New Zealand's environment minister has been challenged to a fist fight by a conservationist over the government's "swimmable rivers" policy. Conservation trust manager Greg Byrnes posted an advert in the local paper calling on Dr Nick Smith to meet him for a boxing match at a swimming hole, the New Zealand Herald reports. Mr Byrnes says the spot is badly polluted, but still classed as suitable to swimming. In February, Dr Smith announced a new policy of making 90% of New Zealand's waterways safe for swimming by 2040, but it included changes to water quality standards. Critics say that means water previously considered not suitable for swimming would be labelled as safe under the new measures. The classified advert took a dig at that policy with its wording. "The loser to frolic in the water hole for no less than 5 minutes," the advert reads. "This is in line with my target to make 90% of all Members of the NZ Parliament believable by 2020." Mr Byrne says he isn't expecting an answer, but took out the ad to make a point. "We've got a fantastic country, but we're fast-tracking it to not a nice place," he tells the paper. "I can't imagine what the Canterbury plains will be like in 15 years, unless we do something." The likelihood of seeing any fisticuffs is slim, as a spokesman for the minister says he won't be responding to the challenge. In a statement Dr Smith said that the policy would require 1,000 km (620 miles) of waterways to be improved each year.

A New Zealand environmentalist has challenged his country's environment minister to a fist fight. Greg Byrnes, general manager of the Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara conservation trust, issued the challenge to Nick Smith in a newspaper classified ad. He asked the minister to meet him in Christchurch for a boxing match with "Queensberry Rules." The loser has to "frolic" in a local swimming hole that Greg Byrnes says is no longer fit for swimming.

A conservation trust manager angry at Environment Minister Nick Smith's swimmable river stance has challenged him to a boxing match - with the loser to "frolic" in one of Christchurch's most polluted swimming holes. Greg Byrnes posted a classified advert on Wednesday challenging Dr Smith to a "Queensbury Rules fist fight". He asked Dr Smith to meet him at the Otukaikino Swimming Hole, which he said was one of Christchurch's most polluted waterways, but was still officially called a swimming hole. "The loser to frolic in the water hole for no less than 5 minutes. This is in line with my target to make 90% of all members of the NZ Parliament believable by 2020," he said in the advert. It was sparked by Dr Smith's new swimmable rivers policy, which aims to have 90 per cent of lakes and rivers swimmable by 2040 - but has lower standards for what is considered swimmable. Mr Byrnes is general manager of the Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara conservation trust and a former Environment Canterbury planner, and said he saw the effect of pollution on Christchurch's waterways every day. Earlier this month Dr Smith took a dip in the Manawatu River, in front of gathered reporters, after the river was labelled the worst in the western world and an accord was signed to improve it. He did not expect Dr Smith to respond to his advert, but posted it because he believed the Government policy treated people "like idiots". "Most people will hear that and think they're doing something, and they're not," he said.

India wrapped up a 2-1 series victory over Australia by winning the fourth and deciding Test in Dharamsala. The hosts needed 106 in their second innings to win and reached their target for the loss of two wickets. They had resumed on 19-0 and Murali Vijay went for eight while Cheteshwar Pujara was run out without scoring. However, KL Rahul's unbeaten 51 - his sixth half century of the series - and stand-in skipper Ajinkya Rahane's 38 not out eased them to victory. Rahul hit the winning runs as India won the 10th out of 13 Tests in a marathon home campaign which saw the top-ranked team beat New Zealand, England, Bangladesh and Australia. India's only defeat in those contests came against Australia when they were thrashed by 333 runs in the first Test of the series. The hosts bounced back with victory in the second and, after the third was drawn, won the fourth without injured captain Virat Kohli to beat the number two ranked Test team. "This is our best series win so far," said Kohli. "The maturity and responsibility shown by the boys was great to see. "The changes we made to our fitness regime have paid off. It has been a team season. The responsibility has been shared." The fourth Test turned on day three when India bowled Australia out for 137 but visiting captain Steve Smith, who scored three centuries in the series, said he was "proud of the way the guys have competed". He added: "It was a magnificent series, probably one of best I have been involved in. "A lot of people wrote us off before we got here but I am proud of how the guys adapted. We probably let a few moments slip and against India you cannot do that."

