keep our water clean and retain something that we are advertising as Green NZ when it clearly is not!!
Nita	Gardiner	I am 67 years old and the eldest of nine children. The beach, lakes and rivers were our families way of life over those years on most weekends. Picnics, swimming, fishing, white baiting and shell gathering. The Manawatu River, Lake Horowhenua, the Hokio Stream and many other streams in the Horowhenua Region are too polluted to swim in let alone fish in. All this pollution washes up onto our beaches. Horowhenua is not the only region to have this problem. It seems most rivers, lakes and waterways throughout New Zealand are now polluted either by point source discharges from towns and cities sewage and storm water outlets or non point discharges from dairy farms, market gardens etc. All of this has to stop. This has to come from central government. Money from central government needs to be spent on helping every council up and down this country with updating their infrastructures. Sewage systems need to go to land-based and drinking water needs high priority. E and D grading is not good enough. We all deserve far better. All waterways, rivers and lakes to be swimmable. NOT wadeable. I am a NZ kiwi and love my country. We should be leading the way on all environmental issues. I have worked in the tourism industry for 31 years now and our clean green image that we portray to the world is paramount to our industries and our exports in NZ. It gives us the leading edge. I am asking you to please listen to the people and to care about our future generations. I want my grandchildren to have what I had as kids and to be able to swim in clean water just as I did when I was young.
Mihi	Totoro	I am a 53 year young maori woman from Ngati Porou me Ngati Tuwharetoa and the rivers that I used to swim as a child is not fit to swim in anymore and that is sooooo sad.
Jan	Rivers	I'm a Wellington librarian and I've enjoyed swimming in and walking by New Zealand's beautiful rivers. My concerns are that once polluted aquifers do not recover. Last summer I saw dry river beds in Canterbury that I had never seen before and NZ now has rivers that no longer reach the sea.
Miles	Rushmer	I'm a flyfishing guide....please protect our wonderful rivers and lakes!
Doug	Dillaman	I moved to New Zealand from America twelve years ago after visiting and falling in love with its unspoilt beauty. I love swimming in our oceans, lakes, and waterways, and it breaks my heart that with every day it becomes more and more dangerous, and that 100% pure is considered nothing more than a marketing slogan.
jenny	hand	I have worked to promote health and enjoyed my holidays in clear lovely water and caught fish I could eat . Why can't my grandchildren have the same ?
Nicholas	Carman	I am a 40 year father of two. I want my children to be able to swim in creeks and rivers in New Zealand.
glenn	benmayor	Clean up our rivers and lakes. What a legacy we are leaving our children !!!
David	Gillespie	In two different year in two different rivers in the bush of South Canturbury we have been invaded by cattle beast ploughing through the river. We were shocked and quite fearfull. No farmers we to be seen.
Helen	Davies	I am 58 yr old GP from Dunedin. I went fishing in the upper Taieri a few summers ago. The whole plain stank of cowshit. I'd hate to think what the trout may have tasted like. The local swimming hole near Waipiata was deemed unswimmable.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Rachel	Benmayor	I am so sad my children and grandchildren can't swim in the rivers like I used to do with no fear of illness. Let alone how this effects our environment and bird and fish life. New Zealand the eco conscious country ??? I don't think so.
Sarah	Casey	I am a 44 year old mother and want our future secured for all to live and enjoy water/rivers/lakes. No compromise should risk the future for everyone because of greed and ignorance today.
corinne	jordan	
James	Muir	I am love being able to swim in our rivers and my daughter does too but increasingly I find we can only swim in river that are in large areas of native forest. It does not need to be this way. We have a duty to protect our natural heritage. It will take so little, only a tiny amount of effort to protect and enhance all our freshwater. The question is do you, the government have the guts to stand up to farming lobby groups and say that it is time to do the right thing and make our waterways safe to swim in, make them healthy and full of fish, make them a national and global asset. This is the time government. Lead us towards a brighter future.
NINA	LARISCH-HAIDER	I am a young and 75 years on this planet. I love water, I love to swim and I love nature. Water can refresh us and to drink out of a river is quite exciting. I want to see all lakes and rivers of such a water quality that everybody can swim and drink from the water.
Rob	Fergusson	indigenous fish species have rights too - water that is only wadable is also water in which native species are likely to become extinct - we have no right to extinguish entire species because we are too slack to maintain freshwater standards - extinction is forever - dairy profit is for one season.
Bryan Ward	Ward	I'm a 42 year old born and bred kiwi male who has fond memories of playing and swimming in the creeks and rivers that surrounded our West Auckland farm. I'm disgusted at the thought the these same activities could now pose a hazard to the health of current and future kiwi kids should they wish to enjoy the same activities in their local creeks and rivers. I believe all natural water bodies in NZ should be clean and safe for swimming. This fundamental freedom should not be traded away for corporate profits.
Makere Chapman	Chapman	
Buddy Rennie	Rennie	
Bernadette Clarke	Clarke	
Evie Corrigan	Corrigan	
Tania	Noa	I am of maori & european descent & know the government don't care whoever I am, I care & fought to survive their colonisation & geneside attempts, fought their supplies of drugs & alcohol as well as their brainwashing assimilation through religion. This is nothing new Maori & all other indigenous people's across the world who have been subjected to these ways ever since greedy self centred people moved in sucking up all the resources like deprived, starved, neglected rejections of society who never had the love therefore hate and desparation is all they know. The poor poor rich people those top 6 or 10 % who wollow in money wealth that won't ever buy true happiness & true deep love. As some of us know you have to learn to love yourself first. Live in your own skin & like the person you see in the mirror, gee they must see ugliness.
Anna	Keeling	Hello, I'm a 47 year old mother and mountain guide. I used to compete in the Coast to Coast and you could drink out of the Waimakariri anywhere along it's length. We have great rivers which deserve significant protection. I've seen many polluted waterways overseas and once a river is polluted, it's hard to undo. Clean water is a massive asset for NZ. Please help to keep our waterways clean, not just swimmable
Len	Barron	I am 65 years old .growing up we were always swimming in the rivers .and this goverment has ruined our rivers.they just don't care.
Alethea Shackleton	Shackleton	My name is Alethea I am 40 I am female I am single and childless and unemployed but educated and i engage with nature daily to give me a sense of well being and purpose. I also am a foodie and look for wild foods. I would like our rivers and lakes and streams to be in a healthy state, in their natural equilibrium, so they can be the multi leveled resource and thriving ecosystems the are meant to be. For their beauty, for the life they give and house - im talking non human. as far as I see it we have as humans impact on so much, and we need to take responsibility for the level of demise and thus neglect we have imposed on the world around us. Water is life. With out big brains and interventions and adaptations, we are but the guardians and the other 'life' we effect have really suffered abuse - these precious life force systems - as we have such power to dominate - we have harmed them dearly. I want to see our rivers and streams (and a lot more) restored to their nature thriving states, so that all life and and as a result of this our own will thrive.. and we function symbiotically within nature. I want a present and a long term future with swimming, fishing, shore line food gathering and all forms of out doorsie nature engagements by the lake and riverside as long as to those ecosystems they may mutually benefit and we 'all' thrive. Kia ora Katoa.
John	Potter	I am a 70yo grandfather. When I was younger, I frequently swam in streams and water-holes that have now become polluted. I am distressed that my grand-children cannot at the moment do the same, and feel that Government policy forms part of the problem in resolving this issue.
Yazmin	Todd	John Potter
Miria	Stephens	I am 46 years old and mother of 8 children, 9 mokopuna. The water is our life source, there is no substitute for water, therefore treasure and look after it. I live in Taupo where the Waikato river starts water quality should start at the beginning.
Sam Hodges	Hodges	I am a 36 year old primary school teacher and I want my kids and myself to be able to swim in the lakes and rivers like when I was a child.
Ron	Lopert	I'm a 63-year-old retired general medical practitioner living in Tauranga. I have witnessed the general progressive decline in environmental health due to the human impact of human economic activity. It is time that we acknowledged the paramount importance of environmental health not only for branding for NZ in matters of trade and economic terms, but also in terms of our dependence on healthy ecosystems for our very existence. Some countries understand and acknowledge this and afford legal protection to their environment as a legal entity. I would like to see governments being proactive in legislating to protect the health of our streams and rivers. The pendulum or the balance between economic/job activity and environmental protection has swung too far in favour of farmers' economic interests at the expense of our environment. This has seen an unacceptable drop in waterways' quality.
Kathie	Bamber	I took my grandsons to our local river, the Tutaekuri, twice during these just finished school holidays. We went to two different spots on the river. They had a marvellous time playing about in the safe outer flow (we've had a lot of rain here in Hawke's Bay recently and the main flow was still running cloudy). They're 12 and 10 years of age so I didn't have to be in there with them (thank goodness! Too cold for this granny!) but as I sat on the river stones watching them have so much fun, what kept coming to mind was the National Government's proposed standard of declaring river standards no better than fit for wading!! Fit for Wading -what sort of standard is that? My grandsons want to play in the river and swim in it when it is clear from any rainfall. I don't need to include a photo of myself. I'm like any other grandmother who wants her grandchildren to enjoy the fun of playing and swimming in New Zealand's rivers.Come on,National government. What do you think you're playing at !!
Phoebe	Taptiklis	I am a 44 year old mum from Kapiti and I want waterways to improve from the terrible state they have gotten into. As the Maori say, we are the caretakers not the owners.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Gillian	Rose	New Zealand prides (and sells) itself on our clean green image and this is hypocrisy when our rivers are not even swimmable. This should be every New Zealander's birthright - to be able to enjoy an unpolluted natural environment.
Tracie Pile	Pile	I'm a mother and a secondary school teacher at a decile one school in South Auckland. I want our kids to enjoy swimming in clean rivers on a hot day, without getting sick. That is NOT too much to ask. He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata. What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.
Cameron	Forbes	Our local river in Nelson is the Maitai which has been steadily degraded due to silting from forestry run-off over the past several years. We love Sunday hole, a popular swimming spot and are in it 3 seasons of the year. Recently however the algae in the hole has been getting increasingly worse, to the extent that there is now algae which is toxic to dogs and the whole environment is becoming less pleasant for all. It's important to the fabric of our town to keep this treasure for use for future generations,
John	Baine	I am tired of individuals, businesses and governments who believe they have the right to treat our water however they like. Intensive farming MIGHT, and that is a big might, be good for NZ's economy but it is not good for the health of our waterways. The signs are everywhere...just ask the people of Havelock North. Without clean water, we have nothing.
carrie houlahan	houlahan	
Richard Sutton	Sutton	I am a 48 year old Geologist and white water kayaker living in Christchurch. I grew up swimming and paddling on rivers and lakes throughout New Zealand, and drinking from mountain streams & rivers. I love getting out in my kayak on a pristine river surrounded by nature, watching the rocks slide beneath my kayak through crystal clear water, to have the refreshing splash of water on my face as I run rapids and to gulp down mouthfuls of cool, clean water straight from the river. This is still possible in some places but is becoming increasingly rare. I've worked in mining and am well aware of the choices that get made regarding the environment, but the important thing to remember is that the environment isn't something outside that we can just ignore if we wish, it is where we live & what we need to survive. Ignore that at your peril. www.deltaprime.net.nz/whitewater
Camilla	Dadson	How can we market ourselves as a clean green country when we can't safely swim in our rivers? We need to clean them up, quickly.
Robyn	Du Chateau	I am a grandmother and mother and want my whanau to be able to swim in rivers. I grew up on the banks of the Akatarawa river and spent endless summers in its water.
Stu	Paterson	As a born and raised Canterbury who has fished and swam in the braided. Rivers all my life I am disgusted at the actions of local and central government for allowing such intensive dairy farming on the Canterbury plains. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to see the damage the pollution from this industry is doing to the waterways and underground water tables. The allowed water take for irrigation is beyond a joke. How can our braided Canterbury rivers survive as the lower and more polluted they become. I have seen first hand how the life is sucked out of them. The lower the flow the less food is available and more the water temperature rises above its natural limit. It's not just the fishing that suffer it's also people wading and swimming that will suffer due to the increase in poisonous eelgrass. Short term natural gain for long term loss is a disgrace. We are no longer a clean green country. Wake up politicians and save our rivers from commercial rape
Jenny	Andrew	Give us back clean rivers. Clean up our rivers. I need to drink clean water from rivers and streams when tramping in the back country.
		New Zealand rivers need cleaning up
		New Zealand has a global reputation for being a clean, green country and with a small population of 4 million people, it is unacceptable that any government or local council should be allowing freshwater standards to drop.
		Every river in New Zealand should be considered swimmable both for human beings and animals living in our rivers alike. New Zealand should not be treating its precious natural resources as if they are infinite and renewable.
Mei	HURRELL	Time for New Zealand to demonstrate that it deserves its Clean, Green image!
Carla	Drake	I am shocked at the state of water contamination here in our beautiful country, which is advertised all over the world as a Clean, Green Country. These days that statement is not true and our government is deluding itself and us NZers and our overseas guests to maintain otherwise. How much longer can this lie continue? We need a more caring government and the sooner the better, before we have other disasters like in Hastings/Havelock North and elsewhere!
Livne	Ore	I'm incredibly lucky; I am currently a student studying at Victoria University of Wellington, and I've had the privilege of learning about the environment through my courses.
Sue	Wilson	New Zealand markets itself as clean and green, but the reality is that this is a myth, and when it comes to cases such as this, more needs to be done. We must take pride in our land and uphold stricter regulations in order to preserve it for the future, for ourselves as well as for future generations.
Kether		I am 64 yr old NZ European living in the Bay of Plenty. It is obvious that we need to care for our water at the very least. I want my grandchildren to inherit clean rivers just as my generation had.
Suzanne	Pierce	I'm a 45 year old father and keen outdoor enthusiast. I would like our waterways to not only be as clean as when I was a child, but cleaner. There is no excuse not to strive for the highest standards of healthy waterways.
John Marshall	Marshall	
Martha	Vui	The present National Govt of NZ is the most irresponsible ever, all they are concerned about is profits to their corporate masters, its time to think about all New Zealanders, and us/them first.
Caroline	Robertson	I'm a 34 year old architect and mother of two. I want to be represented by a government that ensures that, in pursuing our own quality of life, we don't irreparably take away from other people's and animals' right to clean and supportive resources.
Ellen	Worthington	I am a 25 year old who enjoys enjoying our waterways, living in Christchurch and I believe swimmable lakes, rivers and streams are important to New Zealand's identity in so many ways! Pic taking my dog for a swim, Lake Hawes ☺
Bev	Symed	I have lived in NZ for 27 years...rurally...I am shocked at how the environment has deteriorated
Gerard Kelly	Kelly	I'm a 51 year old arborist /community planting volunteer co-ordinator working with our community to restore biodiversity and native plants. When I was a kid in Upper Hutt we would run through the hills at Maidstone Park up into the bush for the whole day. We would drink the water from the streams when we were thirsty, none of this buying water in plastic bottles (in fact I remember as a kid someone joking about doing that i.e. you'd be rich if you bottled that water and could sell it...but who would buy it!). I also want my kids to be able to experience drinking from a stream without the fear of contaminants...is that day past?
Bernadette	Cornille	I'm a 57 year old who was brought up on a farm and spent a lot of time mucking around and swimming in rivers. I lived on the Waikato and we caught lots of flounder at the mouth. It is important to me that my children are able to catch fish and swim in any river. We should leave our environment in as good a state, if not better than we have had it. We need to treasure our fresh water.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Marnie	Reid	Hello, I'm a 54 year old mother from Queenstown and I truly can't believe what is happening to our beautiful land and rivers,WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!?!, We all know water is life, and you are talking about letting our rivers etc become even more degraded?? This is seriously insane, someone in national please wake up
Wiki	D	I'm 29 years old and basically grew up asome a water rat.I want my kids to have the same experience i had and that is to swim in clean rivers full stop
pedro domingo	domingo	you know why
Joanna	Bates	There is no need for our once-pristine waters to be anything other than just that. For our government to hope for 'wade-able' is no hope at all - there's nothing clean, green or acceptable in this message of underachievement. It's time to clean up our act and restore health to our once-thriving waterways.
Lucy	Holloway	When I was growing up you could travel New Zealand and know that if you stopped at a river that it would be clean to swim in. It is a travesty if we do not protect these clean and fresh waterways for future generations and for the sake of our tourism industry.
Emma	Francis	I am a Pakeha woman in my 40's and I live in Wellington working as a counsellor. In summer our family likes to go for swims in rivers and lakes around the north island. We especially love the swimming hole at Kaitoke.
Marianna Tiopira	Tiopira	I am a 55 year old woman of Te Upokoiri, Hine Pare, Ngaati Whiti, Honomookai, Hine Ure, Hine Rau, Ngati Kere, Rangitaane, Hine Taapora -descent - I have mana whenua in all of my tribal lands. work in Koohanga Reo and I want my grandchildren, great, grandchildren and their descendants to have the same opportunities that I had growing up... to be able to go to our creeks, rivers and streams and fish for crayfish (fresh water), eels, freshwater shell fish (kakahi), catch whitebait and gather watercress and other foods from those same streams as I was able to when I was a child. I want them to experience the wonderful animal life that lived in these places, the pukeko, the kotare, the ruru, the kokako, the kereru, tiwaiwaka, weka that I saw first hand.
Robert	Bain	We all deserve better!
John&Denise	Rogers	
kyle	tainsh	31 year old kiwi, i want fresh water to hunt along and a place that my kids can fish, and eat the fish they catch in the future
Diane	Grant	I am a grandmother deeply concerned about the future facing our children and grandchildren in so many areas. Perhaps the most important by far is the state of our environment, witness the recent cases of contaminated water supplies. Given the vital importance to life itself of a supply of clean water, this issue must be given urgent attention.
David	Rees	I am a 61 year old registered Social Worker in Whanganui. I have been resident in this rohe for the past 34 years and am vitally interested in the health of the Awa because it is the very essence of Whanganui and all we hold dear. As a Pakeha privileged to be welcomed into this community I acknowledge those who came before me and their descendants being the peoples of Atihaunui-a-Paparangi. As kaitiaki of the land and waterways Tangata Whenua in the past and present know how vital the health of the Awa is to the wellbeing of the community for a multitude of reasons. Havin raised 4 children here who also enjoyed swimming, fishing and surfing in our beautiful river I want my moko and all of us to continue to benefit from clean waterways.
Helen	HICKFORD	I'm a grandmother and I'm finding the level of care regarding our rivers and the sea to be very much below what I interpret as being clean and green. It's just a con isn't it.
Edward	Newborn	I'm 64 and I have been fortunate enough over the years to swim in clean waterways. I want the same for future generations. It is simply shortsighted of any Government not to feel that this is important. Clean water is a natural right that all humans should have. Let's clean up rivers and waterways and set a standard that the rest of the world look up to.
Yolanda Cholmondeley -Smith	Cholmondeley -Smith	We're blessed with so much water in this country and it's our responsibility to show our respect and gratitude by looking after it - for ourselves and our survival and for our future. Thank you.
Miriam Clark	Clark	
Tomas	Marin	
James	Crompton	New Zealand used to have a clean, green image and we were proud of it. Does no-one care anymore? You have a duty to look after our natural heritage. Don't shirk on it!
emily	sweden	
Sue Alderman	Alderman	Im a 64 year old grandmother who wants clean swimmable waterways for my grandchildren.
		I'm a 44 year old European IT team lead from Auckland. I have grown up in this country and love the great outdoor opportunities that it provides. I care for our country and want it to be clean and beautiful for generations to come. I believe it is cheaper to prevent damage to our waterways now, rather than to repair the damage later.
Michael	Treadgold	Let's make NZ 100% pure a reality, not just a poster for the tourists!
Just	Abrahams	I am a 66 year grandmother of 13 . My grandkids love playing in our streams and lakes. I want their grandkids to enjoy them too. My overseas guests marvel at our
		I'm a 51 year old Pākehā mum of three sons, who adore swimming, alongside our home, on the Whanganui Awa.
Sandie	Roach	My family should not risk illness by swimming in our beautiful awa.
Kirsten	Miller	
Vittoria	Colonna	Rivers are our life blood. Why should people make money polluting them, while we pay the cost. That we can not swim in the majority of our rivers is unacceptable.
Flynn	Letford	Save our rivers!!!
Louna	Wiese	I'm a 54 year old university-educated mother, who are concerned about my children and the environment. Only as responsible people can we keep our children and the environment healthy. We only have one chance at that. If we mess up, we can damage the health of both permanently. Do not take chances!!!
Mark	Westaway	
Graeme	Johnston	I'm 46 years old from Frasertown, Hawkes Bay. I have returned to my home after 15 years in Australia. Upon my return I was shocked at the state of our rivers. Rivers I used to swim and fish in are discolored, murky and no longer clear. Please help them, water is precious!!!

