

Section 1

#1: Opening Paragraph

Strengths:

- Your opening clearly states your purpose and establishes a personal connection to the issue by mentioning that you live near the Cooks River
- You've identified your audience appropriately and used a respectful greeting for the Mayor

Inconsistent Tone → Your letter mixes informal language ("idk school (:)") with formal persuasive writing. When writing to a public official, you need to maintain a professional and respectful tone throughout. The emoticon and "idk" make your letter seem less serious, which might cause the Mayor to not take your request as seriously as you intend.

Exemplar: *"My name is Felix, and I am a Year 5 student at Tempe Primary School. I'm writing to you today because I live near the Cooks River..."*

#2: Second Paragraph (Pollution Details)

Strengths:

- You've included a specific fact about plastic decomposition, which adds credibility to your argument
- You've made a clear connection between the rubbish and the harm to local wildlife

Repetitive Structure → Your sentences follow a similar pattern, which makes the paragraph feel choppy rather than flowing smoothly. Notice how you start with "When I walk along the banks," then "Not only is this ugly," then "When the small birds..." This repetition makes your writing less engaging. Varying your sentence beginnings and combining related ideas would strengthen your argument.

Exemplar: *"Walking along the banks, I'm confronted by plastic debris and rubbish scattered across the river. This isn't just unsightly—it poses a serious threat to our local wildlife, as plastic can take hundreds of years to decompose and often harms the birds and eels that mistake it for food."*

#3: Request Paragraph (Final Paragraph)

Strengths:

- You've been specific about what you're asking for (equipment like gloves, bags, and bins)
- You've included a clear call to action by requesting a reply and a meeting

Vague Timeline → While you mention wanting to meet "next week," you haven't provided enough detail about who from your group will attend or what specific topics need to be discussed. Your request would be stronger if you explained exactly what needs to be finalised during this meeting and who the Council should expect to work with. This would show better planning and make it easier for the Mayor's office to respond.

Exemplar: *"Could you please reply by Friday, October 18th to confirm your support? I would be grateful if you could direct me to the appropriate Council member who oversees community environmental projects, so we can arrange a meeting early next week to discuss safety procedures, equipment collection, and waste disposal logistics."*

■ Your letter demonstrates a genuine concern for the Cooks River and presents a well-organised plan for addressing the pollution problem. You've structured your argument logically, moving from the problem to your proposed solution and then to your specific requests. However, your writing would benefit from deeper development in several areas. Your third paragraph about "River Revival Day" could be expanded to include more practical details—for example, what time will the event run, will there be adult supervision, and have you coordinated with any environmental organisations? Additionally, your fourth paragraph makes broad claims about "investment" and "good news stories" but doesn't provide concrete examples of how similar clean-up events have succeeded in other areas or what specific outcomes you're hoping to achieve (such as collecting a certain amount of rubbish or engaging a particular number of community members). Also, consider explaining in your second paragraph why the pollution has become worse recently or what's causing the most significant problems. Your final paragraph uses phrases like "basic petition" which undersells the importance of your request—you should convey confidence in your project's value rather than diminishing it. Throughout the letter, work on connecting your ideas more smoothly between paragraphs so each section builds naturally on the previous one.

Overall Score: 40/50

Section 2:

Subject: Urgent Request: Support Cooks River Community Clean-Up Day!

Dear Mayor Clover Moore,

#1 My name is Felix, and I am a Year 5 student at ~~idk school~~: **[Tempe Primary School]**. I'm writing to you today because I live near the Cooks River, and I think it's one of the most important parts of our community. Our beautiful river is getting sick from rubbish, and we need your help to make it healthier. We're going to have a big community clean-up day[, **and**] your support is crucial for us to succeed.

#2 The pollution of the river is quite alarming. When I walk along the banks, I see so much plastic debris and garbage on the river. ~~Not only is this ugly, it is highly dangerous for the residents.~~ **[This isn't just unsightly—it poses a serious threat to our local wildlife.]** (Here's a fact for you): Did you know that plastic debris can take hundreds of years to decompose? When the small birds or eels try to eat this plastic, they get very sick. We would like the river to become clean so our local wildlife can start to thrive again. This is an urgent matter that needs our attention right away.

#3 Our community clean-up day, which we are calling "River Revival Day," will be held on Saturday, ~~October~~ **[26th October]** 26th. We already have 50 volunteers ready to help, but we need the Council's support to ~~allow us to~~ **[help us]** make it effective and safe. We would like to target plastic bottles, plastic bags, and other rubbish from the banks from Tempe to Earlwood. Not only will it ~~get rid of~~ **[remove]** the rubbish, but it will also ~~show~~ **[demonstrate to]** the whole community how important it is to keep our waterways clean.

An investment by your Council in this project would be a powerful statement. By assisting us, you are not just cleaning a river; you are investing in the health and happiness of every resident. Consider the ~~good news stories~~ **[positive media coverage]** and the pride boost in the community! People love to see a clean, well-looked-after local environment. Having the resources and stamp of approval of the Council will make our venture safer and so much bigger than what we could undertake alone.

We humbly and urgently request your approval of "River Revival Day" and ask that you provide us with equipment such as heavy-duty gloves, ~~trash~~ **[rubbish]** bags, and safe disposal bins. ~~Please reply to this email to confirm your support and let us know who we can meet with next week to discuss and finalise the logistics.~~ **[Could you please reply by Friday, 18th October to confirm your support? I would be grateful if you could direct me to the appropriate Council member who oversees community environmental projects, so we can arrange a meeting early next week to discuss safety procedures, equipment collection, and waste disposal arrangements.]**

~~Thanks~~ **[Thank you]** for considering this ~~basic petition~~ **[important request]**. Let's make the Cooks River beautiful again!

Yours sincerely,

Felix

A Concerned Local Resident