Ajinkya Rahane sent a 146kph bouncer from Pat Cummins flying into the crowd at midwicket and, next ball, slapped another short one over the cover fence while backing away. These were the blows that finally snuffed out the last of Australia's fight, and sealed once and for all India's victory in this most bewitching of Border-Gavaskar series. Australia entered the fourth morning with only the scantest of hopes, defending a mere 87 runs and needing 10 wickets. This did not mean that contest was over, as Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins fired the ball down with pace and venom after a night's refreshment. The loss of M Vijay and Cheteshwar Pujara - the latter run out by a brilliant throw from Glenn Maxwell - kept Australia hoping. But KL Rahul and Rahane responded with bold blows to settle the matter. The win in Dharamsala ended India's marathon home Test season with four series victories out of four, and also means that the team presently holds series honours over every other nation in the five-day game. Rahane's stand-in captaincy, in the absence of the injured Virat Kohli, had been vital to this achievement, so too the runs of Rahul, the pace of Umesh Yadav and the all-round contribution of Ravindra Jadeja. There will be great satisfaction derived also from the fact that Dharamsala offered conditions more familiar to the tourists. For that reason, among others, Steven Smith's team were left to ponder a string of missed opportunities after their vast opening win [in Pune](http://www.espncricinfo.com/india-v-australia-2016-17/engine/match/1062573.html). There have been times in all three Tests since that the Australians have looked very much in control of proceedings, but they have been unable to stay on the mountaintop under pressure from an Indian side roused into action by the shock of that first-up hiding. As the ball continued to bounce and swerve when India resumed their pursuit of a modest target today, Australia's fielders must have wondered what might have been with another 100 or so runs to defend. Josh Hazlewood went up for a pair of vociferous lbw appeals against Vijay in the opening over, but on both occasions the opener got the merest of bat to ball before it struck the pad. At the other end Cummins sent a bouncer down the leg side that may have touched Vijay's gloves before being taken on the juggle by Matthew Wade. Certainly Ultra Edge indicated as much, but only Wade raised the most half-hearted of appeals. More straightforward was another edge in Cummins' next over, near enough to an action replay of Vijay's first-innings dismissal, which offered a glimmer of light for Australia. Genuine excitement followed when Pujara and Rahul hesitated fatally in taking a quick single to the right arm of Maxwell, who threw down middle stump to send Pujara on his way with 60 still needed. In those moments the Australians wondered briefly what might be possible, and the Indian viewing area tensed up like with so many teams chasing a pesky small target in the past. But Rahane and Rahul barely put a foot out of place in the overs that followed, accumulating steadily until Cummins elected to go around the wicket for the tourists' final effort. Rahane's riposte, the first impressively orthodox, the second more redolent of the forthcoming IPL, said much about India's admirable resilience in the face of a most unexpected challenge.

A series that banged and crashed its way around India through a month of pulsating struggle drifted away in less than a session as India cruised to an eight-wicket victory on the fourth morning in Dharamsala, reclaiming the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in the process. Australia’s meek collapse the previous afternoon ensured there would be no grandstand finish, the hosts left 106 for victory on a surface that was always going to stay true. Returning with 87 more to get, the hosts did the rest in 18 overs. KL Rahul was not out when the triumph came, giving him 403 series runs, alongside his acting captain Ajinkya Ranahe who finished with a dashing 38. Josh Hazlewood could do little more to force an incision to replicate the rot India’s seamers had started the day before, false strokes earned from the outset. But as is so often is the case when the result looks a formality, with so few runs to play with, nothing went his way. Curiously, Steve O’Keefe was given the first opportunity to open the attack at the other end, to negligible effect. When danger man Pat Cummins was given the ball it took him just seven deliveries to find Murali Vijay’s outside edge, pouched safely behind the wicket by Matthew Wade. When Glenn Maxwell, racing in to gather the ball and hit middle stump out of the ground in one smooth motion to leave Cheteshwar Puraja well short of his ground to end that same over, two wickets had fallen on 46. If something was brewing – a final twist in a series full of them – Rahane was having none of it. The new man immediately took on Cummins with a glorious cover drive then a powerful hook shot next ball. Two overs later, it was consecutive sixes, slaying Cummins over midwicket then somehow taking another short ball over the rope at cover. From there it was a stroll and Rahul raised his half-century when clipping O’Keefe through midwicket for the winning runs. Steve Smith’s men leave rightly proud of what has been achieved, but that’s cold comfort in the aftermath of an opportunity burned in this deciding rubber. The ample confidence they carried into the encounter was earned in the gutsy draw in Ranchi to keep the series alive. Upon their arrival, the pitch looked antipodean not subcontinental. Then Virat Kohli was ruled out. Then Smith won the toss. Their favouritism, however slight, was warranted. Yet it was the pattern of the series, from Bangalore onwards, that Australia weren’t able to successfully bank their gains. The middle-order collapse on the opening afternoon came after Smith and David Warner pushed Australia to an imposing 144-1. The second innings debacle immediately followed a stoic comeback with the ball to end India’s first innings with a manageable deficit of 32. In both Bangalore and Ranchi there were chances to shut Kohli’s men out from imposing positions, but none were taken. An overreliance on Smith is a logical point of criticism, Australia’s relatively inexperienced and collapse-prone batting line up unable to deliver on a consistent enough basis. Not least the vice-captain Warner, who tallied just 193 runs at an average of 24. The skipper will take personal satisfaction from the fact that he could have done little more. Hi 499 series runs, including three centuries on three considerably different surfaces and circumstances, reinforced his standing as the world’s best player. “It was a magnificent series and one of the best I’ve been a part of,” Smith said after play. “We’ve learnt a lot out of this series as a young side and we will take plenty out of this and it should hold us in good stead. I’m really proud of the way the boys have competed.” India’s come-from-behind win defied the fact that their own captain, Kohli, never fired a shot. But the supporting cast of Pujara and Rahul were able to time and again do the heavy lifting. With the ball, Ravindra Jadeja’s relentless spin netted 25 wickets at 19 apiece, ably supported by Ravichandran Ashwin, who was not at his most potent but still claimed 21 wickets along the way. They will also be encouraged by Umesh Yadav, a seamer with pace and swing who will serve as an excellent attack leader in Australian conditions next time around; essential if they are to buck the trend of these two nations and retain the trophy away from home when India visit next in November 2018. The lopsided final result doesn’t do justice to the nature of this riveting series. Few will forget the relentless tension, which made it one of the most watchable in modern memory. For Australia, it’s clear they were not quite ready to win here, but the progress made since their previous visit to the subcontinent, and from the Hobart debacle in November, is not for nothing either. For that, they now command respect. Next stop: the Ashes.