



THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

24 February 2017

Swimmability maps highlight Coast's water quality

Government announcements on National Policy Statement work, swimmability maps and the new Improvement Fund provide the next step to address rising concerns throughout New Zealand for our freshwater resources.

The 'swimmability maps', comparing water quality between all the regions in New Zealand, indicates that the West Coast freshwater resources are swimmable 99% of the time. While this is the highest level in New Zealand, this result is not unexpected due to the land use of the region and the good work that has been undertaken by industry, landowners and community groups especially in reducing point source discharges.

Here on the West Coast, the Regional Council holds freshwater management in high regard with some notable successes in recent years.

"While we have pretty good water quality throughout the region, there are some areas, and activities, that we are focussing on," said Regional Council Chief Executive Mike Meehan. "The work undertaken with landowners in the Lake Brunner Catchment, and Harris Creek area, highlight how we can work with the community to improve water quality."

Mr Meehan said that collectively the region needs to work together to keep making progress on water quality issues. "This will ensure that the reasons people choose to live here, and come to visit, are maintained into the future."

In recent years, the Council has reviewed provisions regarding land use activities affecting water quality in the Lake Brunner catchment, and by working with submitters on the Proposed Regional Policy Statement a clear pathway forward is being mapped for water management. "We are ensuring that changes in this space, particularly through the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management will be implemented by Council into the future, recognising the importance of water to our communities," said Mr Meehan.

The swimmability maps provided by MfE are based on a yearly average, and only show water quality at a moment in time which does not present an accurate picture of the current state of the West Coast's waterways. The Council recommends people use LAWA as their primary source of swimmability information, as it provides real-time information based on the latest sampling that complies with established guidelines.

"I would remind our communities, and visitors to the region, that waterways are never swimmable all year round, particularly after heavy rain," said Mr Meehan. "Check out our website for the latest sampling results before heading off for a swim."


































LAWA (Land Air Water Aotearoa) is a partnership between regional councils, the Cawthron Institute, MfE and Massey University.

Today (Friday 24 February), 100% of the West Coast freshwater sites shown on LAWA are flagged as suitable for swimming. Two sites did not have data obtained in the latest round of sampling.

CAPTION FOR GRAPHIC

The current status of the West Coast’s freshwater sites, as shown on LAWA. Sites flagged green and orange are acceptable for swimming.

ENDS

		Weekly result	Overall risk status
	ARAHURA RV @ SH6 River Quality Site	 16 Feb 2017	
	BULLER RIVER @ MARRS BEACH River Quality Site	 No recent data	
	BULLER RIVER @ SHINGLE BEACH River Quality Site	 No recent data	
	GREY RIVER @ TAYLORVILLE SWIMMING HOLE River Quality Site	 16 Feb 2017	
	KANIERE RIVER @ KOKATAHI-KANIERE RD River Quality Site	 16 Feb 2017	
	NELSON CK @ SWIMMING HOLE RESERVE River Quality Site	 16 Feb 2017	
	SEVEN MILE CK @ SH6 RAPAHOE River Quality Site	 16 Feb 2017	
	LAKE BRUNNER @ CASHMERE BAY BOAT RAMP Lake Site	 16 Feb 2017	
	LAKE BRUNNER @ IVEAGH BAY Lake Site	 16 Feb 2017	
	LAKE BRUNNER @ MOANA Lake Site	 16 Feb 2017	
	LAKE MAHINAPUA @ SHANGHAI BAY Lake Site	 16 Feb 2017	

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