

Drink Swim Fish

Fixing the rules for fresh
water and oceans.

Auth by Marama Davidson and Chlöe Swarbrick, Green Party Co-leaders.
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 Green

Ko te wai te toto o te whenua, ko te whenua te toto o te tangata. Water is the blood of the land, and land is the blood of the people.

From our mountain glaciers to our wild coasts, Aotearoa is defined by water. Water has always shaped our land, our lives, and our livelihoods.

Clean, healthy water is a human right and a way of life for all of us in Aotearoa.

But this way of life is being taken from us. Every year, up to 100,000 people become sick from unsafe drinking water. Our favourite swimming spots are often too polluted to swim in, and our moana is being emptied out, pushing marine life to the brink of collapse.

The weak rules in place now allow for out of control pollution and damaging fishing practices that mean human and environmental health pay for short term corporate profits.

The Green Party will fix the rules, so the health of our communities and the health of our environment always come first. We will make sure all New Zealanders can drink, swim, and fish in the places they love.



We will start by

- Protecting **drinking water** by setting strong environmental limits and lowering nitrate limits.
- Protecting **rivers and coasts** by strengthening rules for wastewater discharges.
- Protecting **our moana** by phasing out destructive bottom trawling.

The health of our communities and our economy depends on the health of our environment.

Rules that allow overfishing and pollution mean we have unsafe drinking water, polluted rivers and a depleted moana. This is not how life in Aotearoa should be.

The Green Party will fix the rules so everyone’s drinking water is safe, local swimming holes and beaches don’t have warning signs at the car park, and kaimoana is plentiful.



This means tackling pollution before it reaches our waterways; restoring natural ecosystems that keep water clean; protecting biodiversity; and ending activities that harm communities and the environment.

By rebuilding the health of our moana, rivers, lakes and estuaries, the Green Party will make sure everyone in Aotearoa can drink from, swim in, and fish from our waters.


We’re putting the brakes on pollution and exploitation by fixing the rules. Because our rivers, lakes and moana are for all of us.





The Green Party will:



   **Set strong, science-based national standards** for freshwater that protect both the health of our communities and the health of our rivers, lakes and aquifers, including by lowering the nitrate limit for drinking water.

   **Strengthen rules for wastewater discharges** to ensure our rivers, lakes and moana are swimmable.


 **Empower the drinking water regulator** to monitor, report on and enforce protections for drinking water sources.

   **Phase out synthetic nitrogen fertiliser and take action** to reduce stocking rates on a catchment basis to improve the health of rivers and drinking water quality.

  **Protect at least 30% of New Zealand’s moana** to restore marine ecosystems and support abundant fisheries by reforming marine-protected area legislation to ensure it is fit-for-purpose, Tiriti-consistent, and tikanga-led.

  **Support kaitiakitanga Māori** in marine management and iwi- and hapū-led conservation and restoration initiatives.

 **Phase out destructive fishing methods,** including bottom trawling on seamounts, set netting and dredging.

 **Review the Quota Management System** and move towards ecosystem-based fisheries management that prioritises abundance and long-term sustainability.

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