

Stick Your Oar In Have Your SAY...

Mail your letters to **Stick Your Oar In**

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Make Your Vote Count

The election on September 20 is very crucial in terms of a number of adverse trends, but in line with your readers' interests, more particularly threats to the public's fishing, hunting and New Zealand's outdoor way of life.

Where does one start? Examples are many. Selling off the public's assets despite the vast majority being opposed. Sixty percent of rivers unsafe for swimming. Nick Smith's grandiose plan to dump 1080 on public lands. Cutting recreational sea fishing bag limits. Increasing foreign ownership of high country, with locked gates then erected. Foreshore and seabed. Corporate dairying and an insatiable demand for public water from rivers. Oil prospecting by overseas corporate oil companies in public forest parks like the Victoria Range, Lewis Pass. And so the list goes on and on.

The Council of Outdoor Recreational Association of NZ (CORANZ) sees this election as vital to the future of outdoors, our birthright and quality

of life. It has produced an election charter listing 17 priority issues and asked political parties for comment. In the September issue CORANZ hopes to tell you about these.

Preliminary results of party replies to CORANZ indicates three minor parties (NZ First, United Future, Conservatives) to be the most 'in tune' with NZ's outdoors. In summary National ranked lowest and Labour, Maori and Greens ranked well below the top three. ACT and Mana did not reply.

This election is a golden chance to turn the tide and re-establish the public's right to the outdoors and to catch a feed a fish, to clean rivers, to healthy unpoisoned mountains and forests - if enough care. Do you?

Vote for whichever candidate you think. National, Labour or whoever but consider giving your party vote to one of those top three minor ones - NZ First, United Future or Conservatives.

Bill Benfield

Co-chairman- CORANZ