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## SUBMISSION ON NEXT STEPS FOR FRESHWATER

The LAKES WATER QUALITY SOCIETY Acknowledges the excellent work undertaken by the LAND AND WATER FORUM under the chairmanship of Alastair Bisley that has lead to the consultation document --- "Next Steps for Fresh Water".

In its foreword the LAND and WATER FORUM states " To maximise these opportunities for us all, and for future generations we needed a better way to manage water in New Zealand - less confrontational, more collaborative, and more effective." " The Forum was established in the belief that the stakeholders needed to engage directly with each other if we were to find a way forward." In its list of recommendations--"Set limits for Quantity and Quality ". LWQS supports the following recommendations in particular:

1. Central government should define national objectives for the state of our water bodies and set an overall timeframe within which they will be achieved , through instruments (National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards ) made under the Resource Management Act.

2. That Regional councils must give effect to these national objectives at catchment level taking into account the spatial variation in biophysical characteristics of their water bodies and their current state, and by expressing objectives at a regional level as measurable environmental states, and link these to standards and limits.

4 Catchment standards and limits must at least meet national level objectives.

17 Regional councils should ensure that regulatory approaches are as far as possible consistent across catchments and between councils.

The above are just a few of the many excellent recommendations made by the Forum that LWQS supports.

## NEXT STEPS for FRESH WATER

1 *We agree that overall water quality should be maintained or improved with in a freshwater management unit rather than within a region ? In regions different water bodies may require different treatment to achieve the best outcome.*

7. *We agree with--'. excluding livestock from water bodies ' At present a farmer can be prosecuted if he allows cow shed effluent to enter a water body but his stock can stand in the water body and fowl it ?*

10. *"How should the Government help councils and communities address over-allocation for water quality and water quantity?"*

***We believe that the most important step was the introduction of -"The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management" This give a uniform policy for the whole of New Zealand for Regional Government to implement.***

***We believe that the long-term national aim should be that all fresh water bodies should be swimmable but realise that for some special reasons this may not be achievable. Therefore the needs to be a system were application can be made of exemptions under a transparent RMA type process.***