

## Swimmability comparison

Water quality data from GWRC's SoE monitoring network shows:

- 49% of the SoE sites in the Wellington Region are swimmable under the proposed NPS (compared with 38% under the current minimum acceptable standard for swimming). It is important to note that SoE data only reflects the condition of a site, not the entire river. It is for this reason that the figures presented here differ from those produced by MfE.
- Of the 43 SoE sites located on rivers where the targets apply ( $\geq 4$ th order rivers), only 44% are swimmable (compared with 35% under the current minimum acceptable standard for swimming) (Table A1).
- Six SoE sites do not meet the old minimum acceptable standard for swimming, but are swimmable under the proposed NPS. Four of these sites are located on fourth order or larger rivers (Table A1).
- Of the 24 rivers identified in Schedule H2 of the proposed Plan as priorities for improvement of water quality for contact recreation and Maori customary use, 21 are fourth order or larger. Of these 21 rivers, only two are swimmable at all sites where *E.coli* is monitored. This is not to say that the other rivers are unswimmable along their entire length, but it does mean that there are certain reaches where the risk to human health is sufficiently high that swimming should be avoided.

**Table A1.** This table compares the swimmability of GWRC's SoE monitoring sites (on  $\geq 4$ th order rivers) under the existing and amended NPS, with the swimmability maps produced by MfE. Note: this is just a preliminary assessment, and should not be treated as a definitive assessment of swimmability in the Wellington Region without further analysis and peer review.

	Swimming category	%age of GWRC SoE sites in each category	%age of rivers, by length in each category	Swimmability of SoE sites under proposed NPS	Swimmability of SoE sites under current NPS
Swimmable	Excellent	35%	25%	44%	35%
	Good	2%	9%		
	Fair	7%	32%		
Unswimmable	Intermittent	30%	29%	56%	65%
	Poor	26%	6%		

**Table A2.** In this table, the swimmability of the rivers identified in Schedule H2 of the pNRP as priorities for improvement for contact recreation is assessed. Assessments are based on water quality data collected from the most degraded SoE site on each river. This approach was taken because Schedule H2 identifies entire rivers, not particular sites. Note: this is just a preliminary assessment, and should not be treated as a definitive assessment of swimmability of the identified rivers without further analysis and peer review.

Schedule H2 priority type	River	National targets apply	SoE sites	Swimming category	Swimmable under proposed NPS	Swimmable under current NPS
First priority primary contact	Hutt River	✓	3	Intermittent	x	x
	Wainuiomata River	✓	2	Fair	✓	x
First priority secondary contact	Karori Stream	x	1	Poor	x	x
	Mangapouri Stream	x	1	Poor	x	x
Second priority secondary contact	Awhea River	✓	1	Intermittent	x	x
	Horokiri Stream	✓	1	Poor	x	x
	Huangarua River	✓	1	Good	✓	x
	Kaiwharawhara Stream	✓	1	Poor	x	x
	Kopuaranga River	✓	1	Intermittent	x	x
	Makara Stream	✓	1	Poor	x	x
	Mangaone Stream	✓	1	Poor	x	x
	Mangaroa River	✓	1	Intermittent	x	x
	Mangatarere River	✓	1	Intermittent	x	x
	Mataikona tributary	x	1	Fair	✓	x
	Ngarara Stream	✓	1	Intermittent	x	x
	Parkvale Stream	✓	1	Poor	x	x
	Pauatahanui Stream	✓	1	Poor	x	x
	Porirua Stream	✓	2	Poor	x	x
	Taueru River	✓	2	Intermittent	x	x
	Waitohu Stream	✓	2	Poor	x	x
	Waiwhetu Stream	✓	2	Poor	x	x
	Whangaehu River	✓	1	Intermittent	x	x
Whareama River	✓	1	Intermittent	x	x	
Whareroa Stream	✓	2	Intermittent	x	x	