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Sarah	Laing	One of my greatest pleasures as a child was catching frogs in the local creek and swimming in water holes. It saddens me to think that our rivers are becoming hostile to frogs and children alike. I want New Zealand to be the clean green place the world imagines us to be, not a polluted country with a fake green veneer.
Geoff	Lye	I am a 65 year old Cantabrian and really peeved off at the water quality of our rivers and streams where I use to swim as a kid.
Moana	Kake	It is not right that industrial farming has taken that right away from today's youth at popular holiday places where everyone used to swim without a care in the world as to whether it is poluted or not.
Jean	McKinnon	I am a retired development aid worker. For many years I worked in places where the rivers were the centre of life and yet were unsafe to use and water borne illness was common. Clean, safe rivers and lakes are our birth right. I grew up playing and swimming in rivers whose waters were pure and clean. We have the chance to restore that heritage, and we must make it happen.
Peter	de Boer	I'm a 45 year Scottish/Kiwi, who has lived in Wellington for the last 9 years. I am a passionate fly fisherman and am concerned about the apparent lack of sustainability in the relationship between irrigation and river quality. The imbalance is clear for all to see on the Ruamahanga river in the Wairarapa.
Mary B Morrison	Mary B Morrison	There is no excuse for New Zealand not to have clean rivers with water that we can all drink and swim in. I am appalled to think that their demise is such a recent phenomena. They have not been ruined by any Industrial Revolution or proximity to an ancient densely populated city. They have been trashed in recent time on our watch. I don't care who is responsible, we now need to reverse the process. And to do that we need to have the political will. I lay the blame at the feet of our politicians for their lack of courage to do the right thing. I ask them as our elected representatives to make that decisions and and institute the mechanisms that will secure our rivers' water quality and vitality.
Amy		37 years, teacher and counsellor, currently not living in NZ. Am continually disgusted at the way the NZ government is failing to protect our environment for current and future generations, and places more importance on money than on the health of people, flora and fauna, and the environment - ultimately our survival on this planet.
Donna	Head	
Ingrid	Christensen	I'm a 46 year old New Zealander living overseas at present and if the government continues to allow the selling of our water, as well as poisoning of our rivers and our land for the short-sighted gain of a few I very much doubt I will be able to continue as an ambassador for New Zealand as there will be little to recommend for tourists to go and experience on our shores as flora and fauna die off and we are left with a legacy which will be very difficult if not impossible to reverse
Dee	Gulliver	I want the streams to be safe for all of us to swim in without infection risks. I love to tramp and am horrified at this current governments disregard of our beautiful environment.
Marilyn	Yurjevich	I am a grandmother and care deeply that future generations can swim in clean fresh waters in New Zealand, and that we can drink fresh water from clean aquifers.
Andrew	Toohey	Keep NZ clean and green.
Elisha		I am 31 years of age, my blood runs as English, Irish, Scottish and Maaori. In order for the future generations we must look after what looks after us. We all need fresh water, experiences and knowledge that help us sustain ourselves and our environment again for our future generations. Lets be real, the effects of this will only make people reliant and not independent, filling the pockets of some at the expense of everyone. Try asking the children their thoughts - after all they are the future and age doesn't play a big part in whats right, our children are pure, adults are tarnished.
Peter	Volker	As a retired consulting engineer I enjoy life and freedom in our beautiful New Zealand. My comment in regards to the water quality is that good water is an essential condition for healthy life. To compromise water quality in the belief that this may facilitate a better economy is shortsighted. The health of a civilisation is intimately connected with the quality of the water. Many historical examples show that poor water quality goes with a general state of decay. This is not what I want for New Zealand:
Rex Pocklington	Pocklington	Our rivers shud be fresh and natural as they were and swimmable. Our rivers are unswimmable and full of nitrate and cow shit and this is not good enuf!
Tony	Davis	I have spent the past forty years in tourism hospitality, this is one of the pivotal times where fixing our waterways is still achievable, in a few years maybe not I remember this discussion starting in the early 70's
Belinda	Studholme	I am a 47 year old, ecologist and mother, living in Auckland with my family. I love to take my children on river walks in the Waitakere Ranges. We spend our summer weekends swimming in these rivers. It is impossible not to be joyful when you jump into a clean river pool. I am sad that more families do not have access to clean rivers to swim in. We must aim to keep our rivers swimmable for our children and grandchildren to allow them to experience the joy of a river swim on a hot kiwi summers day.
Anne	Salmond	I am a mother, grandmother and a Professor at the University of Auckland. I want you to respect the wishes of Kiwis around New Zealand, and take care of our rivers, lakes, aquifers and harbours for future generations.
Anne	Kayes	I'm a woman of fifty with teenage kids who love the outdoors as much as I do. Let's keep our waterways healthy for our young people.
Greg	Dawes	I don't want to see any more towns whose water supplies have been poisoned as a result of environmental neglect.
sean	kearney	I would like to leave our country to my children in a condition that is clean and pristine. Our rivers provide places to swim and environments for wildlife.
Doreen	Fisher	Show us you value the trust placed in you by voters and act responsibly.
Kaja	Jungersen	I am an 87year old with Over 40 Grandchildren and Great grandchildren. I want each of them to enjoy our beautiful, God given, clean water such as I was able to when I was young. Kia ora I am a grandmother of two mokopuna and want them, and their children to be able to swim and play in rivers and waterways without fear of pollutants and toxins. We owe it to future generations to clean up our environment. Regardless of party politics, the governance responsibilities of MPs are paramount with regard to kaitiakitanga - conservation & care of our environment. This is a priority of New Zealand. Please take it seriously. Nga mihi
Andrew Ablett	Ablett	I am a 56 yr old hardworking tax paying Kiwi, i have watched the slow but devastating degradation of my local Canterbury rivers due to over water abstraction and intensive dairy pollution,if this is not halted or reversed soon it will be to late to save these birthrights for mine and all generations to come , the corporate greed at the expense of others must stop !!
Mary	Stevens	I am 71 and I look back to one of the best things of my childhood, playing and swimming in the river by our house. I want my grandchildren to be able to do the same.
Jon	Meredith	I want my descendants to be able to swim in and eat from clean rivers. I have witnessed the degradation of rivers I used to swim in.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Rosemary	Arnoux	I am seventy-three years old and live in Auckland with quite a big garden. I am 73 but still active. I speak French as well as English.
		I am very concerned about the lack of caring for the environment, also for the birds and other New Zealand creatures. What can be done to make the lakes and rivers fresh and healthy?
		As a 29 year old New Zealander who lives right next to the Opihi River in South Canterbury I am witness to the struggles it faces and damage it has suffered over the last few decades. The Opihi used to be known for its eels now we are lucky to see one - this is a cry for help! There is an obvious drop in fish numbers as a result of declining habitat condition and food source numbers dropping, highlighting a reduction of beneficial insect life. The river is vital habitat for numerous species of birds including the native teal and the endangered black beaked gull. BirdLife International has identified the Opihi as an Important Bird Area. As stewards for all of New Zealand's lakes and rivers we have a responsibility and accountability for their health. The Opihi is an ecosystem in crisis. Freshwater lakes and river are a valuable community resource with the potential to provide food - like water cress, eels and fish. I wish I could swim in this river during summer but the stress placed upon it, in part by dairy farms has meant the Opihi now suffers from toxic benthic cyanobacteria. A reduction in flow as a result of the Opuha Dam has compounded these issues. The river no longer receives a cleansing flush of water through it and the build-up of fertilizers and other harmful pollutants means the wildlife, flora and the community all suffer. 'Swimmable' must be the minimal standard for our waterways and should be part of a greater push to improve the health of all our freshwater lakes and rivers. This will have benefits beyond a local sphere - tourism is one of New Zealand's largest industries, the state of our waterways puts this multi-billion dollar industry in jeopardy. The 'green' image we are so eager to promote is being undermined by the condition of our waterways. Tourists will not react kindly to safety warnings. Our concern is genuine and warranted, the elected and all those sitting in Government have an obligation to make our freshwater lakes and rivers 'swimmable' and to put in place programs towards their greater recovery.
Alexis	Seaton-Sykes	
Henry Denham	Denham	I'm a 34 year old labourer from Christchurch and I'm not sure how we are going to explain our inaction to future generations when the evidence of our impact is so obvious. Are we going to say we were willing to trade your future for our own financial gain.
Jerrmy	West	Hi, I am a 61 year old doctor in South Auckland. I like tramping and rivers are a significant feature of the areas that we tramp in. I think they should be at least as clean as say 30 years ago. Surely this is an area that can be and should be improved by economic progress, otherwise what is the point of progress ?
Marcus Simmons	Simmons	I want our kids to be able to enjoy NZ rivers and beaches as we did when we were kids. Ignoring negative externalities is not an option.
Elaine	Shishmanian	As a 60 year old kiwi, originally from Kaikoura, I believe that every New Zealander has a right to access all waterways without fear of pollution from whatever cause. As much as having clean air to breathe, good water quality is of utmost importance. How can profits for the few come before quality of our waterways. Profits and greed seem to be more important, tell that to your grandchildren and their children. Yes once upon a time we could drink and swim in the water you would say, sorry about that comes a bit too late. Time for action is now!!!
Marion	Oeberg	Hey I'm 32years old and have grown up in Darfield, Canterbury and have just moved back to NZ after 7years of living in Sweden. I have two daughters and are so disappointed they can't swim in the rivers I did as a child. After living in Sweden I'm shocked by how badly NZ looks after its amazing environment. This needs to change fast!!
Alan McLean	McLean	I am 59 and I was brought up in a family environment where we had Family picnics by the river and through the swimming and playing in fresh water, learnt to respect what WAS known as Clean Green New Zealand. But we need to get back that clean safe environment and we need a Government to recognise how delicate our environment is. And to recognise it is in trouble. Please do not have a FRESH WATER STANDARD bench mark that leaves a stain on our skin and a burden on the Health system if we go swimming.
Bronwen Hurford	Hurford	I'm a 38 year old mother of two who grew up swimming in the rivers of the Canterbury plains. The thought of my children not being able to go near a river in this country - let alone swim in it without getting sick makes me so incredibly sad. I'd rather we have a clean green country than just a clean green marketing image. The water is such a hugely important part of New Zealander's lives - please don't sacrifice that just for the sake of some short term gain.
Hadas	Ore	
John	Checklry	
Fiona	del Bosco	I am a 63 year old farmer. I grew up in Nelson where I still live, and one of the greatest pleasures of my life has been swimming in our beautiful rivers. I have traveled widely around the world and know how precious clean rivers are. I was proud to come from a country that was unpolluted. But in my later life, my own country has caught up with the trashed environments you can find everywhere else. I can't believe that people here are so ignorant about their own impacts on our natural resources. It seems as though the push for economic growth no matter the consequences, has possessed a whole country and there has been no legislation to protect waterways, demonstrating that we have not learned the most simple lessons about sustainability. Fresh water is not an extravagance, it is a basic need for the health of every form of life. We allow natural water sources to degrade at our own peril. B8D2F
Hannah	Zwartz	I'm a 46 year old gardener from Kapiti Coast and I want our local river to be safe for my kids to swim and splash in
Noel	Kreegher	
Deryn	Menzies	I am 45, a music therapist and citizen of New Zealand who is smart enough to know that clean water is one of three priceless assets that we have in our little precious country. We all own the water and need to invest in keeping to the highest, freshest, drinkable standards as when I was a child.
valarie	eoss	
Charlie	Devenish	Kia ora, I'm a 35 year old male. I was born in Christchurch and now live in Wellington, working in the community sector. In my spare time I love to go tramping and one of the things I often talk about with my tramping mates is just how lucky we are to be able to drink water from the streams we cross. This is such a special thing and something that I would love my kids to be able to enjoy. Please ensure that the legislation that passes will preserve our waterways, rivers and lakes. They are the lifeblood of our country. Thank you, Charlie
Gretchen	Leuthart	Swimming in rivers is part of our heritage as Kiwis. I want my girls to experience this unique part of our culture like I have
Sue	Zee	I am a 38 year old first generation kiwi and have fond memories of swimming and floating down rivers on innertubes as a child and many more recent memories of having my own children enjoying their summers swimming in our local river. It would be very disheartening to have to teach the girls it is no longer safe to play and swim in our waterways and instead have to pay for them to learn water safety and play in a public chlorinated pool instead which of course comes with their own problems with skin allergies, cost, other unhygienic issues involved making this a much less desirable and very un-kiwi-like way to pass long hot summer days
Brian	Devitt	I am a 72 year old retiree who is passionate about preserving our environment for future generations. It's simple really, WATER = LIFE. Without water we all die! Help fix this problem now!

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Pam	Parsons	<p>We moved to New Zealand in 1988 to enjoy a clean green lifestyle. I offer the lyrics from Tom Lehrer's ditty called Pollution to elucidate my perspective in the hopes that New Zealand is not doomed to follow in the USA's footsteps:</p> <p>If you visit American city You will find it very pretty Just two things of which you must beware: Don't drink the water and don't breathe the air!</p> <p>Pollution, pollution They got smog and sewage and mud Turn on your tap And get hot and cold running crud.</p> <p>See the halibuts and the sturgeons Being wiped out by detergents Fish got to swim and birds got to fly But they don't last long, if they try</p> <p>Pollution, pollution You can use the latest toothpaste And then rinse your mouth With industrial waste</p> <p>Just go out for a breath of air And you'll be ready for medicare The city streets are really quite a thrill If the hoods don't get you, the monoxide will</p> <p>Pollution, pollution Wear a gas mask and a veil Then you can breathe As long as you don't inhale</p> <p>Lots of things there that you can drink But stay away from the kitchen sink The breakfast garbage that you throw into the bay They drink at lunch in San Jose</p> <p>So go to the city, see the crazy people there Like lambs to the slaughter They're drinking the water And breathing the air ..</p>
Chrissy	Hooker	I am 54 years old .. as a child I loved to swim in our rivers and lakes .. water is precious and ie essential to our existence .. we need our waterways to be swimmable not wadeable .. please protect our waterways and listen to the people of nz who you are meant to represent
John	Callen	I'm nearly 70 and came to NZ at 16. At that time I could swim team in and drink from any river in NZ. Not now. Let's not do a half-pie job on this. Demand all rivers revert to the Pure NZ ideal. No compromise. It can be done and we must make it so. Legislators are our employees. Please do as you're asked. My swimming hole is at risk. We care.
Alex Jacobsen	Jacobsen	<p>I cannot even express in words how angry the destruction of our ecosystem makes me.</p> <p>Our rivers are sanctuaries of diversity, filled with unique species which are and will continue to become extinct.</p> <p>A high quality of life means striving to keep the natural world in perfect condition. Every step taken to make the now easier at the cost of the future is a extremely unpalatable, it's like playing life in easy mode, it's a really pathetic direction to choose to take.</p> <p>There is no doubt the ministers in charge presently are directly responsible for the extinction of species, for their person was elected representatively because of traits which result in the situation our rivers find themselves in.</p> <p>I say this not because it makes things okay, that a majority of the voting population is fine with what is happening - that is plenty shameful in itself, but the real shame is that the ministers themselves enable themselves to wake up everyday and cause entire species to be gone forever. Not many things a human being can do are more shameful than representing the extinction of the beautiful astounding amazing life on this planet.</p> <p>I want to have people in parliament who represent taking the harder route in the short term for the benefit of the future rather than those who find pride in destroying billions of dollars of natural capita for a few dollars in the pocket today.</p>

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Taressa	Strong	I am a 38 year old woman and clean water ways are vital to our environment.
Kay	Murray	Our family swam in the Mataura river in Northern Southland most days in summer as a child. So did most of people in our small town. It was free, it was healthy and it was fun. I want future generations to be able to do the same.
Joanne	Grace	I Care about the environment. It's that simple!
Peter Broughton	Broughton	I'm a 52 year old man from Wellington city. A future of dirty rivers is not the NZ I want for the future and why my family came here in 1976. We don't have to have dirty rivers I say make NZ totally organic; and keep stock out of waterways.
Hanna	Benz	28 year old Pakeha female raised on Waiheke Island and currently living in Auckland, working in the mental health field
Robert	van Ruyseveldt	Our aim must be to achieve the highest possible standards of water quality and to stamp out all preventable pollution.
Samantha	Mayell	I am a 45 year old designer I can not believe the disgusting state of our country's water. It is so short sighted to be destroying the very thing that is essential to all of us.
Teresa	Scott	I have lived in Canterbury my whole life, I grew up swimming freely in our rivers and in just a short time I have seen them so degraded that I can no longer take my nephews swimming in the summer. I am disgusted that this has been allowed to happen in your watch and I urge you to act immediately to make our rivers safe again
Linda	Lucy	Hi, I'm a kiwi sonographer who returned from the UK to raise my children in a clean and healthy environment. If these standards are introduced we will return to the UK.
Kathryn	Docherty	I'm a 36 year old New Zealander living in Auckland, originally from Christchurch and I want our country to actually live up to its reputation of being clean and green and for my kids to enjoy clean rivers and lakes.
Juliet	Arnott	Kia ora, I'm a 42 year old female, a New Zealander, and I grew up swimming in beautiful fresh water in the Wakamarina River in Marlborough and then the Owen River and the Buller. Rivers are such a major indicator of health and so not only do I love seeing a river in health but I want to see that we are caring for the rivers in such a way that they will always be healthy. Currently there are major obvious issues with the dairy industry causing major pollution in our rivers in Canterbury and in other areas. This should not be allowed. This impact on waterways is not adequately managed and that seems ridiculous when the actual cost to remediate such damage is way beyond the profits made. This photo is of my family enjoying our fresh water. How can you possibly put a price in the loss of this? Keep our water clean and up to a high standard/
Ian	Davies	I am a concerned New Zealander and have noticed the decline in the health of our streams and rivers especially over the last twenty years. I would like more effort made to clean up our water ways and once again be proud of our environment. After all our health is directly influenced by the health of the environment in which we live.
Catherine	Bircher	I'm an immigrant from the UK - Tangata tiriti, but I have come to care deeply for my new home. The Waikato river runs at the back of my property, and sometimes it rises into my Kahikatea swamp forest. Pukekos wade through the trees there, and eels feed in the slow water. I want that water to be clean and full of life forever.
Tim	Bowater	I'm a 30yr old man, born and raised on a farm in waiwera. Swimming and fishing in local rivers, and in lakes while on family holidays, is an integral part of being kiwi. the native flora and fauna of New Zealand is what makes it beautiful. Let's set goals for how much biodiversity we can regenerate, not settle with minimum standards.
Di	Cutler	I am a retiree and I am so saddened that our beautiful rivers in Canterbury and other parts of NZ are so polluted. This was unheard of not so long ago but greed has caused this situation and it's time to take action and wake up NZ.
Daniel	Capper	I love to swim in water holes and rivers, knowing the water is safe, and our children should too.
Henry	Jones	I am a retired builder living in Oamaru North Otago. I love fly fishing and am seriously concerned at the rate my local rivers are degrading due to farming intensification. The Kakanui river is a case in point with water quality rapidly degrading .
R	McIntosh	I'm a 73 year old retired biology research professor deeply nourished by solo wilderness encounters with nature's elements that give all things life on this planet. Pristine fresh water is the greatest resource we have and the most important one for our future children. It flows in our bodies and must be protected, studied and sustainably shared locally before all else if we have any love and gratitude for life at all.
Tony	Lee	42 male from Hamilton. If we don't start looking after our country then what will we be leaving for our children.
Andy	Hollings	I am a mid-30s father of 2. I grew up swimming in the rivers in Wairarapa, many of which are now too polluted for my kids to do the same. Rivers are not free waste disposal systems for polluters. Swimmable is the minimum standard for ALL New Zealand rivers for future generations, the wildlife, and our clean green image.
Phillipa Cunningham	Cunningham	I am wanting NZ Lake's and River's to be safe to swim in and to protect our people, birds, and fish.
Helen	Dollery	I'm a Palmerstonian who has grown up around Manawatu rivers, and seen them become increasingly degraded in my lifetime. The answer to that degradation isn't to shift the goalposts so that it LOOKS like we're cleaning them up; it is to commit to doing the things that will really make a difference, including listening to scientists who know what they are talking about and following their professional advice. This is not the time for political spin, and publicity stunts - we're way past that. Change what we do in farming and other river discharge to prevent any further damage. We can't keep calling ourselves '100% Pure' when it's blindingly obvious that we're far from it.
Peter	Breitmeyer	I am 68 years old and find it really disturbing to see the sad state of our waterways! I have spent years of my life enjoying fishing and swimming in our lakes and rivers! Also with my children growing up! Clean water is a necessity for all life!
Ben	White	I'm a 30 year carpenter from Gisborne who lives on the edge of a river, I want to be able to swim and fish in that river, and when I have children, I want them to be able do the same.
Andy	Murray	I grew up swimming in rivers. My children swam in our river. I want to make sure my grandchildren can too.
Susan	Lawrence	I have spent most of my 65 years in NZ . I have always loved river swimming and grew up using the Manawatu River as my swimming pool. It is very sad that the quality of water in Rivers and streams is so bad I would never put my head under to swim...a comment I used to only reserve for hot pools! Really, is it too much to ask that my grand kids can experience what I grew up with. The intensity of farming practices is an enormous contributor to the poor quality of NZ Rivers. Why does population have to subsidise the farming practices and profit...for what gain. A dirty polluted country a far cry from the clean green image NZ pretends to be internationally.
Natalie		I'm a 65yo retiree who cares about the environment and the future of New Zealand for all generations. Clean water is priceless -- for people, animals and plants.

