
Correspondence

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RE: Complaint about the publication of letter from Doug Edmeades in *NZ Science Review* (2017) vol. 74(2)*

I am writing to complain about the publication of the correspondence from Doug Edmeades in *New Zealand Science Review* (2017), vol. 74(2), titled 'Is Mike Joy Biased?'. The letter is primarily two totally unsubstantiated and false statements about me, namely: (1) the claim that I say nitrogen is the only issue for freshwater in New Zealand; and (2) the claim that I said the Havelock water crisis was caused by dairy farming. Details below:

- (1) In the last 20 years I have published around 260 items related to freshwater health, (45 journal articles, more than 100 public talks, dozens of plenary and invited talks at conferences, 9 book chapters, one book, more than 40 commissioned technical reports¹) as well as television and radio interviews, and these all contained details on the many impacts on freshwater in New Zealand including the few mentioned in the letter, but in much more detail. I have never said nitrate is the only issue. What I have said is that in many New Zealand Rivers it is the biggest problem and I have given scientific details to support this.
- (2) I have never said in public or private that the Havelock water crisis was caused by dairy farming. What I did say in the early stages was that the cause may never be known, and later, after the DNA evidence was released, I said it was likely to be ruminant. I said that this contamination of water supplies is not new and that in many other cases in New Zealand the cause in shallow bores was intensive farming, and I gave specific examples from Canterbury and Walkerton (Canada).

Mike Joy
6 November 2018

¹ <https://www.victoria.ac.nz/sog/about/staff/mike-joy>

* **The public dialogue between Drs Edmeades and Joy in *New Zealand Science Review* is now closed – Editor.**