



133 Molesworth Street
PO Box 5013
Wellington 6140
New Zealand
T+64 4 496 2000

3 November 2022

Monique Davidson
Chief Executive
Horowhenua District Council
Moniqued@horowhenua.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Ms Davidson

Community water fluoridation - notification of active consideration

Thank you for your work to date with Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on matters concerning community water fluoridation.

As you will be aware, in July 2022, you received a direction to fluoridate some of the drinking water supplies in your local authority area. I understand that Manatū Hauora officials have been working to assist you to comply with these directions and have invited you to apply for funding for capital works to implement fluoridation.

I am now writing to a second set of 27 local authorities advising each that I am actively considering whether to issue a direction to fluoridate some or all of its drinking water supplies. This second set includes some of the local authorities that received a direction in July. I have chosen to prioritise consideration of these 27 local authorities based on the needs and size of the populations served by their water supplies.

The Horowhenua District Council is one of the local authorities I am now actively considering for a further potential direction to fluoridate. I will consider separately each of the following drinking water supplies in your area: Foxton, Foxton Beach, Shannon, and Tokomaru.

Regarding each water supply listed above, before I can decide whether to issue a direction to fluoridate I am required under section 116G(2) of the Health Act (the Act) to invite written comment from you in relation to the above drinking water supplies on:

- a) the estimated financial cost of adding fluoride to the drinking water, including any additional costs of ongoing management and monitoring
- b) the date by which your local authority would be able to comply with a direction to fluoridate.

I note that you have already provided some information on the matters on which I am now seeking written comment. That information is summarised in the attached table. Please note that the table expresses the information you provided about timeframes in terms of the number of months it would take to implement community water fluoridation if a direction were



given and funding available. Please confirm or update the attached table and, where applicable, provide additional comment.

The Act requires that I give you at least 40 working days to respond to my request for written comment. To take into account the summer holiday period, I am giving you an additional 20 working days to respond. Please provide written comment to me **by 2 February 2023**. Please send your response to fluoride@health.govt.nz.

When deciding whether to issue any direction to fluoridate, I will also consider the scientific evidence on the effectiveness of fluoridation and, for each drinking water supply, whether the benefits of fluoridation outweigh the financial cost, taking into account the oral health status, population size, and estimated costs of fluoridation.

I continue to be mindful of current service delivery pressures across the water services and broader local government sectors. In light of this, if I do issue directions regarding your drinking water supplies, these will have compliance dates set for after July 2024 when the new water service entities are due to be established.

An official from Manatū Hauora will contact your team during the active consideration period to discuss any questions you may have. Manatū Hauora recognises that this is a busy time for local authorities and wishes to work with you to make the process as straightforward as possible for your team.

Nāku noa, nā



Dr Diana Sarfati
Te Tumu Whakarae mō te Hauora
Director-General of Health



Information about drinking water supplies for Horowhenua District Council

Local Authority	Reticulated drinking water supply name	Water supply pop	Estimated number of months to fluoridate if a direction is given and funding available	Estimated capital works cost to fluoridate	Estimated ongoing mgmt. & monitoring costs	Additional comments
Horowhenua District Council	Foxton	2700	12	\$600,000		
	Foxton Beach	1900	12	\$600,000		
	Shannon	1436	8	\$450,000		
	Tokomaru	550	8	\$300,000		