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Lesley	Watkins	I am a 62 year pakeha woman who was brought up swimming in the Whakatane River on a regular basis throughout my childhood. It is not good enough that my grandson can only hope for rivers and lakes that are 'wade-able'. I now live next-door to Tauranga Harbour where in summer drying green weed stinks and makes it unpleasant to walk near to. We need aspirational targets for our rivers and lakes in the same way as we do for a predator-free NZ.
Phil	Stevens	I am an immigrant and NZ citizen, have lived here almost 12 years and have seen waterways in my region (Manawatu) degrade significantly. We are sitting on a time bomb of leached nitrogen in the form of groundwater pollution which will take decades to discharge into rivers and lakes. This is all the more reason to set a much higher standard immediately, because there is so much of a nutrient loading backlog already baked into the freshwater system. Swimmable rivers need to be a bottom line now and for future generations of New Zealanders.
Trevor	Little	I am 72 yrs have been out door person all my life and still am we once had healthy rivers and waterways throughout the land and desperately need them back we cannot live without good water
Donna	Kibblewhite	I am 46 and I remember clean rivers. I am a mother and what my kids and their kids to know what it is like to swim in the river.
Joshua	Knox	I'm 5 years old and I have been playing at my local river since I was very, very little. Keep it clean for me and future generations to play in.
Deanne	Pedersen	I was pregnant when I caught Giardia fom a local river. Such an awful illness made worse by the fact I was concerned for the safety of my baby! I'm not impressed with how unsafe our rivers are now, when I was a child we spent most of our childhood at the river! Please keep our clean green image alive by saving our rivers!
ian	wilson	I am a paid up member of fish and game ,i think it is shocking the amount of dirty rivers and streams in NZ The worst i know of is the grape marc that has destroyed the stream in marlborough (puka puka stream)
Robert	Fraser	I am a 71 year old New Zealander who is grateful to have been able to enjoy swimming in our rivers and oceans. I want all New Zealanders to have this opportunity forever. We are stewards of this land, responsible to future generations to ensure we do not ruin it.
Deborah	Price	I came to NZ in 1981 in my late teens. I chose to stay here rather than return to my family in Europe primarily because of seas and rivers I could swim and play in. It is with great sadness and concern for the future of this country that I will no longer wade, let alone swim in many of the places I once did. We market ourselves as being 100% pure. Before long this will come back to haunt us when the word really gets out there about the quality of our waterways. We have a smaller population than many European countries and yet many of them have waterways that are now less polluted than ours. We can do this. We need to do this. We need clean water!
douglas	Robertson	i am a 62 year old painter from haruru and i think it is very important for the environment and for human health for our rivers and waterways to be clean and safe for future generations . and to avoid overintensification of dairy farming .
Leanne	Catchpole	
Andrew	Kirk	I'm a 51 year old self employed business owner in Gisborne and I want my future grandchildren to be able to swim in clean and healthy rivers in NZ like we did when we were kids.
Brett	Petersen	I'm a 68 year old grand father of 16 plus 2 great grand children. Farm supervisor from Whakatane. Water is H2O, not H2O plus toxins. Ban sprays, ban urea, ban superphosphate.
Ramon	Oza	unclean rivers and waterways is irresponsible and unacceptable abuse of our environment
Fiona	Small	I am 50 years old, and I know if the govt wanted to, it would dedicate more time and money to NZ having cleaner, swimmable rivers. Not only is this essential to our well being as New Zealanders, the tourism value of this is huge, and unique.
Garth	kennedy	I can not believe that the new Zealand Government has allowed its priorities slip so badly. New Zealand was a natural paradise where I grew up and fished and swam in clean rivers.....now? Why have you allowed this to happen??
wendy	gray	I am a 59 year old Aucklander born and bred. Water is life. I cannot drink Auckland water because it has so many chemicals and toxins in it. We distill and re-activate our water in order to maintain good health and prevent build up in our bodies of heavy metals and toxins from Auckland Water supply. Water is important to me and being able to swim in NZ rivers is the birthright of every New Zealander. From living in Europe and visiting Europe's cleanest fresh water country Austria (whose people are proud of their clean water) my husband and I know that our rivers can be the cleanest in the South Pacific. It only takes education and the will to do it. The problem we have in New Zealand is government unwillingness to clean up New Zealand's agriculture. Our dying rivers do not have to be dying. Dirty industrial agriculture has been demonstrated overseas to cause river pollution. It has all happened in the USA before and all we have to do is inform ourselves. The USA, Germany, UK and many other countries have turned around the unacceptable situation of polluted rivers from human activity particularly agriculture. New Zealand can do it too. All we need is a Government with the will to do it. Please step up and do what other countries have already done and clean up our waterways and dirty, lazy, industrial farming, forestry and mining practices. All human activities must be made accountable and liable for the environmental consequences and their effect on biodiversity of their practices. There is no other way. It is quite wrong that the tax payers of New Zealand should be made to pick up the bill for polluting industries. Polluting industries must bear the TRUE COST of their activities including the environmental and effect on biodiversity and habitat loss. This is the only just and fair way. It is quite wrong in the 21st Century that the taxpayers of New Zealand are still being expected to underwrite the environmental damage and biodiversity loss costs of polluting industries in New Zealand. This is a Victorian practice and it is time that the New Zealand Government upskilled its ideas into the real world 21st Century.
Eden	Knox	I'm 3 and I love playing with water. It's important for my future that NZ keeps its waterways clean.
Nathan	Rushton	
Torfrida	Wainwright	I am a 66 year old retired health planner from Christchurch and I want to live in a country that protects its environment, and doesn't let it steadily degrade for the short-term profit of a minority of wealthy people, as is happening now
Livie Pitt	Pitt	
Susane Whiteley	Whiteley	I'm a 51 year old Tau iwi grandmother. Please protect the waters in our rivers and lakes to a standard that we can swim and play in them without concerns of illness. Our water is the life blood of our land. Without clean, pure water our land and our wildlife will slowly die. Without clean water, the traditional outdoor lifestyle of all New Zealanders will be no more. Without clean water, our people will become sick and this is not what anyone wants. Please protect the waters in our rivers and lakes to a standard that we can swim and play in them without concerns of illness.
Rhonda	Edwards	England has kept the Queen's chain which can protect and purify water by strategically planting flora which slow and absorb pollutants.allowing stock free access to water is irresponsible and unnecessary

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Shirleu	Wilshire	I'm sick of signing petitions that are a no brainer. JUST ACT FOR EVERYONES GOOD. US, AND YOUR GRANDCHILDREN FOR FECKS SAKE. ITS A NO BRAINER.
Anna	Winters	When I first went tramping 30 years ago, I could and did drink out of a mountain stream. Now I dare not. Our pure clean green NZ is only a slogan not a reality.
Jo	Lord	I'm a 47yr old who used to live in Foxton Beach. It is really disappointing to see how polluted the Manawatu River is. I want all rivers and lakes in NZ to be clean and safe for swimming.
Deana	Quissy	
Malcolm	Spence	Hi I,m a 54 year old male resident of Timaru. Having grown up in Timaru I have had hours of fun as a child indulging in activities in and around our local rivers. These included swimming, snorkeling fishing, eeling, floundering, whitebaiting and have continued to participate in these activities. However within the last 20 years the water quality of these local rivers has declined to the point where at certain times of the year these rivers are no longer suitable for these activities. I feel it is vitally important that our waterways are protected and returned to a standard suitable for swimming, so that present and future generations can indulge in these quintesensual activities that are a big part of the Kiwi way of life and makes us who we are.
Lisa	McEwan	I care deeply about the delicate ecosystems and the biodiversity of our rivers, but also, my first grandchild will be born in the new year, and I want this next generation to enjoy the clean clear rivers that I swam in as a teenager. The state of our rivers makes a mockery of our 100% Pure brand, and Aotearoa deserves better.
Steve	Gerard	I'm a 54 year old ex fishing guide from Methven in Canterbury, about a third of the streams I used to guide on are no longer available to fish for various reasons, some have disappeared, others the fish have disappeared, if I wanted to restart my guiding business I just couldn't do it and offer the same level of service. I took my daughter fishing 1st Oct. opening day to our local stream, it was horrible, the stream bed covered in thick brown muck, the water coloured...we decided if we caught a fish we wouldn't want to eat it, later we drove up above the farmland, less than 10km to where the stream left the hills and bush, it was crystal clear, please look after water ways, it is totally negligent to do otherwise. Will my daughter be able to take her daughter fishing in this same stream?
Laura	Wells	I'm a 36 year old mother of 2 who swam in rivers throughout my childhood. I think it is utterly unacceptable to allow rivers to become too polluted to swim in.
Ian	Lewis	I,m a 65yr old furniture maker who wants to see water in NZ to be as clean as possible and stop hiding behind this cleangreen nz myth it is so untue on many levels
Hugh Walcott	Walcott	Hugh Walcott Aged 45 Grew up and live in Hutt Valley. I recall swimming in many North Island rivers. My children can't. We have let dairy have its day, now lets reclaim our clean status.
Julie	Cronin	
Cecily	McNeill	As a child I used to love swimming in the river - the water was so clear and clean. I would love today's children to be able to enjoy clean, clear river water in which to swim. I also love fresh water salmon which is compromised by today's polluted waterways as well as the climate change which is drying our rivers and altering the ecosystem so the salmon and other freshwater fish have nowhere to spawn.
Andrea	Newman	I am 45 and have lived in CHCH since I was 18. I have two children age 7 & 8. I have such fond memories of swimming in the Hutt River as a kid, and later in the Canterbury rivers. I am so saddened that my children will never be able to do this. We must return our waterways to good health, clean water is fundamental to our existence and once lost, it could be lost forever. Please make this a priority for our country, there is no economic growth that is worth the poisoning of our water ways, NONE. My feelings are so strong on this issue that our family boycott dairy products altogether. Our dairy industry is just NOT WORTH IT.
Clement	Jacques	Clément 27, french traveller , I came 6 months in NZ to enjoy fishing the World class rivers this country offers! In France our waters became really poor After the 70's because of large scale farming and diverse pollution. If things are going the same way in NZ it would be a tragedy for this unique touristic potential you have. Act now to preserve it before it too late ...
Josephine Burns	Burns	We deserve clean rivers and lakes, it has always been assumed that New Zealand is clean and green. I would like to keep it that way so we can all enjoy a swim in our rivers and lakes.
Nicola	Holden	I am a 37 year old mother, designer, and lecturer from Auckland. We are a bilingual family, my husband is Italian. I want my kids to be able to swim in clean rivers, and feel proud of how clean and green NZ is. At present, we don't feel proud. Our relatives in Italy talk about 'Clean NZ' and we explain it just isn't true. Please help to change that.
Heather	Knox	I'm a mother of two who lives in Palmerston North. I want all waterways in NZ to be swimmable for my boys and their friends to play in now and for all their children to enjoy. NZ needs to walk the talk when it comes to being clean and green.
Barbara	Byford	I am in my sixties and believe that clean rivers are the at the base of our ability to claim to be 'green nz'. Our right to swim in our rivers has been trampled on by a Government concerned with dollars and not people.
Alistair Scott	Newbould Saxon	In 1985 I emigrated to NZ to work for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, believng this to be a country where natural assets were important to its people. Leadership on the Nuclear debate was clear. However, it seems that when this country signs on to international agreements that commit to making polluters pay (Earth Summit, Rio) those commitments can just be forgotten. Setting a minimum freshwater standard that allows waterways to be unsafe for contact activities contradicts this international commitment. Rain feeds our waterways with clean water. Human activity degrades that water. This is an ongoing process and the users are not being made to pay for it. Time to show that we stand behind what we say in international fora.
Richard	Lucy	Hi, I'm a 46 year old New Zealander (veterinarian) and I want my children to be able to enjoy rivers, lakes and streams for swimming, boating, fishing just as I did as a child. That's the reason I returned to NZ.
Stephen	Mulholland	This is not just about being able to swim in rivers, clean water is essential to our health and well being. Clean water should be held above personal or corporate profit!
Jan	Harland	As a grandparent I wish to ensure our rivers and lakes are swim able and carry healthy fish and plant life for the future. Thank you for taking heed of this plea. God Bless
Lily England	England	Hi I am in my fifties and grew up in NZ, loving the outdoors - swimming in and drinking from many of our fresh water ways over the years. I am a Kindergarten teacher and I take my children on a walk along the Opawaho-Heathcote River in Christchurch every day. I feel ashamed and sorry that they are not able to experience the beauty of clear fresh water and instead see murky, brown water with all manner of debris floating by and not to mention whatever unknown toxic stuff has contaminated the waters leading to the inevitable conversations and questions about not being able to swim in the river. Some of these same children have helped to fix the mess on organised events to clean up the river. They wouldn't have to be doing this if we had better legislation in place for protecting our lakes and waterways. Please raise the standards for clean and healthy freshwater in NZ - now and for the future!!!

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Fiona	Rickards	I am a 44 year old teacher who is currently residing in Wellington. The sea water here is still so clean and it makes me realise that in Auckland I've become used to dirty streams and rivers. It's never too late to make a change.
jeff	saunders	It concerns me that there is too little real action in parliament to ensure sustainability of what used to be a clean NZ. Please take action immediately to ensure our healthy future is no further eroded. Jeff Saunders, BSc in earth sciences
Robert	Howell	Without clean water we cannot live, and neither can other species. Lowering the standards does not fool nature. I am a retired person aged 70 years.
Angelique Moroney	Moroney	
Jason	Cadwallader	I grew up on a farm in the Wairarapa, last summer I took my son on a canoe trip down the Waiohine River to visit our old farm. We took some offal to feed the eels but when we got to creek where we use to see dozens of eels when I was a kid all we found was cow effluent. Everything in the creek was dead.
tim	mccreanor	I have been an Auckland outdoors person all my life and at 62, getting out on the river fishing, walking or swimming is still a great pleasure. I know that my kids feel similarly and now grandkids are ready to take up the charges as well. Trouble is, over my lifetime the waters I know well have gotten steadily worse to the point where not only is it risky to drink them which I used to do freely, but even getting in them is increasing problematic. fish stocks are definitely declining in watersheds up and down the islands, whitebait are all but gone eels are threatened and even introduced species like trout are struggling. Water is the source of life and if we don't protect it from nutrient overload off intensive farming, over-extraction for irrigation/commercial sales and all-round abuse, it won't be just the biota that suffers. It will be all of us!
Billy	Duncan	I am a 70 year old from Taupo. I have seen a massive change in the Lake and spawning rivers and streams of Taupo. over the last 35 years of fishing. Please do something to rectify this problem as it is nearly too late.
		<p>I am a 36 year old lawyer in Warkworth where I moved from Mangawhai 2 years ago. I have a young family who lives around, learns from, and loves, nature. That includes freshwater marine environments, and all that they affect, and related ecosystems; nature is not compartmentalised but integrated. Consequences are therefore always profound.</p> <p>For most kids, nature is a natural love and inspiration. Thus, freshwater standards are is not just a recreational or luxury or tourism matter, but a matter of growing up, identity and relating to the world. Maintaining high nature standards is one of the most critical factors in helping Kiwis maintain and raise a healthy family -- and community.</p> <p>In an era of increasing concerns around over-exposure to screens at a young age, obesity, and other forms of ill-health, NZ's exceptional natural environment continues to provide an unparalleled physical -- and emotional -- landscape for children to thrive into connected, healthy and developing adults.</p> <p>Given a protected natural environment is so critical to childhood, learning, and development, it should not take much to establish the critical importance of optimally maintaining this environment to our future as a healthy, prospering country. I mention prospering also because it is often seen as impeded or hampered by the need for high environmental standards.</p> <p>Therefore, while it may seem inconvenient to maintain the high standards of freshwater we all grew up in, we must continue to remember their importance from generation to generation. As such, we should resist the temptation to enter a slippery slope of falling standards, especially in an era of overall unparalleled environmental degradation. Now is the time in history to uphold standards, not to let them start slipping.</p> <p>Please do not compromise the standards that have been so essential to the raising of balanced healthy Kiwis, for any temporary convenience. Doing so will be great disservice to current and future generations -- an irreversible impact on human civilisation.</p> <p>The nature of the earth is such that, decisions with natural and human impact can never be undone; by the time the unforeseeable consequences of a degrading (albeit seemingly insignificantly incremental as proposed) natural system have been realised, it is too late to undo, or even mitigate. This fact is supported by endless examples of presently virtually undoable environmental consequences.</p> <p>Accordingly, a careful approach is essential in cases where there decisions are completely irreversible and instead compounding upon every subsequent generation. As with any decision, the overall, short and long term, impact must be measured. Unfortunately, many long term impacts in such cases are neither fully considered nor even able to measured.</p> <p>It is thus that particularly conservative and careful consideration must surround all such proposals.</p> <p>There are too many practical, ethical, short and long term reasons not to proceed with this proposal. I hope I have provided a few important ones in this quick submission.</p> <p>I thank the folks who are involved in trying to get some attention for such important issues, in the face of the aforementioned preoccupation with the many demands of modern life; I have allowed myself to be distracted with this submission for a moment thanks to their efforts, and I hope that in my rush it retains some coherency, realism and meaning.</p> <p>Sincerely</p>
Aarif	Rasheed	A Rasheed Barrister
Susan	Pearce	I'm a 47 year old Pākeha woman from Wellington. I have two children, and I have wonderful memories of swimming in Coromandel rivers as a teenager. I want my children's children to have the same experience.
Peter	Bristow	I'm a 69 year old retired Minister, living in Dargaville, where I get to watch a number of polluted rivers and streams flow into the beautiful Kaipara Harbour. It's time the rivers and streams were protected.
Alex	Lusby	I'm a 28 year old ex student of physical geography and travelled most places in New Zealand. We have clean rivers but also very unclean ones and such a shame, human short sightedness is not one of our strong points.
peter	green	

