

19 July 2023

Barbara Burt
Kaiwhakahaere, Ope Aorangi/Manager
Public Health Policy and Regulation
Ministry of Health

Dear Barbara,

Western Bay of Plenty District Council – Fluoridation directive

Western Bay of Plenty District Council has received the Ministry of Health directive to fluoridate the Athenree and Wharawhara water supplies by 31 July 2025.

Through our public consultation on our Annual Plan 2023/24 we received feedback regarding the Ministry's direction to fluoridate those two water supplies. These concerns included the ethics of medication without consent, the unfunded nature of the mandate, concerns around the safety aspects of fluoridation, and the lack of equity in the requirement for Council to fluoridate some but not all our water supplies.

In response to this feedback, the Elected Members would like to seek, if possible, an exemption from the Ministry of Health directive. Could you please confirm what, if any, exemption process from the fluoridation directives is available?

The Elected Members also wish to invite the Ministry of Health to come and speak to the Council on this issue to help address the concerns raised by our community and provide information as to why the Athenree and Wharawhara water supplies were chosen specifically, along with the rationale for and safe use of fluoridation in general.

We look forward to receiving your response.

Regards



James Denyer
Mayor
Western Bay of Plenty District Council