

ORDINARY COUNCIL

LATE REPORTS

Wednesday 18 March 2020

Ordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday, 18 March 2020

Items of Business

Item	Subject	Page
12.03	PROPOSED POLL ON FLUORIDATION OF COUNCIL'S WATER SUPPLY	
	Attachment : Correspondence from NSW Health	4

3 Your Business and Industry

What we are trying to achieve

A region that is a successful place that has vibrant, diversified and resilient regional economy that provides opportunities for people to live, learn, work, play and invest.

What the result will be

We will have:

- A strong economy that fosters a culture supportive of business and ensures economic development of the region
- Townships, villages and business precincts that are vibrant commercial, cultural, tourism, recreational and/or community hubs
- A region that attracts investment to create jobs
- Partnerships that maximise economic return and create an efficient and effective business environment

How we will get there

- 3.1 Embrace business and a stronger economy
- 3.2 Create vibrant and desirable places
- 3.3 Embrace opportunity and attract investment to support the wealth and growth of the community
- 3.4 Partner for success with key stakeholders in business, industry, government, education and the community



North Coast Public Health Unit
Mid North Coast & Northern NSW Local Health Districts

6 March 2020

Mr Swift McNair
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444

Dear Mr Swift-McNair

I am writing about fluoridation in Port Macquarie-Hastings local government area. I note the resolution of Council on 19 February 2020, requesting information on conducting a public poll on water fluoridation at the 2020 local government elections. NSW Health wishes to provide information on this issue, and requests that this letter is made available to Councillors for their consideration.

The NSW Government continues to support water fluoridation as a safe and effective way to help prevent tooth decay in the community. Tooth decay is one of the most common health problems in Australia, and is a common cause of preventable hospital admissions in children. A healthy mouth is important for overall good health, enabling a person to eat, speak and socialise without pain or discomfort. Efforts to improve oral health, including water fluoridation, are important in protecting the health of people in NSW.

Port Macquarie Hastings Council was directed by NSW Health to add fluoride to the drinking water supply. Council has been adding fluoride to the supply in accordance with this direction since 2012, helping protect the teeth of more than 50,000 people in the region.

Under Section 6B of the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1957, a water utility may not cease fluoridation unless the direction is revoked by NSW Health.

North Coast Public Health (Covering both MNC and NNSW Local Health Districts)
Hosted by Mid North Coast Local Health District
ABN 57 946 356 658
Morton Street, Port Macquarie NSW 2444
PO Box 126, Port Macquarie NSW 2444
Tel 02 6589 2120 Fax 02 6589 2390
NSW Public Health Unit Telephone Access Line: 1300 066 055 (bh)
Website <http://mncld.health.nsw.gov.au/services/north-coast-public-health/>

**North Coast Public Health Unit**

Mid North Coast & Northern NSW Local Health Districts

A water utility may request that NSW Health revoke a direction to fluoridate a water supply. In considering any request to revoke a direction, NSW Health would consider any information provided by the council. NSW Health would also seek advice from a number of other sources, which may include officers of NSW Health and other agencies, dental practitioners, and the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Advisory Committee. This process allows NSW Health to make an informed decision in the best interests of the community.

NSW Health strongly encourages water utilities to add fluoride to water supplies, allowing communities to receive the proven benefits of fluoride. NSW Health's support for fluoridation is based on many years of reliable evidence and the ongoing support of the National Health and Medical Research Council. Water fluoridation is generally well supported by communities in NSW. Recent community surveys elsewhere in NSW have shown majority support for fluoridation.

If you have any questions about this issue, please contact 6589 2120 and ask to speak with an Environmental Health Officer.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Jelfs'.

Dr Jane Jelfs

Acting Director, North Coast Public Health (covering both MNC & NNSW Local Health Districts)

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