

Submission on Healthy Rivers.

Submitter John Mills.

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Sub: ~~The~~ Welcome the reason that rivers become unsuitable but submit that the Waipua Riv is different (different than Waikato) and thus targets should take account of this.

Reason: Many of the streams that contribute to the Waipua pass through sediment and thus river is often dirty. Streams in our catchment (which is west Coast but similar) are dirty when coming out of D.O.C. bush.

Sub: That all ^{water} quality tests results are given to landowners and town residents by E-mail.

Reason: That landowners and town residents take ownership of the problems they are causing, and the only way this will happen is if they know what the actual water quality tests are and they know what the trends are.

Sub: A ban on the rule of fencing ^{off} streams on extensive (low stocking rate) properties where the contour is greater than 15°. Replace it with providing water and shade away from streams

Reason: I believe stock will cause greater environmental damage when streams are fenced off i.e. walking around hills becomes walking up and down hills. On extensive properties (harder hill country) finding a place to site fence line and making a fence line will cause substantial environmental damage.

Putting in a water source other than streams had been shown to decrease stock in streams by between 95 and 99 per cent. basically removing the reason to fence off streams.

Sub: ~~Don't~~ Don't like the grandfathering of Nitrogen discharge but can not see any alternative at moment. However see the 75% position as a cap that ENVIRONMENTAL WAITAKI can lower within the next 10 years if test of streams show that Nitrogen discharge in Sub Catchments continue to increase. Also allow those that are low emitters of Nitrogen (less than 15 kg per year) some ~~allow~~ variation as ~~his~~ ~~may~~ ~~have~~ in amount of Nitrogen discharge.

Reason: First part self explanatory - 2nd part allowing some variation for low emitters may give them some profit if say lambs may be farmed and fattened in May rather than having to be sold as store lambs in April.

Sub: That stream and river banks be planted with poplars and willows where appropriate to reduce erosion of river banks.

Reason: A lot of the sediment in streams and rivers of the Waipā Catchment is actually coming off the erosion of river banks. A good example is the stream going down through Horikini. Farmer fenced off his stream 2 years ago and now has fence over stream where the stream has undercut the banks. Willows and to a lesser extent poplars are able to hold the banks of the stream, and keep the stream in place.

Sub: That more research be done on E-Coli in extensively farmed areas to find what effect livestock have on E-Coli levels in water.

Reason: In areas like our where 1080 has been dropped to \downarrow lower the opossum population, E Coli levels have increased. This has been put down to increases in the bird population. Its no use putting in a \downarrow reduction in E-Coli if this can only be achieved by removing ducks and other birdlife.

Sub: That toilet facilities be provided on walking Tracks and walkways along streams & rivers.

Reason: self explanatory as human pathogens are the ones we want least in our rivers and streams.

I would like to speak to the submitters.