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Tēnā koe Mr Manley

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.

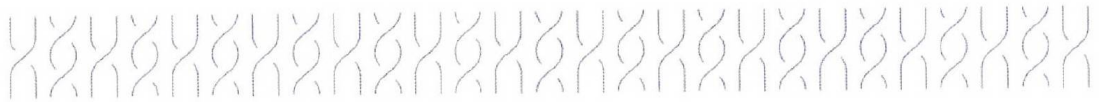
As you will be aware, in July 2022, the Director-General of Health issued directions to 14 local authorities to fluoridate some or all of their drinking water supplies. Consistent with the Director-General's June 2022 letter to you, I am now writing to a second set of 27 local authorities advising each that I am actively considering whether to issue a direction to fluoridate some or all of its drinking water supplies. 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 Ruapehu District Council is one of the local authorities I am now actively considering for a potential direction to fluoridate. I will consider separately each of the following drinking water supplies in your area: Taumarunui, Ohakune, and Raetihi.

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 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.

Thank you for providing information earlier this year on the status of the fluoridation infrastructure in your area and the estimated costs and timeframes that would be necessary to fluoridate your drinking water supplies. 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 directions 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, they 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 consultation phase 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 Ruapehu 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
Ruapehu District Council	Taumaranui	4870	24	\$300,000		
	Ohakune	1500	24	\$300,000		
	Raetihi	749	24	\$300,000		