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Glenn Douglas	Douglas	I am a 53 year old fisherman from Manurewa who has seen the continual degradation of waterways in the Auckland region since first starting fresh water fishing 35 years ago. Areas where once there were many rainbow trout are often now empty of trout and continually coloured by runoff.
Ethne	Wyndham-Smith	I am a 80 year old who has had the pleasure of swimming in our rivers when my children were small. Water is the staff of life how could we be so stupid as to let them degenerate to such a state. For all that is thought about is saving money, WATER will be MONEY in the future.
Michael	Shapiro	No real people benefit from poisoning our waterways. Regulate the commercial farmers and stop them from using toxic chemicals to remove pests and weeds. Stop over farming for dairy. We have plenty of milk for our own use. Stop using 1080, it kills everything.
Annaliese Katherine Prickett	Harris	Annaliese Harris (37) & Michael Harris (52). Business Owners. We are the owners of Lighthouse Marine Equipment and Lighthouse Boat Supplies. The issue of clean water and safe fishing has been increasingly discussed amongst the fishing and boating community - our customers. Nationwide we are hearing stories from fishermen who have lost whole species once plentiful in local rivers, inlets and around their coastal areas. The quality of water is vital to the fishing, boating and water-leisure industry. We are concerned as the stories of bad water and potentially poisoned sea food are being relayed to visiting yachts. This is bad news for our industry and for NZ as a boating destination. www.lhmarine.co.nz, www.lhboatsupplies.co.nz
Vijay	Naidu	
NITA	HILL	For New Zealand to keep its clean, green image it is essential our rivers and lakes are clean and healthy. If we don't act now future generations will inherit polluted waterways. An offence against creation and our responsibility to be good citizens of our country. As a grandmother I want my grandchildren to be proud of our country and tramp in the bush enjoying our natural heritage in a pristine state. Polluting our waters for economic gain is a short term and ethically unsound position. Please consider the values that uphold responsibility for the earth and its inhabitants
Ruth Pink	Pink	Kia ora and greetings, we are a small country with precious environmental assets. If we can't get and keep our waterways and magnificent rivers clear and clean then no-one can. It's not that difficult, please take a stand and lift the bar on the freshwater standards.
sierra	stretton	Im an outdoor instructor and take youth into the outdoors including the rivers, lakes and streams. We they learn and see how incredible parts of New Zealand currently is. Please keep it that way so the next generation can see it that way also
Annalily van den broeke	van den broeke	We've moved to New Zealand six years ago, significantly contributing in taxes, volunteer work and spending our money here...but we are extremely disappointed by the 'not-green-at-all' reality of the state of the environment. Please clean up your act and your rivers!
Mike	Hammond	I was born in the 50's and have swam in many lakes & rivers as a child/YP, and white-baited the rivers as well. I still visit the same spots whenever I can and want my Mokopuna to swim in the streams, rivers....
Tawera	Tahuri	Ko au te wai Ko te wai ko au
Sarah	Jack	I am a 36 year old mother of two young children from Auckland, with a husband who grew up trout fishing in the upper South Island. I want our children to be able to swim and fish in New Zealand rivers like we did when we were children. I also want to preserve the clean, green New Zealand in which we are so lucky to live for future generations.
vicky	weston	I used to live in the UK, during several years I saw her rivers destroyed by run-offs from Dairy, sewage pollution through cattle wading, pesticides and herbicides leaching in from the land itself due to overuse, and eventually waterways becoming lifeless runnels giving nothing to the land, poisoned with factory chemicals, and careless overuse.....This is not new here, it has happened elsewhere too.. please see that it does not happen here, thanks...
Tessa	Westenra	At 86, I'm not worried for myself, but for my kids/grandkids/future generations. we MUST return our rivers to the lovely state I remember, for swimming. NZ's future depends on it.
Annie	Murrell	I'm a 62 year old Lab. Technician and I see clean rivers as a top priority for a fully functioning society and we shouldn't sacrifice clean rivers for the sake of a few livelihoods.
Nga Remu Huia	Tahuparae	I am a 37 year old female living in Auckland. I work at Auckland Museum and study part time at Auckland University. Most importantly, I am a descendant of the Whanganui River. The river is our life line. She keeps us happy, healthy and sane. As she gets sick, we all get sick. Don't you think there's enough pollution and environmental death in the world? The world is sick, don't make it more sick. There's just nothing smart about it.
Pat	Colgate	I'm a 70 year old grandmother from Levin and I'm very concerned about water quality in this region. My photo is two of my grandsons playing by the Hokio Stream. They have to wash their hands afterwards, can't swim in it and I'm worried my dogs will drink the water and get sick. This is a disgrace. If I hear clean and green again I will be sick.
Evie	Mcgreal	Im a 38 year old mother of 2 from auckland who would love for our clean green image of nz to be fact not fiction. The next generation need us to clean up our water ways as they are the blood line of our nation, as a kiwi im making a stand against profit over people. Let's make a difference NOW not tomorrow.
Sarah	Evans	I'm a 43 yr old mum living on Waiheke Island with my husband and our 3 children. Even here - on this jewel of an island - we have polluted water. One example is at Little Oneroa where we have to keep our children away from the stream runoff that goes onto the beach and meets the sea. We warn tourists away from it as well as they don't know the danger. Little Oneroa is a wonderful place to visit with little children but allowing the water there to be simply wadable isn't viable as it's a public space where families gather and children love to play... Children are drawn to the stream to play and jump in and naturally they want to swim in it but we have to keep guiding them away and making sure they aren't playing in it. NZ waterways should be respected and protected.
Lisa	North	I care about our natural resources for now and future generations.
Kim	Halliday	I am a mother of 2 children who grew up swimming in NZ rivers and oceans. I am proud to be a New Zealander and I want to continue to be able to hold my head up as belonging to a nation who values the importance of maintaining its environment and ecological systems for our future family and whānau.
Richard	Anderson	
Chayse Painting	Painting	It's ridiculous to not be able to swim etc in our rivers! So much for clean and green eh!
Diana	Todd	I came to New Zealand 10 years ago to Dunedin and this beautiful country with clean rivers and pristine sea, please look after your lovely New Zealand, I want my grandchildren to be able to enjoy clean water and clean air!
Alison	Buchanan	Hi I grew up in NZ and don't want the kiwi way of living by being able to swim in lakes and rivers safely, to disappear because this Government choose minimum freshwater standards.
Sophie	Fargher	I'm a 27 year general practitioner from Central Hawkes Bay, I want fresh water that's safe for my patients, myself and my family forever!
carolyn	newey	I am a 67 year old New Zealander currently living in Europe for family reasons. I am very proud of New Zealand and the way that Europeans tell me how advanced we are on ecological issues and how dedicated we are to keeping the country unpolluted etc etc. I am very sad to see that these attitudes, this classical Kiwi priority, could be changing. Our wonderful nature is our heritage. We need to treasure it for ever.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
John	Ridgway	New Zealand is internationally prized as being clean and green. Our Government must act to regain this status, it is crucial for our descendants and tourists.
Danny	Hoatten	I'm 34 a father of 2 young boys in Canterbury and we all like to fish in our rivers and lakes. It is absolutely a must that water ways are at bare minimum swimmable. If we don't make this the benchmark we risk losing all that make this country great, our polluted rivers and lakes will get worse and New Zealand will get a bad name losing tourists and having a massive impact on our agricultural trade with other countries. You need to act now for the benefit of our future. It's time the environment be put ahead of profits!
Sheinach	Dunn	I am a 46 year old stay at home mum with 2 children who I want to be able to take to the river for a swim and enjoy it like I did growing up in Motueka. I live in Wellington now but access to clean rivers is something I hold dear to my heart/home/family/country
Julia	Best	Im a 56 year old mother and grandmother, I live in Northland. I am saddened and disgusted with the condition of our streams and rivers. My grandchildren cannot swim the way I did when I was a child. The children do not understand the health danger, especially after rain and wonder why they can't swim on a sunny day.
Margaret	Morice	I am a 61 year old Maori woman who grew up in Ruatoria where every single week during the warmer months, our entire whanau went to our ancestral river Waiapu to bathe and do laundry (using natural soaps), to swim and to thoroughly immerse ourselves in the clean and life-giving waters of that magnificent river. That this right - which is a right of every single citizen of this land - has been negatively compromised for economic gain, is a travesty beyond belief. Governments are responsible for their citizens not just now but in the future - this government has effectively destroyed this 'right' for all future generations. We are a wealthy small nation, we can do much, much better in protecting our natural resources against this economic madness.
Rod	Sandle	I am a 69 year old health care professional and know that the health of the individual is linked to the health of the environment. Rivers are the arteries of the land and their pollution is a sign of disease, despite the financial wealth such pollution brings to a few.
Rachel	Mckernan	Hi I'm a 38 year old mother of two who grew up swimming in New Zealand rivers, I want my children to experience the beautiful fresh clean green rivers that I did. 7 years ago the NZ government funded a board of environmentalist to come up with a plan to protect our rivers, nothing has come out of that?
Robyn	Jones	I am a 74 year old woman living in Whanagarei. I am deeply disturbed by the Government's proposed minimum freshwater standards. I have lived long enough to know the NZ waterways as they used to be. The proposed standards are an insult to the concept of a green clean NZ. The government must clean up it's act ASAP on clean water issues.
Nicole	Winton	I'm a 30 year old female who is concerned about the decay of our rivers in the last 10 years. About 8 years ago I swam in my local river and now I refuse to go near it, it's green, manky and smells bad. We need to stop and reverse the damage before it's too late. NZ needs to start living the green and clean image rather than just saying it.
Ray	Button	I am 70 yrs. old & have had a wonderful professional career as a Mountain Guide, sea & white water kayak instructor, bush instructor. I have been most fortunate to work & recreate in varied environments from Antarctica to the Himalaya's to the coastlines of Europe. The degradation of water quality world wide is of great concern. I am appalled at the attitude of this NZ government which appears more concerned about monetary gains for industry's that compromise water quality. They should be developing policy's that police, yet make pathways for all water polluters to work toward a high standard of water quality.
CHRIS	MACHANEK	please reconsider the proposed standards, government is of the people for the people, people need clean water to live
Sarah	Collier-Jaggard	I'm a 30 year old social work student, I want my descendants to have a bond with the earth and respect it -I want us to respect it now.
Sharon Moreham	Moreham	I'm a 46 year old community worker from Christchurch and I want our children to be able to swim in clean rivers like I did when I was a child. I am ashamed at our lack of integrity as a country - trashing the environment for the short term economic gain of a few privileged people. Our clean green image and marketing to overseas is a joke. I am no longer proud to be from New Zealand.
Anna Susan	Saunders Durham	We need our waterways to be safe places for us and our kids to swim - please make sure this is the aim of the legislation -not 'safe for wading'. What an indictment that in my lifetime the water quality has reduced to this extent.
Elise	Jenkin	I am a 59 year old woman in Motueka who can remember as a child going on picnics to many South Island rivers and enjoying swimming in the water because it felt cleaner than being in the salty sea at the beach. I want rivers to be clean and safe for generations of New Zealanders to come.
Valerie JUDE	Wycoff Eades	I'm a 58 year old who likes to wade in the water, camp by the river. I want my grandchildren to enjoy the same safety and freedom to play in the water that their parents enjoyed. I want the Avon to smell good. It's time we clean up, not lower our standards.
Stephanie	Cotteret	I'm a 32 year old permanent New Zealand resident. I came to NZ from Europe as a skilled migrant 5 years ago and our natural environment and clean rivers are a big part of why I decided to settle here. Seeing them dirtied, polluted, and vastly ignored by our government is making me consider taking my skills elsewhere.
Liz	Wilson	I am a mother of 6 year old twins and I want them to be able to swim in NZ rivers and streams as I did as a child.
Elspeth Te Mahoe	Fougere Baker	In this time of irrefutable global warming, it is a total disgrace to allow our fresh water habitats to become so degraded. We may well be relying on them for our survival in the years to come. I am a young woman from Auckland city, and I need healthy natural waterways to escape the focus of a busy city life on my weekends, let alone the fact I would like to be able to take my future children paddling safely. How dare you deny me the right to a safe countryside in my future. There is no excuse, there are multiple sustainable options for good river management. I want policies that are a clear line in the sand, for all our futures sake.
Alistair Peter	Benfell Fernando	
Anthony	Gallon	I am disappointed that you would even so much as consider acting to harm the world in the name of Jesus Christ. God is not mocked. A man reaps what he sows.
Dianne	Winter	I am a caniwai-Canadian-Kiwi, now retired. We came to 40 years ago and watched this pristine country go the same way as Canada and the States and yet NZ prides itself on it's clean, green image. This image is it's main attraction and a huge money spinner for tourism. Why then is the govt not doing everything possible to protect it's tourist trade?
Aimee	Crothall	A 43 year old Pakeha mother recently returned to NZ to raise my daughter. We shouldn't even have to query if our waters are safe, it should be a given!
Hilary	Pope	New Zealand markets itself as a clean and green country. This is manifestly not the case and it is time the Government took the health of our environment seriously. How many more Hawkes Bay disasters do we need to finally wake up to the fact that we must take action now?

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Theo	Klee	I live in Northland and have to travel by car to my workplaces and can see every day how livestock is standing in our streams and rivers. The Councils seem to widely ignore this issue by not laying down and enforcing rules to limit pollution of our freshwater resources. I understand this is among other things caused by conflict of interest. I find this unacceptable as not only our but future generations health is at risk through the process of a gradual degradation of our ecosystems.
Patricia	Sellers	I am a 62 yr old Nurse here in Napier and I grew up in Hawkes Bay with the fantastic rivers that we spent many hours in as kids swimming and playing with our friends and on family outings. It is shameful that this part of our heritage is now at risk. Will future generations look back in disbelief on a era when not only could we swim in the rivers but the water was good enough to boil a billy with and the rivers actually had life in them ??
Brian Bargh	Bargh	I am a water scientist and manager and I despair at the rate of declining water quality in our lakes, rivers and sea. We have to stop this and we will only do that if 'development' is stopped and we be content with our share of the 'pie' as it is. We must adopt water standards that lift water quality and not accept the current degraded standards.
Dale	Pahl	I am a 50 year old guy who has grown up spending most of my weekends & holidays camping in river beds in & around the Canterbury & Nelson regions. Last summer while travelling around the Lincoln area we decided to check out Coes Ford as we hadn't visited there for years. The ideas was to take our dogs for a walk but soon found that there were signs everywhere saying under no circumstances let your dogs near or in the water as the toxic algal bloom in the water may kill your animals. Unacceptable & each year more & more water ways are going this way. It must stop!!!
Caroline	Ward	Dale Pahl
Clare	Elizabeth	I am a 67 year old psychotherapist who grew up in Foxton where me, my siblings, and friends were able to swim and fish in the local rivers. There was so much pleasure for all of us. River swimming is one of our most treasured earliest memories. I feel a great deal of distress that our grandchildren are unable to play and fish in many of our once beautiful rivers because of pollution and subsequent health risks. I urge, nay, even beg, the Govt to set the minimum standard at swimmable rather than safe for wading. Please don't remove potential pleasure from our grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
S	McCallum	Hi I live near a wee river and have seen the benefits of cleaner water in this river when Rangiora's sewerage was piped out to the ocean instead of down the Ruataniwha/Cam river. But there is still more that can be done for the river and there are many more waterways in NZ that badly need a clean up. I want my kids and everyone to be able to swim, fish and enjoy our rivers,lakes, etc
Antonia	jesperson	Hi I am a grandmother, now living in the Waimate area I moved here just before the first earthquake - that first summer here I was able to take my dogs for swims at the local rivers and then the following year there were a few cases of people or dogs getting sick after swimming - now it is so bad in the Waimate area you can not even walk near the river - dogs die if they go into the water I lost my beautiful cocker spaniel Ella over an infection she got from a water way near my home Please stop delaying taking action over it - it has to be dealt to as it will only get worse and worse and we will have children dying after swimming in a river
Ken	Martin	I am a retired public servant who fondly remembers seeing a tin of whitebait near the old Foxton wharf in the late 40s. Whitebait so fresh they were still jumping around in the tin. Later, I recall swimming in a local river at Martinborough. It is becoming increasingly hard to see such bounty or enjoy fresh clean water nowadays. Who benefits from the proposed lowered water standards? Certainly not the wider public.
Rhonda	Robertson	
Bronwen	Kerr	I'm a 46 year old architect and mum from Queenstown. I think New Zealanders have a right to swim in our rivers. If we can't then we are doing something very wrong to our country.
Sue	Yates	Hi there, I write to share my experiences on our natural order of rivers. I'm a 57 year old female, and love our natural outdoors and rivers. We are so lucky to have this beautiful country with so much natural order still available to all. Having been brought up with rivers and camping all my life (family of fishing people), I have been, and still am, a swimmer, paddler and puddler in rivers for over 50 years. In that time I've seen a gradual reduction in water quality to the point where it is becoming unsafe. My extended family are finding fishing, and the quality of fish, is in decline. We have also seen a rapidly increasing decline in water levels, concentrating toxins and affecting spawning grounds, as intensive irrigation changes the natural order with growing levels of algae, nitrates and pollution, mainly from dairying. As a rule, I am not anti-dairying, but I am against using lands for high intensity productivity which nature never intended it to be used for. Lands should never require extensive manipulation at such high costs (ecological or financial) to make it productive. The abuse of land and water is leaving a legacy of potential desert lands. Trees and hedgerows have disappeared, further reducing the natural order of filtering toxins. Trees are also essential for transpiration and for 'creating' rain. Without rain, we have no rivers. Without rivers there is no water. Without water there is no life. With climatic changes, we are already regularly experiencing droughts. Water reservoirs are rapidly declining and not keeping pace. They will expire in our children's life time, if not ours. Rivers are feeding our acquifers. Persistently low river levels are concentrating toxins, thereby creating unsafe swimming AND drinking water. Due to lack of rain and intensive irrigation, rivers are not being flooded and cleansed. It's a cycle that needs breaking. So please, I urge action to take care of our rivers and return them to the natural order. I also suggest the reinstatement of new plantings around the boundaries of farmlands to help regenerate rains through transpiration again, which will supplement our waterways as nature intended. So much clear felling has happened with intensive irrigation methods, leaving open tracts of bare land for many kilometres. Winds further deteriorate the quality of land, with no shelter as protection, and dry it deeper into the ground. Rainforests have rain. Deserts don't. That is exactly how transpiration works and doesn't work. Thank you.
Hunter	Osborne	
Helena	Paewai	
Carolyn	Lahikainen	
Rosalind	Moore	I am a retired lady broadcaster & goat farmer in my 70's.I am back in my birthplace Hawkes Bay where I had a wonderful upbringing in the great outdoors when it was really & truly clean & green. Now the green applies to the slime in our rivers where in the summer we can no longer take our dogs & kids swimming without fear of being poisoned.Where we had wonderful pure artesian water we now have revolting chlorine tainted water because of Campylobacter. The best pure water is being shipped off to China & our Rates are paying for the 12 water bottling companies to make even more profit by taking the water out of our aquifers for free!
Steve	Smith	NZ rivers need cleaner water standards. Clean the rivers up & the wildlife will recover. We have shown this in the UK on the Thames & other rivers. This will make the rivers cleaner for people including my sister & family
Andrew	MacCormick	I am a 43 year old Pakeha General Surgeon from Auckland and I want healthy water to protect the health of the New Zealand population.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Gareth	Wallace	
Dylan	Simson	I am a middle aged middle class Kiwi who has become increasingly distraught at the steady decline of fresh water quality in N.Z. Whatever the cause of this decline, it MUST STOP!!!! The country that I love is being destroyed for the sake of a few greedy people. This topic is now front and centre for a lot of Kiwi's and is not going to go away. Those in power are acting shamefully and will ignore concerns at their cost!!
Angelika	Brosin	
Perry Piercy	Piercy	New Zealand Rivers and streams should be clean enough for people to use without fear. We all enjoy being outdoors in our wonderful country, let's make the reality fit the message - clean green NZ
Rachel	McKnight	I had the privilege of growing up in a New Zealand where summer weekends could be spent at ANY river with our families, enjoying bbqs and swims in our beautiful flowing rivers without worrying about being poisoned or our dogs being killed or sickened by the river itself. This is something all Kiwis should get to experience, not just previous generations !!!
Amanda	Williams	I'm a 40 year old Pakeha/ Maori woman and Registered Nurse. I understand how the health of our environment impacts on the holistic health of our people. We cannot sit by and let our country be destroyed for the sake of greed and political laziness. Water is the life blood of this country and ensuring it's clean for our families is vital and quite frankly is a no brainer. Clean water is worth the investment.
Penny	Mackay	I am a 63 year old female pilot from Nelson. I have watched the degradation of our estuary and the local rivers with great sadness. The estuary now has a green algae spread in summer from local use of fertilisers and the Richmond Plains water is contaminated with nitrates etc. High water use from Forestry and agriculture have caused the water levels of the rivers that I have swum in all my life to drop over summer and to deteriorate greatly in water quality with toxic algal blooms common. I feel that we have a duty to my grandchildren and future generations to support cleaning up waterways.
Sean	Thompson	
matt johnnson	johnnson	we have a right to clean rivers, enough said
Julia Newall	Newall	
paul	stewart	As a grandad I would dearly love my grandchildren to experience one of my most cherished pastimes growing up... the enjoyment of swimming in a river.
philip wellington	wellington	it is about time you the government took positive steps to clean up our rivers and lakes. at the moment they are in a sorry state largely due to you turning a blind eye, I would strongly urge you to take clear and precise steps to rectify this problem so we are able to swim in these waters again. you portray New Zealand's image as clean and green but we have a long way to go before that is a reality. thank you. p.w.wellington
m	dumbar	the present NZ government has not governed, and is not governing, the country in a responsible manner.
Selwyn	Lockie	
marg	watson	I'm a 55 year old beauty therapist from Chch and I want clean rivers like we had growing up, NZ needs to live up to its clean green image.
Peter	Ingham	I'm a 68 year old retired agricultural scientist. I have seen a huge deterioration in Canterbury river quality in my lifetime- I want my grandchildren to be able to swim in our rivers as I did.
Sonja	Brink	
Ingrid	Schwarze	If we poison our water. ...we poison our own bodies when we drink it Keep us safe
Micheala	McMillan	Hi I'm 21 years old, full time mother studying early childhood and I'm from Auckland. I would like for rivers to be clean as I like to go to them in the summer. As a mother I feel that it is safest for children at any age to have clean rivers because children and teens like to swim in rivers during summer
Sarah	Yanicki	I'm a 33 year old small business owner in the earthquake recovery industry in Christchurch. Following the earthquake, I learned first-hand what it's like to live with contaminated drinking water and waterways. I believe that protecting fresh water should be a number one priority for a government and that the standards being proposed by the government lack integrity, common sense, and most definitely do not have the best interests of New Zealanders at heart. Clean fresh water is a dwindling resource worldwide and we Kiwis are lucky to have the water resources that we do. It should be cherished and protected to the highest standards. It is the government's role to protect the rights and interests of its citizens and if the proposed standards were allowed, I believe it would be a violation of some of our most basic rights. This would be an outright travesty, a backwards step, and a total failure on the part of the government to do its job well.
Brian Gillespie	Gillespie	I am 71, retired and share a home with my first wife in the far north. We frequently enjoy tramping in the wild, in bush and along the coast and wish to continue swimming and wading in fresh water without concern. Streams and lakes need to be safe for swimming as well as drinking.
Elizabeth	Pakai	I'm retired and also a full time student completing a PhD. I am also an advisory trustee on one of our land blocks which includes a lake, so I am in full support of action that will lead to our lakes and rivers returning to the state that they used to be.
Helen	Moore	Hi, I'm a doctor in Auckland who enjoys going to Waiheke some weekends; at the lovely Little Oneroa beach there are signs up warning about the pollution in the stream running down to the beach. Not for swimming! There are so many little children and dogs and ducklings all close to the water from this stream, or in it. This is a very sad state of affairs. I grew up being able to swim in the Maitai River in Nelson city, how times have changed. Let's clean up our act and our waterways, for the sake of the health of our nation.
michael	macdonald	This national government does as it pleases the people have no vote no say that needs to change.
Margot	Beale	Tourism plays a huge part in N.Z.'s economy & our clean image is under threat from activities such as dairy intensification
Piet	Nieuwland	I'm a 60 year old poet of Dutch/Australian/NZ origins living near Whangarei. I have three children and I want them, and their children, as well as my friends, neighbours and extended family to be able to swim in clean rivers, such as the Wairua River at these falls west of Whangarei. This is an amazing place that is polluted with dairy effluent. It needs to be cleaned up to swimmable standards.
Clare	Robinson	I am a 58 year old teacher from mixed European and Maori descent (Ngata Kahangungu). I have tramped most areas of NZ from my teens onwards and used to be able to not only swim in all our beautiful lakes and rivers, but also drink from them! Guardia. Is a problem we now live with but we can and must ensure our waterways are swimmable.
carol	waterman	i am a 66 year old woman and want clean water for my grandchildren
Margaret	Jeune	I am an environmentalist and I work with Water and Environment Care and The Water Protection Society to clean up The Manawatu River and Lake Horowhenua.
Aroha		
phill	aspen	mururoa test veteran .. risked my health and life to protest against the french shitting up the place ... its almost as risky swimming in NZ streams to protest against our own fools in parliament .. and with bullshit billy and and bendy bottom boys .. things are not likely to actually change in any meaningful way within any reasonable timeframe

