

## 4 Public Forum

**Meeting:** Whangarei District Council  
**Date of meeting:** 24 August 2023  
**Reporting officer:** Carolyne Brindle (Senior Democracy Adviser)

### 1 Purpose / Te Kaupapa

To afford members of the community an opportunity to speak to Council and to report on matters raised at public forums where appropriate.

### 2 Summary

Standing Orders allow for a period of up to 30 minutes to be set aside for a public forum at the commencement of each monthly council meeting.

The time allowed for each speaker is 5 minutes.

Members of the public who wish to participate should send a written application, setting out the subject matter and the names of the speakers, to the Chief Executive at least 2 clear working days before the day of the meeting.

#### Speakers

At the time of the agenda closure no applications to speak at public forum had been received.

#### Response to previous speakers

Speaker	Topic
Dr Lawrie Brett Deb Fong Carolyn Bond Mia Barton-Boots	Fluoride in public water
<p>Council thanks the four speakers for taking the time and effort to present their views on Fluoride in public water.</p> <p><i>Response</i></p> <p>All four speakers spoke against the fluoridation of water supplies. A full public gallery supported the speakers as they provided both technical and personal evidence in support of their opposition. They also questioned the efficacy of fluoridation as a method of reducing dental decay. The speakers acknowledged that it was not Whangarei District Council that was the requiring water supplies to be fluoridated. A speaker suggested that Whangarei District Council join with other Councils and lobby Central Government to change the legislation that allows the Director General of Health to direct a supplier to fluoridate a drinking water supply. They noted that New Health NZ Inc has filed an application for a judicial review challenging the lawfulness of fluoridation directions.</p>	

Whangarei District Council has received a direction from the Director General of Health to Fluoridate both the City and Bream Bay water supplies.

The Director General of Health has issued a directive under the Health Act 1956 requiring Whangarei District Council to fluoridate both the City and Bream Bay water supplies.

There is no basis for appeal of such a directive under the Health Act and it is an offence under the Act for Council not to comply with such a directive. A design has been developed for this work and tender for the physical work are currently being sought. The Ministry of Health has indicated they will contribute towards the cost of installing the fluoridation equipment.

Once the final cost is known a programme will be developed but it is not planned to introduce fluoride into the water this year. A communications plan will be developed to inform consumers well in advance of the fluoride being introduced in each area.