

2nd February 2023

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Buller District Council  
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Tēnā koutou

### Community water fluoridation – response to notification of active consideration

I am writing in response to the letter we received on the 3 November 2022 where you notified Buller District Council that Manatū Hauora are actively considering whether to issue a direction to fluoridate some, or all our drinking water supplies for both Westport and Reefton.

Whilst the consideration is currently ongoing, Buller District Council did want to note that whilst we have consulted our council, we have not consulted with our wider communities.

Following on from this we did want to highlight that there are differing views within our communities regarding fluoridation, both for and against.

Attached is the costing report that we sent over previously for your perusal. I wanted to note that since we previously sent over our costings in June, we have saw an increase in overall costs and therefore have added 23% on to our estimates, including ongoing costs for management and monitoring which can be found below:

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	BDC Estimated cost to fluoridate water for Westport and Reefton	Estimated ongoing mgmt. & monitoring costs	Additional comments
Buller District Council	Westport	4974	24	\$250,000	\$466,000	\$21678.75	Increased costs for supplies, delivery, labour, inflation and contractors
	Reefton	951	24	\$250,000	\$368,000	\$12485.29	Increased costs for supplies, delivery, labour, inflation and contractors

I note that this response was to be based on our costings, as well as the timescales in which we forecast fluoridation to be complete however, we wanted to highlight that community water fluoridation has not been included in our Long Term Plan, and therefore would like to seek clarity on how this is going to be funded both in the immediate and long term.

Furthermore, as part of the service delivery pressure currently on the water services and broader government sectors, we would like to suggest the consideration of a standardised approach to the fluoridation system to be put in place across Entity D.

Buller District Council believe that if we work in close consultation with the rest of the Entity, it will give us a more effective and favourable approach in terms of ongoing repairs, resource constraints and the ability to maintain compliant water services for our community.

We are happy to work with the Ministry of Health and welcome any feedback on the points raised.

Ngā mihi



Mike Williams

*Having full delegated authority*

p.p Acting CEO Buller District Council