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Kerry	Sunde	I am a mother and grandmother and the chemicals in our land air and water is way too extreme. I care deeply for our future generations and we need to take action.
Aroha		Ko Waikato te Awa Ko Taupiri te Maunga Ko TAINUI te Waka Ko Turangawaewae te Marae Ko TAINUI te Iwi He Piko, He Taniwha
Diana	Yukich	I'm a pakeha mother of 5, I run my own business with my partner of 40 years. My family were orchardists and vineyardists, I grew up in a rural environment. Rivers could be fished for eel and freshwater cray. We could swim in the local rivers, we could drink the water from bores without getting sick, I want that future for future generations. I think it is possible to have a vibrant business community and clean rivers. It just takes work, collaboration, planning regulations and a commitment from local and central government to uphold those regulations to protect the environment on our behalf.
John	Wellington	I am a 56 year old tour guide showing international tourists around NZ. I find it very hard to explain to them why beef cattle can freely enter waterways but only cattle are banned. Its also pretty embarassing to say that it is not safe to swim in many of our rivers. This needs to change preferably yesterday
Reece	Geursen	I'm a teacher and father of two and I want my children to be able to experience the outdoors and not worry about whether they can swim and drink from rivers and lakes. Clean water is vital for life, health and prosperity. We need to start putting more realistic values on our natural resources.
Peter	Cowton	do not lower the standards of our rivers
Geraldine	Lopdell	78 year old woman retiree. It is vital to keep our waters clean for the health of our small nation. Our forests, land and creatures need the best we can give them.
Sophie	Taptiklis	Having worked for the GWRC in river water monitoring I am concerned that proposed minimum standard proposed by the government will lead to rivers; risking the health of wading cattle thereby threatening the viability of farms located next to waterways, the frequent closure of public access due to microbial contamination. These will negatively impact our tourist industry and export meat industry alike.
Barbara & Bruce	Branch & Forward	We are a couple in our late 60's. We have always been interested in our environment and have become increasingly concerned with the quality of water throughout NZ. It seems to us that our Government is accepting lower and lower standards of water quality and that is not acceptable to us! We used to swim regularly in the Hutt River (and many others) and we wish our children and grandchildren to be able to do the same. Action needs to be taken now not in some distant future when the quality is so bad that it is too late to do anything! I grew up in NZ when it was safe to swim anywhere. As a Maaori I want my grandchildren and theirs to still be able to swim in safe clean water.
Brett	Stansfield	I'm a 51 year old freshwater ecologist. I have over 15 years experience in local government as an environmental scientist and a further 7 years private consulting. Water quality standards should be based on aquatic ecosystem protection, not individual toxicity species tests. To form standards on the latter would result in the death of many species and associated ecosystem processes.
Debbie	Dunsford	I live on the edge of an estuary in Auckland and have heard people talk about how crystal clear the water used to be. I am working with a local group to restore the margins of the estuary and the health of the water.
Naralie	Eady	32 with two children and I want them to enjoy what we did as children - safe waterways!
Nigel Robertson	Robertson	The health of our water is essential for the health of our land and people. If water is not safe to swim in then we are failing our people, their children and all the wildlife dependent on our waterways.
Peter	Robinson	Im a dedicated life long Canterbury salmon angler and I want my grandson to be able to catch more salmon like this beauty he caught in the Waimakariri but Im afraid we are losing our rivers to intensive farming and irrigation.
Mark	Bellhouse	I want my kids to be able to swim in the Manawatu like I used to.
Violet	Djohanli	I am a 36 year old Māori university student from Rotorua living in Australia, I want our scared resource water to be protected by laws that keep it clean enough to swim and drink. Water has always been a part of the our Māori culture, it's part of our livelihood, We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one.
BARRY	THOMAS	I'm on a river/lake nearly every weekend fishing and feel they need to be looked after far better than they have been
Sabine	Hogguer	I'm a 46 year old Mum and full time strategist from Auckland and I think we need to keep the water ways swimable not only so we can enjoy swimming but for the sake of the entire ecosystem.
Tessa	Hiscox	
Lloyd	Billington	I'm a 47 year old New Zealand Maori who grew up taking it for granted that I could swim in any lake or river in our country and I think current and future generations should be afforded that same privellage.
Rachel	Murray	I'm a member of the Victoria University Canoe Club and the Victoria University Tramping Club... and I paddle and hike along rivers all across NZ. Having to 'dodge' a bloated cow lying legs-up in the Mohaka river while kayaking is a horrible experience, knowing that when we go through the rapids, or fall out of our kayaks, we have to be so careful not to drink any of the water out of fear of contamination. Or to hike out of the Mount Aspiring National Park along the Wilkin river only to have to look constantly on the ground to avoid standing in the abundance of cow dung - this is unacceptable. Please clean up our rivers so that we can drink and swim safely in them.
Sheree	Newsome	I currently live by Lake Hayes in Arrowtown on 6 acres. We have Mill Creek running through our property plus a lake on our doorstep. We need to preserve our waterways for future generations. We need to look at how we are managing our land - especially dairying in this country. Fencing off waterways and planting wetlands to filter any possible pollution into our waterways is just one way of helping to preserve clean water.
Gerie Harvey	Harvey	I'm a 68 year old grandmother andretired teacher. I grew up in Holland and count myself very lucky to be able to live in this beautiful country. We are guardians of this planet and have the responsibility to take care of it for future generations.
Karen	Pohe	I'm a 56 year old Māori mother of 3 tamariki and lucky nanny of 3 mokopuna, from Ngāti Porou. I want my present and future generations to be able to enjoy the many clean river activities I participated in when I was growing up!!! :)

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Simon Williams	Williams	I am a 60 years old, male teacher. I grew up in a country in which the only concerns relating to swimming in rivers related to strong currents or the possibility of underwater snags. I never dreamt, for a moment, that this same country would one day have rivers too toxic to have contact with. John Key, as our Minister of Tourism, likes to promote our Clean, Green image, while simultaneously give increasing lie to this slogan. Our country, once genuinely pristine, is amongst the most heavily polluted, by population, in the world. That's shameful - or it would be for those who have any remaining understanding of the meaning of the word. And what is the cause of this pollution? Is it really a necessary bi-product of progress as the prevailing narrative would have us believe? NO. It's the inevitable consequence of a socio-political construct based on, and favouring, egoism, greed and acquisitiveness over wisdom, compassion and broadness of vision. Of a system that is consumed with the end of year balance sheet or a three year election cycle, and which gives no thought whatsoever to the future of our children and grandchildren (other than to harbour a blind faith in science and The Market to take care of everything).
Lori	Coles	Clean rivers would be a great start to showing the world that our country has recognised its mistakes and is making an effort towards becoming the paradise it once was, and could still be. The health of rivers, groundwater and aquifers need to be our priority for life. Water is Life. Swimming is good. :)
Piet	Radford	I'm an 80 y.o male Pakeha who is incensed at tge deterioration in the quality of our rivers and lakes and demand that this government take remedial action as a PRIORITY, and make 'Clean Green NZ' a reality again.
peter	fergusson	I am a 63 year old biology teacher living in Whakatane. I am a keen outdoors person and find it totally unacceptable that our local rivers come out of the Urewera ranges in a pristine condition yet aft just 30 km of contact with modern farm practices the arrive in Whakatane in a polluted state that is often a hazard to swimmers. I want my six grandchildren to be able to enjoy fishing and swimming in our local rivers.
Rosemary	Jorgensen	Water is precious and needs to be kept clean. We need rivers that have a good flow with fish able to live in them.
Shaun	Brown	I'm a Kiwi decended from the some of the earliest settlers to Otago. I grew up loving our natural outdoors lifestyle including fishing and swimming in our local rivers lakes and streams. I would drink the same water and never got sick. The state of some of these waters today disgusts me. This change has occurred within 25 years. This needs fixing now!
Leen Auperle	Auperle	I am a 67 year male from Holland who came here 39 years ago. I have seen N.Z. from top to bottom and always enjoyed its natural beauty. Please make our rivers fit to swim in again.
Karen	Mann	I grew up swimming in and drinking from clean rivers in the Bay of Plenty. I would like to ensure other children have the same opportunities as I did. Clean water is a human right.
Bruce Copeland	Copeland	I'm a 55 year old Director of an IT Company from Auckland. We have choices about the reasons and causes our rivers have become degraded. We need to be courageous and set ourselves higher standards and much higher goals. The time to act is now. This is a picture or my wife Janine on the river that flows into Waipu Cove, Northland. We look after the land surrounding it but its at risk from sediment runoff from Forestry in the headwaters. I worry what will happen to the Koura and the fish
john	weatherall	
Sarah	Cross	I'm a 37 year old business consultant from Otago. Our rivers should be swim able, not just wadable. We can't compromise our environment for the sake of dairy farmers.
Gail	Reichert	I'm a fifth generation Pakeha and Maori descent. We have a duty to Papatuanuku the land, to this and coming generations, that we clean up our back yard. If you made a muddy, unhealthy and dangerous mess in your bedroom, your parents would instil values in you to 'clean your room'. Parliamentarians are the guardians/parents of the land - show that you are worthy of the parenting kaitiaki role you have chosen for yourselves.
Andrea	Graves	Hi, I'm a 43 year old mother in Hamilton and care about healthy rivers not only for us but for the sake of everything that lives in them.
Shane	Johnston	
Rita	Robson	
Robert	Fisher	I'm a 34 year old Aucklander. Most weekends I like to get out of Auckland and explore the outdoors. This usually involves swimming in rivers and lakes. I want to continue to enjoy swimming in our natural waterways without having to worry about pollution.
Simone Hamblett	Hamblett	I am 50 years old, German, immigrated 20 years ago. The purity of waters in NZ has been continually declining and I think it is shameful to let this happen in a country like this! Rivers should be for swimming!!!
Becks	Cole	I am a 45 year old mother of 4 adult children and a grandmother, I live in Queenstown in one of the most beautiful provinces in the world I want it to stay that way, I care for the environment and want crystal clear lakes and streams for my growing family to enjoy and future generations.
Julia	Anderson	I used to swim in all rivers throughout Canterbury but now I'm unable to enjoy them in the same way due to river water depletion and pollution .
James	Vernon	I am a 45yr old working in the it dept. It is highly frustrating that our current govt doesn't seem to care as much as it should. Profit before protection is not the way to go, but seems to be the way for National. We should be able to enjoy our waterways amd our children and their children. We need to stand up and be a force to reckon with.
lynne	cooke	I'm a 67yr old English woman who has lived here since 1971 .paradise it was but no longer ,farmers and the government have to take responsibility for the mess our waters and rivers are in, ignoring them isn't going to fix it you all don't mind taking the money but spend it on thing that don't matter is just not on wake up New Zealand , clean green we are no longer .
Carol Sumner	Sumner	I grew up near a river and had a fantastic childhood playing in/around the river. It is so sad to think future generations will not be able to have the same childhood, all due to poor decisions/standards and because it was all a bit hard or expensive or put more restrictions/regulations on farming and was too inconvenient for our dairy industry!
Irina	Borowski	I'm a 43 year old mother from auckland and I do believe that our waters need protecting. As there is an ever increasing pressure on this planet due to environmental pollution we need to be vigilant and act with integrity to preserve lakes and rivers for our children and their children. We have a moral obligation right now to step towards preservation of the natural world.
Rosalie	Newcombe-Small	I'm a 75 year old woman who has swum in the clean waters of my local river, the Inangahua, most of my life. I have a few years left (hopefully) and I want to continue doing so.
Jane	Stafford	I am a grandmother who wants her grandchildren to be able to swim in all NZ waters
Kevin	curry	no excuses to ignore think of your grandchildren I hope they despise you for doing nothing

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Patrick	Cotton	I am a retired farmer horrified at the intensive dairying destroying our waterways. Fencing off is insufficient; cows urine is no respecter of fences & it will eventually, maybe years later, pollute our waterways. We can do better than just grow grass. How about supporting our tech industries instead.
Peter	Dunn	It's time we took action before we lose our green handle
Anthony J	Kriechbaum	I am a 63 yr old general practitioner and public health medicine specialist practising in the Manawatu. Clean potable water is essential for the health of families and of entire populations. Please witness the deplorable and serious situation in recent weeks in Havlock North with the waterborne outbreak of campylobacteria infection.
		I am a 5th generation New Zealander, 67 years young and have worked as an environmental sculptor for 40 years. Communities from all over the globe invite me to create work using local inspiration and natural materials. My home is still on the land I was brought up on. The river that runs beside it was our swimming and drinking water source until the 70's when it became too polluted to drink and now too polluted to swim. My children do not understand how people can not get it together to once again make the river swimmable again. WE have discovered that most of the rivers in NZ are like this. It is just not acceptable!!! Please take the necessary measures NOW to reverse this trend as quickly as possible!!! Not in 20 years not in 10 years but in 5 - 7 years, for the majority of NZ's rivers.
Chris	Booth	Chris Booth.
Rueben	Kelly	I am a 40 year old from Taumarunui living in Napier and would like my kids to be able to swim in any stream or river without having to worry about getting sick from the pollutants
Margaret	parata-mortimer	I am hitting 60 and have many great childhood memories fishing, camping, swimming etc at our beautiful Southland rivers and lakes, fortunately my children were able to enjoy them also, BUT my mokopuna???? Doesn't look likely..... heartbreaking.
Anne	Morrison	Our family has lived beside the Kakahu River for nearly 70 years and we are distressed at the negative changes which have taken place in recent time.
Matt Christophers	Christophers	Hi, I'm a 26 year old plumber from Christchurch, who is keen on fishing and getting outdoors which gets me out to explore all parts of river and waterway systems, and even in my relatively short lifetime I've noticed that the water quality and quantity, especially in my home region of Canterbury to be on the decline and in some cases completely gone past the point of no return (Lakes Ellesmere and Forsyth). This needs to stop now. I remember when I was younger the waimak river was something that could almost never be crossed, now it's easy enough to wade across at some points. Where has this water gone?
Paul	Alexander	I am a 64 years young Pakiha Exhibitions Preparator from Wellington. Was raised in Palmerston North. As a child swimming in the rivers was something we would do often during summer. It is sad to see the degradation of those rivers and also the streams that feed the rivers.
Erryl	Bocock	Retired 73 year old in Palmerston North. Our waterways are badly polluted. This must be rectified for human survival. Recommended action is to halve stock on all farms and push value added dairy products not raw milk. If our aquifers get contaminated we have real problems. Also ban 1080 it's poisoning everything.
Audrey	van Ryn	I recently swam in a river in the Waitakeres, the same as I did 35 years ago. It is a special experience that everybody in the country should be able to enjoy. We can't go on polluting our waterways.
Janet	Marks	I'm 64, I live in Auckland, I teach for a living, and am a woman. Polluters should pay to clean up the natural environment. Farming is just as guilty of pollution as is industry. Govt will need to regulate or nothing will happen.
		I am 71 years old and, in the last ten years alone, I have seen the steady degradation of our rivers and streams caused by pollution from dairy and beef farming. This outrageous misuse of our natural resources must stop. Limits on cattle farming must be enacted to restore our rivers, lakes and streams to the pristine state they once enjoyed. The current situation is also a bad look to anyone wishing to visit clean green New Zealand, only to find that most of our rivers, lakes and streams are unswimmable.
John	Lee	Thank you for listening, John Elmer Lee
Jannie	Allen	I am a grandparent and also work as a career consultant assisting tertiary students. I care deeply about the environment and believe that our clean waterways are key to a healthy environment.
Monroe	Monroe	Passionate environmental scientist that cares about every generation of life and therefore we must stop what the government is trying to do. It will cause devastation throughout the food webs etc
Miriam	Ludbrook	
Richard	Hutchby	I'm a 58 ear old and I want my grandkids to be able to swim in our rivers
Richard	Davis	Im a 28 year old male maori from the far north.i have a son that is still young and i hope he is able to see our rivers and lakes in the future,not dried up,not polluted.Fresh Water will be one of the most wanted things in the world one day.This is for our kids futures and there kids,so i hope this petition can stop the greed of others that only think about there futures and not the generation to come.
		Im a Mum of two lovely kids and we've just returned from 6 weeks travelling round the world. One of our overriding reflections from our journey is the importance of clean water and air - these are the things we missed most about NZ. Swimable rivers should be the benchmark. We have to set our aspirations high or we face degradation from development and economic prosperity -it's a commitment we need to make now and begin long term action on. It's now too late for rivers in Vietnam and even many in Europe. Don't take the easy option - take leadership that protects and enhances our environment for the generations to come.
megan	courtney	Thank you Megan
David Pate	Pate	Please utilise a little common sense, water is life after all!
Donald Howarth	Howarth	I am a retired business manager, having been a boating & fishing person, on lakes & rivers. I have holidayed at Taupo, Rotorua, Lake Rotoiti, Lake Rotama and the Kai-Iwi Lakes & downstream from lake karapiro on the Waikato River. I have seen pollution, widespread algal & weed growth caused from excessive fertiliser runoff. It needs to be reduced & then stopped by active conservation measures, which will probably only followed by lawmaking & enforcement. My children have seen the state of rivers & some lakes .eg. Lake Rotorua, their children will be excluded if no strong action is taken, because of pollution.
Kate	Lang	When I arrived in NZ in 1971, I was astonished and overjoyed that I could drink from the rivers of this country. I want to be able to do the same again! Our government is blind to the increasing desecration of this taonga! (a citizen of 40 years)

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Liz	Adlam	I'm a 33 year old kiwi. I want to be able to swim in rivers with my niece and nephew. Share with them all the things that make this country great including clean, swimmable water.
		I am a retired male living in Darfield - Mid Canterbury
		I have seen many rivers become too polluted to swim in - the Ashburton River springs to mind.
		Since we have allowed intensive dairy farming throughout the country the rivers and lakes have deteriorated to the extent that people become sick when they do. This intensive dairy farming is encouraged by some for profit with no regard for the people (Fonterra springs to mind)
		I want the children of today and tomorrow to be able to use our rivers and lakes safely - and the government needs to act to ensure this.
		I want our lakes to be clean as many feed the rivers that rural water supplies are drawn from.
		It is time to act before it is too late.
		Please do something to restore our heritage of outdoor living and enjoyment.
Garth	Paul	Thank You
Katharine	Moody	I'm a grandmother of six. The photo I am sending you is my eldest moko learning to snorkel in the Hutt River on Xmas day some years ago. This should be an image that all children can partake in in our future. I vote to aim for swimmable rivers - everywhere in NZ. This must be our legislated objective.
Renee Dennison	Dennison	My name is Renee Dennison I grew up in Timaru, and was your typical Nz kid...Typical nz kid what is this you mite ask, well I define this by looking at what shaped me and my fellow kiwi buddies. One thing that will all ways come out when your retracing your memories of growing up as a kid in Nz is the days you would bike to the river and have a swim, hole days were spent at the river. There is a beautiful connection that a child forms when they are exposed to New Zealands stunning natural beauty. It gives the human soul far more than we can ever imagine. To think this is a dying past time, is disappointing, especially because there is something we can do! Lets be a country that leads the world by standing up for the next generation and keeps our native past times alive. Its not to late!!!
Deborah	Manhire	I'm a 48 year old Mother and would love for my children and grandchildren to be able to swim and drink from the rivers and streams in Canterbury like I did when I was a child.Clean up our rivers, lakes and streams,and stop allowing intensive dairy farming in Canterbury.
Kathryn Longstaff	Longstaff	
Barry	Coates	
lea	overend	
Silvia	Zuur	I'm a 32 old social entrepreneur and our social and economic future relies on clean water. I also want to be able to continue tramping in the tararuas enjoying a morning swim in pristine rivers
		I am a 44 year old freelance illustrator living in the Bay of Plenty, and parent of a five-year old son.
		This photo is of our son at the Mangahua campsite in National Park, about to take his first dip into a real mountain stream. What an amazing and memorable experience. Giving him the opportunity to enjoy beautiful environments like this is something we'd been looking forward to doing since he was born.
Ali	Teo	It's very important to us that he grows up appreciating and respecting our rivers and the ecosystems they support, and to realise that they are not simply there for our use and convenience. I would like to see this same level of respect coming from our country's leaders, I would like to see them set the example for our children to follow.
Jane	Blackler	I'm a 51 year old early childhood educator,sister, mother,daughter, Aunty,nana. I want New Zealand water ways to be clean enough to swim in, clean enough to drink from and clean enough that they easily sustain a rich abundance of flora and fauna. I want my children's children's children's children and their children's children ALL to have the same clean water privileges I had growing up in New Zealand. I want them to be proud of living in a country that has made a stand and cared deeply enough to care for and sustain clean and healthy waterways in New Zealand.
Michael	Gray	I'm a 27 year old administrator from Upper Hutt and I want a pure NZ.
Tessa	Flatt	
Felicity	Millburn	Having clean swimmable rivers should be a non negotiable aspect of kiwi life, just like it used to be. It has many benefits: peole of all backgrounds mixing, free for all, good for both physical health and environmental awareness. Not to mention our reputation internationally with tourists. We need to get this sorted now.
Debra	Tunncliffe	I am a mother of 2 who believes 'water is life' - We need to ensure it's health for future generations.
Charles	Drace	I'm a fund manager from New Zealand. New Zealand is raising standards for investment advice and management while lowering standards for our vital life life source - water. Previous lowering of water standards has resulted in many toxic rivers, streams and lakes. Any further lowering will lead to most bodies of water becoming toxic, killing animals and eventually people. Our government must raise water standards, not lower them.
Meg Evans	Evans	I'm a 61yr old recent returnee to NZ. I am stunned and shocked at what has happened to the beautiful pristine rivers I swam in, drank from, picnicked by as a youngster. I was under the illusion that NZ cared about its natural environment...that unlike other countries it had legislation to protect what it values and what it projects to the worldnamely 100% Pure! This is False Marketing on a massive scale. The degraded state of NZ's is shameful!!!! It could be addressed if the government had the guts to insist upon dairy farmers fencing off rivers ...this is a NO BRAINER first step. Please don't sacrifice this beautiful country to the greed of the powerful few...this country is for our children and their children...NOT FONTERRA or other corporations!
Moir	Brockhill	
Chris	Sullivan	

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Damaris	Kingdon	To all the decision makers of this country, when I was a child I would walk through the bush and drink from the rivers and there was no question that I swim in any quiet pool. It is unfathomable to me that this has been eroded to such a degree in my lifetime. Our rivers are essential to our health and love of life. Please protect them, protect us. What is life for if not to wonder at nature and do these things. The alternative is everyone cooped up in cities because the country has gotten too dirty to be in. This is crazy. As we know, people cooped up inside have much more incidence of mental illness. Nature is our physical playground and spiritual inspiration. It heals us and nurtures us. We need to do the same in return.
Penny	Krone	I am a 51 year old school teacher. I teach at an enviro school where we dedicate a lot of our free time to teaching children about the precious and sometimes fragile environment in which we live. All generations should have the right to clean beautiful rivers that we as nz adults have grown up with.
Anna	Tipping	I'm 47 and grew up in Christchurch with the pristine gravel rivers of the Canterbury Plains. The water quality in all rivers must be 'swim able' for all current and future generations, not sacrificed for the profits of a few.
simon jenkin	jenkin	
Randal	McDonnell	
Nicky	Snoyink	Here is a picture of me in the Selwyn Waikiriri at Whitecliffs in 1969.The Selwyn Waikiriri is now polluted and unswimmable - to do this with your two year old these days is regrettfully unthinkable. am now 49 years old and ran in the 2016 ECan election for the mid Canterbury seat on a platform of safe drinking water for communities and rivers safe for swimming and kai gathering. I did not win the seat but over 9200 people voted for me, sending a loud and clear sign that we must do better.
Michelle	McCann	I am a 61 year old semi retired woman who has worked in local govt and the Unversity of Otago. Clean green NZ - yeah right! All NZ waters should be at the very least swimmable - wadable is laughable. Especially coming from govt comprising a lot of baby boomers who can probably remember drinkable rivers and streams! Stop proliferating the degradation of our rivers and lakes and act now before our slogan becomes dirty polluted NZ!
Kirstene	Okeroa	Im Almost 50. Maori and European. Living in rural nz. I grew up swimming in rivers and the sea. My kids swim in the rivers during summer. I want this to continue for my kids kids. They will learn to swim, dive and learn life skills. Keep our water safe for swimming
Keryn	Squires	I am a 52 year old woman who has moved from Nelson to Wellington to become a Music Therapist. My pet work was in conservation and Education. I remember swimming in many rivers when I was a child and this should not be just a memory, it should be a present reality for children and adults today.
Gabriella	Turek	Water is essential to life: clean and healthy rivers are essential to the environment and a safe food chain.
Robert	Nola	
Bridget		I have a family of young children, we enjoy water skiing in the lakes & swimming throughout the summer months. Please think of the future generation not just what large corporations! Our future generation need you to protect their lakes, rivers and swimming holes. Keep the kiwi dream alive!!!!
Lisa	Gray	
Jeni	Ashton	I am a 40yr mother of two and I live on the Rangitata and the Orari rivers. the health of these and all new Zealand rivers impacts us all.
Tineke	La Plant	I am a 75 year old mother and grandmother. Originally from the Netherlands. I remember swimming in the river near Mangaweka when I lived there for some time and visit now occasionally. I would so much like for my grandchild, and other future generations, to be able to do the same.
Nabhoniya Grace		
Georgia Dix	Dix	
Alison	Haitana	
Pete	Wellington	
		<p>I am a retired 58 year old male in Darfield, Mid Canterbury.</p> <p>I have seen many rivers rendered unusable (the Ashburton is one) because of the pollution in them - mainly from farm cattle discharge.</p> <p>I remember being able to swim freely and enjoy our rivers when I was young.</p> <p>I want the present and future generations of kids to be able to swim safely in all rivers without getting sick, and fishermen to enjoy their sport too.</p> <p>I also want clean water to drink as the Darfield supply is drawn from the Waimak river and sometimes the draw from this river is too contaminated to drink safely.</p> <p>Of course clean water needs to be in our lakes as they supply many rivers.</p> <p>It is time to STOP the pollution in our lakes, rivers and streams that we seem to have allowed since intensive dairy farming has been allowed throughout the country and encouraged by some for profit only (Fonterra springs to mind)</p> <p>I hope for the future of all NZers that something will be done NOW.</p>
Garth	Paul	Thank you.
Maria	Colls	We want New Zealand's lakes and rivers to be fresh, clean and healthy. This is our corner of the planet and we want to respect and care for it.
Jahaan	Ormandy	I am a 37 year old river enthusiast since a young age,I regularly enjoy river activities with my children and hope that the degrading of the river systems does not continue.the change I have seen just in my short life is extremely worrying for future generations
Louise	Booth	
Glen and Barbara		We want ourselves and our children to be able to swim in, drink from, and just be near clean waterways. With better management of our farmland, we can massively improve water quality.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Roger	Hodgkinson	Swimmable water should be the goal !
Nabhoniya	Grace	
susan	washington	I am 75, live in the Hauraki Gulf, am retired, and I came from a very degraded environment. I care about nature being healthy and in balance, because nature supports us. We must learn to live with nature, not exploit it.
Nik	Adams	
Luanne	Gordon	
Roslyn	Whalley	I am a 41 year old female and live in Hamilton. I support making our rivers and streams clean for everyone to enjoy. I believe this is most important to maintain our clean, green image.
Susan	Smith	I am a 59 year old secondary teacher from Whakatane. I teach in a school that is next to the Tarawera River. I am horrified by the waste that the mill has permission to dump into this beautiful river and turn it into a drain to the sea. As a child growing up in Tolaga Bay and Gisborne we fished and swam in the rivers. I will not accept that water only needs to be safe for "wading". We are guardians of this land, our children have every right to expect that we will leave the land and waters for them as clean, pure and healthy as we were left them by our forefathers. It is for these reasons I Choose Clean Water.
Duncan	Eddy	I live near a stream that feeds into a bay.
Tania	Pickering	Please keep our waters clean! It is our livelihood.
Julieanne Eason	Eason	I'm a 39 yr old living in Charteris Bay and I want to be able to eat the watercress that grows in the stream that flows through my garden.
Karen Thorpe	Thorpe	I'm a 47 year old female, In Christchurch. Water is THE most important resource that there is! More important than the economy, farming, business, or any other activity of men. Those to stupid to understand this have no business in a position of power impacting the environment. PERIOD!!!
Debbie	Mikaere	I am 30 yo female, located in Auckland and am a sonographer with ties to the east coast of NZ, from Te Whanau a Apanui. I have recently had a son, and it is of the upmost importance to me that he has access to clean and healthy bodies of water such as lakes and rivers.
Barbara	Guthrie	Greetings politicians. I have a PhD in nutrition. Water is the most essential element for life. it needs to be pure. it is a requirement for the health of all NZer's. Taking care of our water is being responsible. I trust you can do this. Thankyou
Gordon	Hewitt	I am 77 with postgraduate qualifications in biology and in psychotherapy. The health of New Zealand's waterways is essential to the health of our biological heritage and our financial future. It is also important for the mental health our Families.
Jess	Hiscox	
Shauneen Brandon	Brandon	I'm a 38 year old Mother from West Auckland. I have found memories of swimming in the rivers and lakes. We need to keep these resources well for future generations.
Babs	Lake	I am a 36 year old secretary and I want to be able to go swimming in the Hutt River after work, without fear of getting sick. Toxic algae in the Hutt River has caused dog deaths on occasion. We all deserve better!
Guy	Wishart	Our rivers and streams have deteriorated very quickly through bad management and insufficient protection. Please lift the standard of care for the rivers that are a critical part of our natural environment.
Beverley	Williams	I am 77 year woman from Ngati Mutunga Iwi I have lived beside the Manawatu river for the last 46 year, I have watched it degrade.
Trees	vanRuth	I'm a 60 year old female who came to New Zealand in the 70s when the lakes and rivers were still pure, clean and healthy to swim in. I'm appalled at how this change has come in so few years and can't understand how it is possible that so few people on such a large landmass have created this situation. New Zealanders want clean rivers and lakes where they can swim and fish like we used to. Water safe for wading is just not good enough.
Mat	Les	I'm 27 year old kayaker from Auckland and I want my kids to be able to kayak all rivers in New Zealand without fear of getting ill. Rivers are for all to enjoy, not just for selected few to use them for the personal benefit.
Amy	McBride	Rangatiki is my River, Rangawahia is my mountain.
Fiona	Primrose	All rivers are special, sacred and SHOULD BE PROTECTED!
Daniel	Campbell-Macdonald	I am a 49yr old administrator in a Taupo school caring for our future generations. It is their (and our) right to have world class fresh water standards. I understand this will involve some work but the benefits in the short term will be obvious, and the the long term benefits for your constituents and the environment are well worth the effort- after all, some of those constituents are your family too.
Julie	Fairey	
Jesse	Williams	
Mia	Griffiths	I'm a 55 year old female lending consultant from Christchurch. I am very proud of our beautiful water in Canterbury. I want my kids and future grandchildren to be able to swim in clean rivers and lakes like I did. Wading is not good enough. Isn't our advertisement overseas NZ 100% clean and green. Wading is NOT clean and green.
Gail Blackwell	Blackwell	Water is a finite resource which MUST be kept as clean as possible for all who come after us on this planet.
Sylvia ASTON	ASTON	I am a 68yr old retired midwife and I would like my grandchildren to be able to swim safely in our lakes and rivers.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Alexandra	Tylee	I am 51, and i own a Restaurant in Havelock North. My Great, Great Grandfathers and Mothers all chose to come to New Zealand, leaving safe affluent lives in the United Kingdom. They arrived to a land bursting with life and promise. If they were to see it today, i think they would be horrified at how the land, animal life and water has been compromised in the name of progress. A progress that they in good faith helped to initiate. So i guess i am saying we all have a responsibility to do everything we can to start reversing this trend and bring our environment back to the paradises it was when we first arrived. And having experienced first hand the effects of not doing this. And the frustration at the lack of anyone taking positive action to make sure it does not happen again. I feel very strongly that it is up to the Government to take drastic action
Jessie	McVeagh	Water is essential to life. We have a responsibility to our children and the next generations to clean up our waterways.
Phil	Tindall	Our rivers, lake & streams are not industrial sewers. There are interests aligned to the current decision makers that intend to use them as such, for free. This is a classic tragedy of the commons and must be brought under control, with those profiting from the current arrangement made to pay to clean up their mess. This is only fair and just. Try publicly making a case against it.
Joeline	Ramsay	I am a 39 year old female kiwi. I work for Lyttelton port company. Fresh clean Water is the elixir of all life. Where would we all be without fresh streams and rivers. It would just kill all that is New Zealand without it.
Wendy Allison	Allison	Water is vital to life, vital to our ecosystems, and vital to our culture. The aim should be to keep it as pure as possible. I expect our government to look after our interests, and our interests include clean water in our lakes and rivers.
Fineingo	Fetuu	I am the river and the river is me I'm 20 years old I live in Glen Innes and I'm Tongan. I'm one of the helpers down here who helps out with the program called The river talks I've witness people travelling far distance from countries such as Brazil who comes to join people with the same dream and hope and ideas. A whole lot of people in this community plant over 1000 plants by the river hoping it'll go back to the way it was before when our ancestors bath and swim in the water without having to worry about how dirty or polluted the water is because it was clean.
rachel	healy	I'm a 47 year old of mother of two teenagers who is dismayed that our family can no longer swim in the rivers I grew up enjoying. How on earth can we promote ourselves as '100% Pure' when we value our environment so little?
Marcus	Graney	Proximity to fresh water is a fundamental part of the experience all New Zealanders have with our country's natural environment. It is vital that the quality of this fresh water supports our enjoyment of our lakes and rivers, and sustains the life living within them.
Niki T Mareko	Mareko	It is very sad that there are so many polluted rivers in NZ now - but some can be saved, please help! Allowing rivers to become polluted so that all we can hope for is that they will only pose a 'moderate risk' when WADING in it, shouldn't be made law, it should be something people are prosecuted for!
kirsty cooper	cooper	Im Kirsty- Im 37 and I believe the clean water is a right, not a privilege.
Rich	Dean	
Amayah	Grace	
Karen	Tippett	I'm a mother of two kids. When I was a kid in the 80s it was a common outing to go to a river for a picnic, building rock dams and of course some swimming. I want to make sure my children can have the same fun, and their children too. It's much easier to protect the rivers than to try and fix them when they are broken!
Edward	Miller	
Shannon	ODonnell	I am 40 year old male living in Canterbury all my life (pakeha) I think it is disgusting the Government stance is nothing less than having the most pristine water running through the countries arteries as possible. We should be able to swim and enjoy without any risk whatsoever, eat the fish, whitebait, etc.. I have travelled to many countries and the water in rivers and lakes is in terrible state. To imagine that our most precious commodity could one day be like that terrifies me. The farm effluent and chemical run off MUST BE STOPPED at all costs!!!!
Dido	Dunlop	i'm a 65 year old living in Naenae. the Waiwhetu stream runs through my garden. i'm concerned about the hutt river and our aquifers which provide drinking water for the entire wellington region. drinking water is what i care about.
Richard	Kendrick	i believe we should cut down the number of cows country wide. that needs to happen for climate emissions as well as waterways.
Patricia	Carre	I am a 46yr old kiwi and deserve my fresh water to be FRESH!!! Please ensure the quality of our waterways are upheld to a quality that allows us as New Zealanders to teach our children how we were once to taught. To swim, to fish, to care and to protect. Mauri ora
Andrew	Jull	I am a 55 year old man and I remember being able to trust the cleanliness of water sources. I want my children to have similar memories when they are my age.
Mike Treen	Treen	
Juliet	Feast	
Brad	Nelson	
erin	templeton	
Suzanne	Donald	
Susan	Sweetman	It's not good enough to set low standard for clean rivers and lakes whilst exporting fresh water for next to nothing. It's disrespectful of our wildlife and our people.
Frances	Robertson	I am a 22 year old woman from Hawkes Bay and I am expecting my first child. I want my child to be able to swim in the clean rivers, just like I used to when I was a kid and still want to now.
Amanda Eggers	Eggers	I would like to be able to actually use the beautiful rivers we have in our country
Juha Saarinen	Saarinen	I would love it if everyone could assume by default our rivers are clean and safe, and not used as sewers.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Mary	Glaisyer	I immigrated from the UK in 1988 and was surprised and delighted to find I could swim in New Zealand rivers. I am devastated to find that this is no longer possible.
Elizabeth	Maddison	
Roger	Boorh	
wayne	wheeler	we need clean water for NZers and not water bottling company....look after the waterways for a children and grand kids....
Ral Makiha	Makiha	im 66 yrs old and born in a time when we could drink water from any river or stream. Up until about mid 70's. No one cared about our waterways health for 50 years. Now we have to buy clean water
Adrienne Matthews	Matthews	So many of NZ's rivers and waterways are now a disgrace. The tourist industry is going to suffer as a result. Already tourists are saying how shocked they are. Farmers are not taking the responsibility they should and are discharging pollution at a rate beyond which the environment can cope with. This is the tip of the iceberg. NZ is becoming a laughing stock.
Barry	Timms	Am an associate in GoFishKiwi - 71 years of age, live in Masterton. Important to our business that the rivers are kept at a clean standard that is healthy for trout.
margaret	johnstone	I am a 65 year old female teacher and health educator. I want our rivers and waterways to be places that are natural, healthy and safe for all living beings. Water is life. If we cannot maintain and care for our waterways then we will gradually and systematically devalue and degrade our whole ecology.
Liza	Potter	Our rivers and lakes are the lifeline to many people and recreational to others. They should be kept clean so we source food and play and not become sick because they've been contaminated. We are not a third world country, so we need to stop acting like we are.
Margery	DAVISON	
Annice	Reed	Fresh water is essential for life so ; must be a top priority of government responsibility & always all water should belong to the nation totally; so says this grandmother of 6
Shani Meyer	Meyer	I'm a 21 year old Uni student who feels strongly about how humans treat the environment. I believe we are stewards of nature and have the responsibility to treat it with care. Care which should receive priority over selfish desires to improve business and earn more money.
Peter	Myson	I'm a 57 yr old man, and a hardworking professional. Why are the government so blinkered to sloppy practice by farmers. I spent 3 years selling fertilisers to dairy farmers in the Bay of Plenty, 95% had unfenced streams, no riparian strips, and poor drainage systems. Some appalling farmers blatantly allowed their stock into rivers and streams and pumped effluent onto their paddocks in pouring rain causing immediate run off into waterways. Laws need to be tightened to correct the farmers appalling behaviour toward the environment and people of New Zealand
Russell	Pullar	Short and sweet I can remember how our rivers used to be when we were kids
Mary Horn	Horn	I am a Dominican Sister I have been fighting for the health of the Waitaki River for some time and believe that rivers are not just there for the use of irrigation but are in their own right a source of spirituality for all of us not just the Tangata Whenua. Some things need to be left alone.
		We are both retired and previously we did a lot of caravan stays beside Lakes and Streams with our children and the water was safe to drink, sadly now it is very polluted by freedom campers and dairy cows, please take action asap to clean up the water before it is too late this must be actioned urgently for the sake of future families and children. Just look overseas to see how some rivers are more like sewers, we don't want this happening in NZ. Wake up National Govt fix this problem Now not Never. John & Julie Foster
trevor	wakely	I am a retiree, with grandchildren. The access to clean waterways is their, & my birthright as New Zealanders. As a child, I remember clean waterways. This is possible still, if we all take care of our country.
		I'm a 51 year old 3rd generation male NZer who is unhappy with the state of many waterways and rivers in NZ. While some action has been taken in recent years developing a minimum standard for NZ's rivers I don't believe this standard is either good enough or being enforced sufficiently. I would like the Government to monitor water quality in all large NZ rivers at various locations, and to ensure that water quality is improved in most locations to a swimmable standard. I believe the Morgan Foundation MyRiver report is a worthy document and the best I am currently aware of to use as a starting point for current state and actions required:- https://garethsworld.com/myriver/ . I grew up in Foxton and currently live in Hikuai where I am farming and observe some neighbouring farmers being less than careful with the waterways around their farms (that said some other farming neighbours are very good).
Peter	Garrick	Thank you for your efforts to assist with achieving this, peter...
Kelly	Wyse	
sarah	blackshaw	I'm a 43 year old mother of 4 from Porirua. Each summer I like to take my children camping so they can experience the great NZ outdoors. We love to swim in the rivers and lakes at our camping destination.
Paul	Hicks	I am a retired teacher who does a lot of trout fishing in our pristine rivers. There are already a couple of rivers that I cannot fish because they have become polluted by dairy cattle. We HAVE to protect the rivers but the government sees them as a source of revenue without considering the consequences. They're selling our children's and grandchildren's heritage
Rionn	Harford	I am a 40 year old Male of Maori descent linked to the tribal area's of Raukawa and Nga Puhī. As a NZer our traditions as a typical kiwi whānau have always been on, under. Near and in our beautiful ways of rivers, lakes and oceans as our family love swimming, gathering and utilising the water for kai and bathing. If these waters are not kept up to health and safety standards by the responsibility of the kōwhiri. I'm afraid this tradition will die as our families become sicker and sicker.
Gabrielle	Matches	Keep NZ pure and clean, ! It's fundamental to people's health!!! And the beauty of this country!!!
Maree	Martinussen	I grew up in the Hawkes Bay swimming in rivers, and I would hate for the current generation of kids to miss out on that. As tangata whenua, I'm especially concerned that we aren't looking after the taonga that is our waterways. Let's make our rivers safe again and reject the idea that freshwater need only be wadeable.
Graeme	Matthews	Please do what you can to help clean up New Zealand's waterways. Thanks
Makareta	Umbers	I'm a 52 yr old European Ngāpuhi mum. I live in Kerikeri, one of the most beautiful towns in New Zealand. We can't swim on our river, Te Awa o Rangitira, because it is polluted with cow urine. It makes me cry for our children and embarrassed for our visitors. Our quality of life and natural resources are precious. It is ignorant and irresponsible not to care.
Sharmian	Firth	So much in our person and in our country's future depends on clean rivers and a protected and nurtured environment. It is the Government's responsibility to us all to take action in this.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Nicoke	Mulcahy	25 year old trekking guide from timaru but live a transient lifestyle now that allows me to enjoy the NZ outdoors regularly. Female and pakeha. New Zealand has a unique beauty that is our asset especially in the tourism industry it is our main economy which is many reasons we need and must protect this landscape.
David	Russell	I have been an active fly fisherman for over 40 yrs and have seen the destruction to the river environment that (particularly dairy) farming has done to this habitat, especially over the last 30 yrs first hand. I was brought up on the knowledge that our forefathers put in place the Queen's Chain so that everyone could enjoy access to clean, pristine rivers and streams that NZ had on offer. We are destroying them for our children and must take active responsibility now to clean up our act.
N Greatrix	Greatrix	Please stop under valueing our waters. Remember clean green nz. Not dirty nz.we will soon loose this image and we will never get it back
carolyn	Smith	Every New Zealand has a right to swim in clean, clear waters of our land. Water is important to our health and wellbeing and must be kept clean and pure for all. Keep New Zealand's water clean and pure for our children and grandchildren.
Lucy May Boomer	Boomer	
Paul King	King	Hi, I am a 50 year old Architect, and I want my family to be able to swim or fish safe from infection risk in any river
priscilla	northe	I'm 35 years old, I grew up swimming every summer in Hawkes bays rivers. Even to this day, I love swimming in rivers. The thought that NZ is loosing our lakes and rivers to pollution, is not right, and we must protect our water, water is our life. And I would hate for the futures children to never have the experience to go swimming in summer in our amazing rivers and lakes.
Richard		
Ondine	Grace	
ferne	Hohneck	Cut dairying by 70% so our granchildren can enjoy swimmable rivers.
leith	cameron	I am a 5th generation Pakeha woman who swam in and enjoyed Canterbury rivers throughout my childhood, as did all my extended family. It is unforgivable that a select number of companies and people have destroyed this treasure and are making short term financial profits from a taonga which belongs to all Kiwis.
heidi	Jensen-Warren	I am a 38 year old mother, wife and teacher who grew up swimming in and drinking water from NZ rivers. I am highly dismayed and concerned by the fact that my children and others can't swim safely in these waters and that our environment has become so degraded in such a short amount of time. NZ was a paradise...let us clean up our home and create that Eden again.
stevie	hadfield	
Rachael	Studholme	I'm a 46 year old woman from Waimate. Camping by the Waihao River was a big part of our childhood and is now something we enjoy with our family. The photo is of the swimming hole at our current campsite. Luckily this is upstream of the holes we used to swim that are now polluted.
Anna	Tonks	
Test	Test	
Bronwyn	Judge	Showing Japanese visitors the delights of swimming in our local river, 31 March 2014. Since then, with the dairy farming the lower reaches of the Waianakurua are no longer so pristine!
Paul	Addison	I am a 49 year old Kiwi who relocated to Australia 20 years ago for work. Before this happened I enjoyed the NZ river with the swimming and most of all the fishing. I revisited Xmas 2015 and was appalled at the condition of the rivers. Please rectify
Maria Sawtell	Sawtell	I'm a 51 year old ECE teacher from Henderson. Swimming in rivers is part of being a kiwi and growing up in NZ. I want my grandson to able to swim in clean rivers just like I did when I was young.
Casey	Gilsenan	I reserve the right for my children to enjoy swimming in local waterways as I did as a child lets get back to clean green nz.
John	Howes	Without fresh, clean water I believe we cannot exist. No matter what our politics and our other interests are we need clean fresh water. Economic trade offs that allow our rivers, lakes, water ways and aquafers to become polluted are in my view short sighted and in the medium to long term will be detrimental to NZ's economy and the health of its population. I am a 62yr old electrician from CHCH who enjoys rivers for kayaking, fishing and generally for just experiencing being near water. They are good for my soul.
Annaleise Knox	Knox	I grew up playing in the river and my kids love spending time in and by the awa. I want all kiwi kids to enjoy clean rivers.
Jan	Graham	60 year old that can remember when the rivers were safe to swim in, disgusted that it has come to this. We need to care for our earth and not make it all about me!
Pam	Vernon	
Tessa-Jane	Dennes	I am a 42 year old Maori from the Wairarapa and t is important to me that we are able to fish, swim, and explore our clean waters.
Marney	Ain2	
Lyne	Taylor	I'm a 72 year old women who has always been taught that water is life, without it there is no life. To allow our NZ waterways to become a risk to people health is a travesty of the kind I never thought would see ever in our country. It is critical for concrete measures to be put into place to see that this odious state of affairs is corrected in a expeditious process, by the government.
Ryan	MacMillan	Student at the University of Auckland working in the high tech sector and lover of watersports and wildlife
Leah	Williams	I'm shocked that the enjoyment I experienced swimming in creeks and rivers as a child has been denied for kiwi kids today. Clean up the mess
Rory	Sullivan	
Alison	MacTavish	We are a rural family. Our children learned how to have adventures safely in water and learned about the rich webs of life nourished by fresh water as they grew up in our local rivers. Like many families, the fun we had there remains some of our most cherished memories. In those days we took it for granted that the Waianakurua and Trotters Creeks were clean, and that they cleansed us in more ways than one. A branch of the former now often dries up in the irrigation season and almost all the water in the latter is captured by an irrigation dam so that there is frequently no connection with the sea. I am ashamed that this abuse of the rivers' life-giving resource has happened in one generation.
Jan	Hoskin	I am 65 and as youngster never worried that a river was unsafe to swim in - sadly this is not the case now. We need to look after our beautiful country and that includes waterways.
David	Birch	This is my local stream - Silverstream, a tributary of the Kaiapoi River - one of the purest spring-fed waterways in Canterbury. My community wants to keep it that way; for swimming, harvesting mahinga kai, maintaining the aquatic biodivesity, and for aesthetic values. We are doing our bit by planting the riparian margins, but the water quality is deteriorating due to more intensive farming upstream. This must stop, before irreversible damage is done!

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Tom	Kay	I want my kids to be able to swim and kayak in all the rivers I used to!
Lavern	O'Connor	
Karen	Letchford	I want to be able to swim in clean rivers and walk my dog without fear of him or I getting sick
andrew	palmer	Untill 5 years ago here in South Canterbury, we had rivers we could swim and gather food in. Now they're toxic each summer, heavily abstracted and no longer provide the food and recreation they once did. Soul destroying to have watched the death by a thousand cuts.
Liz	Winfield	I'm a mum of two who enjoys taking the children down to the river with our dog for walks, playtime and fun. I want the river to be clean so that we can all enjoy it safely. In the summer our dog cannot swim in the water due to toxic algae blooms. Every year dogs are dying and people can get sick because of this. I also want to be proud of our waterways so that we can live up to the 'pure NZ brand' without it seeming like a lie. Keeping livestock out of the water, encouraging farmers to grow natural plant filtration systems in the areas near rivers would be a start. We need to not only try to increase native birdlife in NZ, but also native fish life as well.
Rod	Stuart	Nearly 60 orbits around the sun. Ask any kiwi tax payer... Do you want clean water or more money? Just about everyone will choose clean water. Vote out anyone that does not promote what most kiwis want.
pramod	jergens	
Adam	Lloyd-Jones	I am 34 and have lived on the Hatea River in Whangarei for 32 of those years, as a kid I used to fish and swim in the river, we used to catch mullet and even see dolphins that would chase bait fish upstream. Now the river is so polluted I wouldn't dare eat anything that came out of it let alone swim in it. It makes me sad and angry my children can not enjoy the river and benefit from living on it as I did. Clean water is an essential part of our environment. Pollution needs to be policed to protect our river.
Sandra	Rademacher	Clean rivers used to be a part of NZ life for many kids over summer. Not now. I believe it should be the right of our children and future generations to have clean swimming water. SO much degradation in less than one generation, its not right but can be made right with good policy- Please think of the legacy we leave for the future .
Shaun	Atkinson	Who would'nt care
Tanya	Didham	I am a 48-year-old mum of an 8-year-old boy, and I remember drinking out of the rivers my family camped on when I was his age. Fresh water is fundamental to life; NZ's degraded lowland waterways need desperate attention - 'swimmable' has to be the bottom line.
Rhys Taucher	Taucher	
Jennifer	Atherley	New Zealand should be clean and green. We need clean water that children can swim in safely.
Eilish	Baine	I'm a 20 year old engineering student and I want everyone to be able to enjoy swimming in beautiful clean NZ rivers.
Simon Henshaw	Henshaw	I'm a 48yo Pakeha and father of 2 young kids. We don't visit rivers because I can't trust the water - a situation I believe is shameful. My kids should be able to paddle, swim and drink the water - it's our right. I am also a professional tour leader and am embarrassed to explain to overseas visitors that our rivers and streams may cause them to become sick. Clean and Green? Ridiculous. Start restricting agriculture and forestry activities, their intensity and pollutants.
Dominic	Fouhy	As a child I could safely swim in our local Wairarapa rivers, now as a parent my child no longer has this opportunity due to poor water quality. Most summer's our local river's have a health warning against swimming in them. Time NZ cleaned up its act! For our future generations.
Chris	Norton	I am 47. I grew up knowing I could swim in almost any river, and I did swim in many. But wadeable is a pathetic standard; it's a surrender to the few who pollute at the expense of everyone, and everything else. Clean, 100% Pure is the branding; let's not disappoint our tourists, or our children.
Jasmine	Cargill	
Subal Krishna	Das	Am a 47 yo Krishnaite / geographer from Christchurch who agrees basic good policy is best.
Cameron	McMillan	I am a 40 year old small business owner from Temuka who has watched the slow destruction of our town as our rivers have been drained and polluted. Our once thriving tourist season has died as have the majority of the town's businesses. Where we literally had thousands of campers visiting for the summer holidays to enjoy the fishing and swimming in the Temuka and Opihi rivers we're now lucky to see 100. Other factors have impacted on the slow death of Temuka as a town however I strongly believe the destruction of the Temuka river is the main reason. The river is regularly polluted with toxic algal blooms and has been so heavily drained for irrigation that the swimming holes have all but disappeared. Where I once jumped from the rail way bridge into the river I can now cross with barely getting my knees wet
Deirdre	Johnson	I'm a Wellington native who spends a lot of time in or on our waterways; keep these lifelines of NZ clean and swimmable
Jessamine	Fraser	I'm a professional woman, an architect, living in Auckland. Our wild landscapes, cultivated, and built landscapes, form a complex web of life. Just as a badly managed city can poison the waters downstream and hurt both wilderness and agriculture, badly managed agriculture can hurt the wild and the city. We must all take care to be good neighbours for the health and enjoyment of all of us, and most importantly, for the care of the trees, land, birds, and rivers.
Andrea Hunt	Hunt	I'm a 52-year-old Pakeha woman, and I'm gutted that most waterways in NZ are now in a shocking state. NZ streams and rivers should be DRINKABLE. This is one of the most important issues in NZ right now.
Bergitte	Nodder	I'm a 26 year old mum to two kids who I want to be able to swim in clean water! Clean up our water!
Teresa	Schulz	Ive lived in the Manawatu all my life. We are privileged in New Zealand to be so close to beaches. As a kid we could always go for a swim in a local river or at the beach. The state of our waterways now is disgusting! It's all to do with greed and irresponsibility on behalf of those who let their filth drain into it (from various sources, and they know who they are). Water is life, and the way the planet is going, many lives will be lost because of shortages of water. We need to protect and preserve it, not pollute and exploit it, and sell our prime supplies off for peanuts to overseas bottling companies to sell it back to us in plastic bottles.
Wetini	Paul	Kia Ora Tātou - I'm a 36yr old father of 6 and step father to 6, I believe that our future generations should be able to live in an environment that is honoured! Our river was our playground and food cupboard when I was younger - Not so much anymore!! Fix it!!
Dean	Aldridge	I'm a 50 year old ordinary guy from Christchurch and remember being able to assume any river would be swimmable and drinkable when I was young. Now I have to assume the opposite. There's no reason for this and it harms the next generation's enjoyment of our country. It also harms our image and tourism industry. We need to clean up the rivers - 100% pure.
Scott	Marris	I'm a 46 year old ECE teacher in Kāpiti, and I want my children to be able to swim in clean rivers like I did when I was young.
Brian Morton	Morton	i grew up in Foxton, we deserve clean water!!

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Cindy	Schmidt	It is disgusting the disregarding of waterways in NZ currently. Does short the term gains of the Dairy industry trump all? I think not, it is a foolish way to operate
Linda	Grieve	<p>My name is Linda Grieve (aged 71) and over many years of summer tramping trips I have become aware that only in National Parks can one generally drink river water safely, although giardia is still a risk. Everywhere else the waterways are becoming more and more polluted, generally as a result of poor land use and animal management practices, including the increasing irrigation of patently unsuitable dry land for further dairy farms. It's time there was a moratorium on further dairying and a conversion of much of the existing dairying land to sustainable mixed farming systems with soil health and high water quality as the priorities.</p> <p>To have a goal of 'wadeable' rivers is, literally, a sick joke.</p> <p>We have growing scientific knowledge in New Zealand that must be harnessed urgently on a wide scale to curb the degradation of land and associated water catchments. The current practice of intensively farming and using imported palm oil feed is putting long-term environmental costs onto all New Zealanders, all for the short-term enrichment of a few foolish and greedy people. It must stop.</p> <p>It's time our government changed its short-term thinking mind-set, stopped pandering to farming interests and showed some real leadership by regulating for sustainable land use and water management practices that benefit all New Zealanders for the long term. Farmers should not feel entitled to enrich themselves through socialising the costs of the environmental degradation they are causing.</p> <p>The dinosaur-like attitudes of Federated Farmers are also a hindrance to our country's progress, along with irresponsible bank lenders, and this is leading us environmentally and economically to hell in a handbasket.</p>
Ian	Phillips	I am a high school science teacher of 20 years experience. I would love to be able say to my students that we can trust our government to do the right thing and protect our environment. NZ's clean and green image will continue to be undermined if we don't make change now.
GRAHAM	LINDSAY	I am 64. I am a writer and busdriver. My tribal affiliation is Ngati Hau 2 (Hiruharama). I am of Scottish and English descent. To me clean rivers and streams are about cleaning up after yourself so that you don't spoil things for others (including other life forms and people who come after you). To me this is common sense. It is how I was brought up and is in accordance with my Buddhist practice.
Debra	Gillette	I'm a 55 year old student - previously a business owner. It's time for NZ to start living up to the lie it is telling the world - let's really work towards 100% Pure. I want our beautiful rivers to be clean and swimmable. I'd love to say drinkable as they used to be but maybe one day - if we start fixing the issues NOW. When Kiwis have to worry about our drinking water being contaminated as we have seen recently happen, then we are close to a crisis and change needs to happen NOW. I will be voting for a party that puts our environment ahead of big business interests and profit. We can't eat or drink money.
Tilly	King	Hi, i'm a 12yr old Kiwi girl from North Otago. I love swimming and kayaking in our local rivers. I always have so much fun! This is why I think that future generations should have access to clean and beautiful rivers, lakes and streams.
Geoff	Williams	I am 63 years old and live on and by the sea. I have travelled all over NZ and am horrified by the deterioration of freshwater environments, particularly in the last decade.
Brent	Morris	I am almost 50 and here is a photo of me and my family when I was a child by the Rangitikei river. I want my grand kids to be able to enjoy clean rivers in NZ in the future also.
Mary Nimmo	Nimmo	I have lived in Southbridge for 40 years and am so pleased to have been able to help plant native trees in this area of Lake Ellesmere. This photo was after flooding into the lake a few years ago.
Frances	Horton	<p>Hello, Im a busy, active and fit young retiree, just turned 66 years and loving Life. I had two professional careers: in law and primary school teaching. Raised three children - all of whom are now independent adults and successful citizens.</p> <p>We are Ngati Auckland, born and bred.</p> <p>As a former primary school teacher, I used to be able to take my class down to the stream running into Campbells Bay to study the aquatic environment there, then the inter-tidal zone, and the marine rocky foreshore of Campbells Bay.</p> <p>It breaks my heart to see how, in only 30 years, biota from all environments have absolutely vanished. Stripped away completely.</p> <p>Doesn't this scare you..?</p> <p>It does scare me.</p> <p>Where are the creatures that thrived in our streams? Frogs? Koura?</p> <p>Dead and Gone.</p> <p>If creatures cannot survive in our streams - neither can we.</p> <p>I want to see freshwater standards RAISED HIGHER not lowered.</p> <p>I want to see more research and development into combating environmental degradation agents like Didymo and other polluters.</p> <p>I want future generations to discover what thrives in and alongside our freshwaters: fish, amphibians, birds, plants, molluscs and many more.</p> <p>Shame on the National Government for this downgrade to our precious, sacred, vulnerable, natural world.</p> <p>It belongs to them, it does not belong to us.</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider.</p> <p>Respectfully, Frances Horton.</p>
Mark	Crocker	
Ian	Forsyth	Retired natural scientist living in Christchurch and Naturalised KIWI
Sue	Stewart	When i came here over 20 years ago there was a substantial element of Truth in the NZ saying Clean and Green it is modified somewhat by the absence of Clean due to all the riverside dumping of trash and still maintains its green image in the Green and brown Slime in the deoxygenated water of our rivers and streams in Canterbury - Its beyond being a Crying Shame - its a Bloody disaster and i put it firmly with the blind Greed of those who misuse this resource and render the waterways as Filthy Swamps - a Bitter Bitter shame on government,the money mad Landowners, and utterly ignorant polluters . We the public, and our children, are the losers as are the the long dead river animals and fish..
		I want children now and the future not to get poisoned when they swim in the rivers I swam in as a child.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Alan	Willoughby	I'm a 71 year old environmental scientist who was in Taupo on holiday with my kids and grandkids, who enjoyed playing on the edge of Lake Taupo. So far this lake is relatively unpolluted, although not as clean as it was in my younger days when it was perfectly safe to drink straight from the lake. Farm runoff and other pollutants threaten the lake's purity and have reduced the quality in the past few years. Let's keep it clean and so my grandkids' grandkids can also play and swim safely in this beautiful lake.
Ruby	Keighley	I am a 24-year old Kiwi woman who has grown up swimming in rivers all across the country. From growing up spending summers in our very own water hole in Coromandel to spending every weekend with my friends at the local river in Taranaki. I am now working as a Production Manager in Auckland and am excited at the thought of exploring all of the fresh water gifts that Tamaki Makaurau has to offer. I believe that my access to this throughout the years I grew up was an important part of moulding who I am today. The image I am sharing is of my friends on one of the many trips we took to Merrilands Domain swimming hole in New Plymouth.
Olivia	Witter	I am 5 years old and have just learnt to swim. Please make all the lakes and the rivers swimmable again. I trust you will the right thing. Thanks
Sabina	Erickson	I am a 36 year old student nurse. Mother of two. I live in Christchurch. My childhood was shaped by freedom camping at the hurunui and waitohi. Swimming, kayaking, fishing. Being at the river washes away the troubles of the week and fills the soul with peace and calm. It is heartbreaking watching the rivers degrade into waterways so toxic that my children can no longer play safely in.
John	Lawson	I'm 66 years old, with land alongside the Waipa. It'd be great to be able to swim in it.
James Sygrove	Sygrove	I'm a 31 year old father from Queenstown. Clean water isn't a choice, its a right. The degradation of our freshwater is a national disgrace and needs to be looked out through a lens that isn't coloured by economics. Please take this seriously.
wendy	hodder	I'm a ;;55 yr old grandma - i grew up playing in the stream 'down the back' which sadly, had the trees cut down and the land leveled so is now no more than a trickle. My kids grew up playing in the river and in the sea while their dad went fishing, and i am very anxious that the water is now unsafe for my grandchildren to play in - let alone eat fish out of - please take action to clean up our rivers.
Ash Standing	Standing	I am a 27 year old bay of plenty local. I have enjoyed our beautiful rivers and streams my whole life, they are a part of who I am. They are a part of our identity as new Zealanders, and should be preserved not only for future generations, but out of respect for the rivers and streams themselves.
Serafina	Tane	I'm a 39 year old single mother, I've returned home to North Canterbury with my 6 year old son and it is an absolute novelty and pleasure to be able to take him to the river to play and swim! I grew up swimming in the rivers and have missed being able to do that while living in Australia. It's one of the many wonderful things about our country, we haven't stuffed it up...yet. Water is life, keep NZ alive.
grant	holmes	I am a 71 year old retiree. MY passions are fishing,mountain biking,kayaking and tramping. I love New Zealands great outdoors and what is happening to our lakes and rivers is breaking my heart. The government needs to lift it's game and fix the disgrace of our once pristine waters, now sadly degraded through neglect.
Dean	Griffiths	Im a 37 year old kiwi raft guide from mangaweka. I have spent my childhood swimming in nz rivers then spent most of my adult life working on rivers. I believe clean rivers are very important and our right to have.
Anna	FitzGerald	I am 25, I have had the privilege of swimming in rivers for many years. But there are many years in front of me in which I wish to continue doing so, with friends, with family, and with the next generation. This is not something NZ should lose the ability to do, the joyous abandon of swimming in summer, surrounded by good energy from family and nature.
Judy	Spencer	I am just one person that sees the damage greed does to my country and I note that what I have enjoyed my children and their children will no longer take as a right - the right to enjoy nature in its reality, not the water in the local man made pool. I'll never forget the aha moment in The Matrix film where the hero's eyes are opened to the reality of his world; instead of a simulated world of abundance and well-being he saw a sewer. His world had been destroyed and he hadn't noticed because his eyes were blinkered. More and more people in New Zealand are opening their eyes. Take note of that.
Albert Georg	Bucher	I came to New Zealand 35 years ago and one of our dream was to find an environmental friendly country. No doubt it was that way. For that dream I had to give up a super job as a design and development engineer. I also had to wipe my exceptionally large pension. I made a number of inventions and patents for small and big companies which reached world markets. With my wife and my children we really enjoyed the countryside ,rivers we went swimming .This of all we could do in our home country except going to the beaches. Since I am retired now we preferred to go to the beaches in Australia. Yes rivers are more and more blocked by fences and not just the river water is polluted also our drinking water has reached alarming signals. I pray that in this country we would be more sensitive and do something that our God given country would not end up a dump. God bless Albert Bucher
Rachael nina clausen	Nicoll clausen	I'm a 27 year old living in Dunedin, and I want my children to be able to grow up enjoying boating and swimming with the extended family, like we've always done. Photo: My cousin James on the left, and me on the right (semi-accidentally ingesting lake-water)

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
Beatrice miles	Small rushmer	My name is Beatrice. I am a grandmother. I'm a new zealander pakeha. I grew up on the land and by a river. I know the land i know mother earth and i know and deeply value water and the life it brings.i have deep knowledge. I grew up with clean water. Water is sacred to me. Governments and chemicals and drugs are destroying the water within ourselves and polluting our waterways and ocean. Important organisms and water plants (crucial to the life cycle of all beings) are being slowly destroyed and made inedible and causing cancers in insects birds animals and humans. The queens chain along riverways on farms needs to be grown back.these helped protect our riverways by filtering out chemicals and farm runoff. This government consisting of people who have no knowledge of what they are doing or always focused on profit contributes to the destruction and pollution and sickness of water animals and humans because your formula does not include respect for biodiversity. All water and all earth is a living being . ALL CHEMICALS DESTROY ALL CELLS OF ALL ORGANISMS OVERTIME. WHEN WILL YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES COMPREHEND THIS. Ask yourselves why have we got more and more people and now children getting sick??? When will you start standing by the principles of a healthy water body ocean people and protect yr people instead of bowing to chemical companies short needy manipulative whim for greed and deception of financial gains to you (their game). I want my grandchildren to have clean pure water clean chemical free foods to be nurtured and nourished by me and this community and that starts with clean unpolluted chemical free water and food (bio organic). Bio organic famers are your teachers and far surpasses anything you all embrace or with any corporation. I feel deeply ashamed of the government of NZ and who you've come to be. Soulless and empty. Every farmer every camper every tourist every trumper every water company should be holding far deeper respect for this land this water this life and far more trees and green spaces should be planted in our cities and far more education in primary schools on bio dynamic bio organic and permaculture should be taught so our young people grow up knowing the value of working alongside nature and respecting that. It would also provide nourishment for children who go to school hungry through no fault of their own. Also the economic equation is a sham and MUST be modified hugely! to incorporate what has for too long been laughed or sneered at, that is environmental factors in balance (chemical free). water is sacred to the life of all creatures. Start getting your act together and start protecting our land and our people and look long term, instead of the greed profiteering quick fix which is clearly demonstrating its not working in so many areas. Its easy to type a financial statement and hide the truth. We all know that! Also stop playing us all for fools. We gave you this privilege a job to do so start doing it in accordance with respect to all life.
meredith	knight	I'm a kiwi, and I'm shocked at the state of our waterways, I think it's nothing less than a national disgrace. I have 4 small children that will not get to enjoy the freedom of wading through streams and rivers as they should do.
Imogen	Prickett	I'm a 40-year old Pakeha aid worker and mother from Auckland and I want to keep New Zealand's streams and rivers clean and healthy for our people and our wildlife. My kids love exploring our local stream and swimming in it, just like I used to!
Emily Macklow	Macklow	I am a 49 year old music teacher from Tauranga and I want all of NZ's children to enjoy the astounding beauty of this land and its special waters. I have four children of my own and we spend a lot of time in the rivers, lakes, and streams around the Bay of Plenty. I want their children and the children after them to be able to continue to swim and play in these waters long after our generation are gone.
Gary	Sullivan	I am a 59 year old designer from Ngongotaha and I want my grandchildren to be able to safely swim in the stream over the back fence like we can now. We have watched this stream for 10 years, it is still good, but farming up the valley has intensified and it is visibly deteriorating. Many people fish for trout in this stream, it needs protection.
Warwick	Jamieson	57 year old, draughtsman living in Rotorua. We spend much of our free time on and around the Rotorua lakes and have a 1900 s era wooden launch on Lake Rotoiti. Our family make the most of water skiing, kayaking, picnicking and swimming. These photos are from last Februarys annual wooden boat parade on Rotoiti and show the state of the weed on the lakes. It is becoming so thick on the beaches and in the shallow water that swimming is not possible and landing a boat is unpleasant.
Line Ringgaard	Ringgaard	
Hilary	Smith	I am a 31 year old nz European woman from wanaka and having clean rivers and lakes is vital to both our livelihood (my partner is a fly fishing guide) and our lifestyle (we swim, fish, waterski, kayak). It would be heartbreaking and hugely detrimental to our country to see the quality of our waters decline.
Malcolm	Jansen	I am a 68 year old male caucasian Veterinarian. I grew up in Galatea in the heart of the Bay Of Plenty. In my youth I could swim in, fish in and drink from any one of three rivers running thru the valley I want my children and grandchildren to be able to enjoy the same experience anywhere in NZ. It is entirely achievable.
Kara	Hollis-Double	Kia Ora, I'm Kara :-) i am concerned with our waters quantity & quality completely and believe that unless something dramatic is done soon - we will all be sorry we didnt do more when we could. No more profit over people. We dont NEED money - clearly, as there are very few with it. What is important is our health and sustainabiliy. ENOUGH. Strength to all that try to help our water - i thank you x
justine	balcar	Kia Ora, I learnt to swim in the Punga Stream that flowed through our family farm in Taumarunui. My whanau and I now live in Little River and my kids swim in the Okana River. I want them to be able to continue to use our rivers and lakes without the worry of pollution. Clear waters are not a luxury, they are a necessity and should be prioritised accordingly.
Lilly	Moss-Bake	I'm a 16 year old pakeha student from Wellington who loves the outdoors- I want to make sure future generations have the opportunity to experience the beauty New Zealand has to offer as I have. Our lakes and rivers are a huge part of this- they deserve to be taken care of.
Tom	Gledhill	A citizen originally from the UK where we were destroying our environment but luckily joined the EU. don't let them do it here.
Brent	Osten	I'm a 37 year old male from Dunedin and my family and I are sick of deterioration of our rivers we swim and play in.
Gavin	James	Both my wife and I are in our 60s and really treasure trout fishing in those limited areas of NZ that are not now affected by pollution or abstraction. It is vital for our future that NZ adopts minimum water quality standards that allow swimming.
Jane melek	Howley korel	I am a 61 year old business owner from Wellington. My family have spent a lot of their summer holidays playing, swimming and having picnics besides rivers in this region. I want them and their children to be able to safely swim in our rivers.
Daniel		For the government to completely disregard the importance of maintaining our rivers and lakes is insanity. Kiwi living (especially in summer) is central to this issue. To completely ignore the implications for the tourism industry is also naive. Once our reputation is spoiled along goes our number one industry and \$30billion, do we really want to throw that away?
Kay	Neich	I wanted to show a photo of my uncle who had just thrown me out of my wheelchair at the Ashley River Gorge so he could sit down on it instead, and I'm there playing on a blanket listening to the river with his infant grandson. That's the NZ I love, I am a student ecologist because of that love, and I worry since knowing natural habitats are out there, are what keep me going. Are we really doing enough?
		The 2003 photo attached is at Fox Glacier. What I am wearing shows that I am a part of this excessive consumerist society, we all have to work in with nature more.

First name	Last name	Short description of yourself and the reason you care about this issue
graham	kyd	
ALISON W ARRON	Arron	As a 53 yr old busy administrator I really value my leisure time spent walking in the hills. I need the exercise for fitness, mental rest and to maintain good overall health. I rely on clean rivers and tarn in the back country for my drinking water.
Jean Gorman		We have a stream on our property that ran clear and clean 20 years ago. It was a whitebait stream and I have seen trout in it. Now it runs muddy the whole time as the cows in it upstream pollute it. We no longer take water from our domestic bore from a shallow aquifer as it is no longer trustworthy.
Norm	Brown	I run a rafting company using the whole of the Mohaka River in its various grades. It is my lively hood and that of 9 other people as well as a great asset to the Hawkes Bay bringing in around 2000 Tourists a year.
Lesley	Mochan	I am a 53 year old adventure junkie who loves to get into the great outdoors and experience all the wonderful things our natural environment provides. I want to be able to drink, swim, and play in our waterways.
Paul	Drake	My name is Paul Drake, I am 65 year old, born in the UK, lived in four countries. My last place of residence was Selwyn in Canterbury and i am very familiar with the rivers there being infected with didimo and other such nasties. If the rivers are infected by an overload of nitrates, the oceans will be poisoned too. This is absolutely criminal. The laws need to be tightened, and there needs to be put in place the re-instatement of the Queens chain. And that needs to be enforced and mandatory. Paul Drake Karamea NZ
Theo	Vale	I am a 73 old male I often paddle with my daughter in the Waikato river, we often see rubbish floating in the water and in some places the water is and smells bad. We should look after our rivers for future generations.
Callum	Nancarrow	
Anthony	Baynes	I'm a 57 yr old male pakeha community support worker. I live near a beautiful river where it comes out of the mountains in the Wairarapa. My favourite pastime is floating down my local river Waingawa. I can drink out of it! People visit me from all over the world and I take them swimming,kayaking in it and they say it was one of their NZ highlights! Long may it stay swimmable AND drinkable!!
Dennie	Meduna	
Marie	Velenski	I'm an artist and I rely on tourist numbers to make my living. Aside from a strong belief that all NZ children should be able to swim in their local creeks and rivers, we are in danger of destroying our beautiful country-the country people pay to visit, an industry bigger than dairy and with potential to be so much bigger. The negative feedback of tourists unmet expectations has started. I'm at the coal face, I hear it. Any country can farm, and many are jumping on the dairy bandwagon, there's only one NZ for the world to visit. Stop selling it down the river. Please
Hana Rochford Barber		I'm a 22 year old student and the thought that my kids won't get to have the same opportunities to spend there summer days paddling up and down our rivers breaks my heart. We are so lucky to live in New Zealand. Lets keep our waters clean.
Natasha	Simich	Water is life - stop stealing it, selling it, polluting it, it belongs to New Zealand it. Elongated to our people
Helen	Bathurst	I am a 65 year old grandmother of eight and grew up enjoying swimming and playing in some of our lakes and rivers. I want my grandchildren to be able to enjoy the same pleasures in clean rivers. Safe for wading is not good enough. Suggesting that it is acceptable for 1 in 20 people wading in water could get sick is not good enough. When children are involved wading can soon turn into swimming either intentionally or unintentionally. If 1 in 20 people can get sick wading through water what effect would it have on the fish swimming in it or other wildlife dependent on it? I am concerned about the effects of unclean water on our native fish and other wildlife.
Katia	De Lu	I'm a 27-year-old programmer living in Christchurch. I don't have kids yet, but someday I'd like to. I want to be able to take them swimming in our lakes and rafting on our rivers, like my parents did with my brother and me.
Rachel	Jamieson	This photo is of my family rafting down the Kaituna when I was a teenager (I'm in the yellow helmet). It was a great day and we all got soaking wet - no way would wade-able have been good enough
Toni	Robertson	I'm a 53 year old Grandmother who spends most of summer at Lake Rotoiti (North Island). We love the water to swim, kayak, sail, water-ski and cruise around on. The last few years we seem to have to deal with weed or algae, both make it dangerous to enjoy our summers like we used to. Please clean them up!! Thanks Rachel
Briony Raven		I'm a 53 year old farmer from lower Northland and I want my children and grandchildren to be able to swim and play in creeks like I did.
Rebekah		I am a 29 year old Midwife from Palmerston North and I want to be able to swim in the rivers without getting sick. I am a 25 year old psychology student. My photo is 20 years old. Me, my siblings and my cousins spent all of every summer of our childhoods swimming in our natural waters. It breaks my heart that my four year old boy doesnt get to experience that same joy. He absolutely loves swimming so I pay hundreds of dollars a year for him to swim in chlorinated waters. I take him to explore around the rivers but I wont let him in them as they are now filthy. I didnt realise that this was our doing until I went down south where the water is much cleaner. Please dont ruin our water down there and please fix it up here. Our beautiful natural country is so much better for our people than wealth. Our land and our people need to come before our pockets.
Rachel	Jamieson	I'm the secretary for the Lake Rotoiti Classic and Wooden Boat Assoc (North Island) We have many events throughout the year centred around the water. Unfortunately we had to cancel or move a few events last year due to the danger such huge amounts of weed presented. The smell of the piles on the beaches was disgusting and it was too thick to be able to swim in and it tangled on propellers - this is highly dangerous as people have to dive into the thick weed mats to untangle it underneath their boats, someone will get stuck!!! We have close to 200 family memberships, so our events can do involve a lot of people. It is our 20th parade coming up next February and we expect over 100 boats with most having 4 - 12 people on board. We are very, very worried about the state of the lake... I have attached a photo of the weed, would you let your kids swim in this????? thanks Rachel
Philip	Grey	Supporting Farmers and Growers - Water Energizing - Irrigation Energizing - Effluent Energized - Agriculture and Aquaculture - Living Water - www.earthtalk.org.nz
Lance	Harris	I am a 32 year old father of 3. I don't want my kids to look at me and say I did nothing and left them with the mess to clean up. We love heading into the Taranua ranges to explore and swim in the many beautiful streams

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Luke	Pilkinton-Ching	<p>As a child my family did a lot of tramping. Many of the highlights of our tramping trips had to do with water - swimming, drink fresh mountain water, being pounded under a waterfalls . . .</p> <p>I'm now 43 and have children of my own. However, I'm concerned about the number of times I've taken my children places, like the attached photo of Bridle Veil Fall near Raglan, and there are warning signs to not swim. The warnings and water quality are the result of farm run off.</p> <p>Dear government, please raise the bar beyond wade-able to to swim-able water quality. It's my opinion that the short term economic gains of a lower expectation of water quality are not worth it.</p> <p>It's my hope that one day my grandchildren will enjoy swimming at Bridle Veil Falls even though my kids couldn't.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p> <p>Luke</p>
Gillian	Pollock	<p>I am spending my 'retirement' almost exclusively on restoration, trying to repair some of the enormous damage done to native species and habitats through ignorance and folly. The attached is the main stream in a small catchment in the Tasman area which a group within the community are restoring to a healthy habitat for eels, several species of native fish and many invertebrates. The original kahikatea lowland forest was felled for pasture. There has been deep siltation but chemical run-off filters through ever increasing plant growth.</p>
Linda	Tocker	<p>I was born in NZ and lived in rural area on a sheep and beef farm.</p> <p>As a family would swim in the Ongarue River close by the farm in the summer time.</p> <p>I have fond memories of those days. I gained my water confidence in that river along with my brothers and sisters</p> <p>It's a shame that we can't do that today because of pollutants without risking disease and/or illness.</p>
Rima	Herber	<p>I am a 56-year-old ecologist and I live on the shores of Wairewa, the beautiful lake pictured here. This lake is currently so toxic, due to algae, that it isn't safe to even touch. We cannot kayak or swim in this beautiful body of water. When the children in my family come to visit we have to ensure they don't go anywhere near the water. Cats, dogs and several sheep have died from drinking the water. To be unable to swim in the lake that is 100 metres from our doorstep is a tragedy, in my view.</p>
Simon	Wright	<p>I'm 51 years old and grew up on the banks of the Ruamahanga River in the Wairarapa. My family spent most of the hot summer months in this river. I was shocked to see the state of my old swimming hole last year after many years away. It's disgusting now.</p> <p>I am now self employed and live in Porirua with my partner and 2 kids. One of our favourite summer activities is swimming in the Kiatoke River. My photo is from our family's first ever camping holiday, which was of course next to a river. The kids were little and it didn't take long for them to get into it.</p>
Kate	Taptiklis	<p>I am 39 years old and we live and work in Wellington. This pic is of our 3 boys swimming in a beautiful pristine water hole on the Tauherenikau just out of Featherston Wairarapa where my parents live. This spot is on a part of the river above farming areas so that it is still beautifully clean, and the most amazing swimming spot that is very popular in summer. It is very deep with rocks to climb up and jump off. If only all river swimming holes were this clean and amazing to swim in. Over use will not be good for this spot, and the more the rivers are polluted, the more it will be over used. Everyone wants to give their kids the experience of swimming in a river and jumping into deep pools. I hope my boys can bring their children to this spot when they are parents. Wading in the river does not cut it - this is a deep swimming hole perfect for diving and proper swimming - safe for wading is just not good enough. And frankly is just lazy - we need to set higher standards for ourselves.</p>
Bob	Miller	<p>I love being able to swim and play in our rivers and I am very concerned by the decline in water quality and the government's view that economic activity has to take precedence.</p>
Rhona	Bell	<p>We sent this photo to Horizons but they were unable to take action as they are beef cattle, not dairy cattle!! HOW RIDICULOUS!!</p>
David	Clarke	<p>I want my kids to be able to swim in the local river. Much safer than the surf beach.</p>
Jacqui	Eyley	<p>I walk dogs along the river in Upper Hutt. Every summer I'm worried about the toxic algae which is known to kill dogs. Last year one of the dogs came out with a nasty skin rash. Now I don't dare walk them near the river. I'm from England and I'm so disappointed with how polluted the rivers are here. I thought they'd be better than the UK but they're much worse.</p>
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