

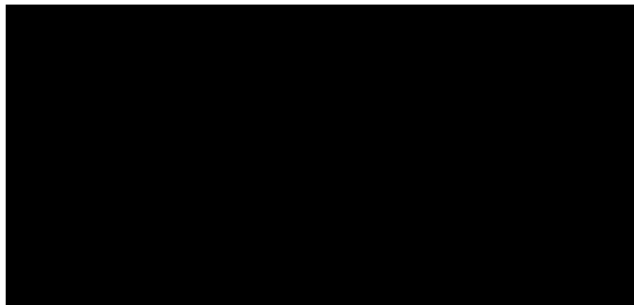


Ref: [REDACTED]

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2 October 2024

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST – FLUORIDATION

I refer to your official information request dated 14 September 2024 'LGOIMA (Local Government Official Information Act request)' regarding the fluoridation of the Nelson drinking water supply, which is reproduced below:

I understand Nelson City Council is still planning to add fluoride to our water supply? When will this begin? If they are this really concerns me. As we know the fluoride used to fluoridate our water supply is not the natural fluoride found in soil but a chemical compound (a number of them actually).

Will there be financial assistance provided for filters for those of us who choose not to ingest the fluoridation chemicals?

As someone who carefully monitors what goes into my body in an effort to maintain good health for the joy of living, and thereby incidentally saving the health system money, I find it disconcerting, that another toxic chemical (we know these are toxic as they are not permitted in the natural environment) might be added to an essential life giving substance which we all ingest on a very regular basis.

This is really mass medication as it is not essential to add it to the community water supply (as is chlorine which I am sensitive to but can safely filter out at low cost).

The cost to completely filter out fluoride is prohibitive for most people.

It would help if the choice was given before adding of course.

There are alternatives to implement the improvement of children's dental health (btw I am not a child so the supposed benefits will be wasted on me and the chemicals may even be detrimental to my health and others health). Education on dental hygiene is number one, diet is another, provision of dental equipment (toothbrushes, fluoridated toothpaste if one must use it, and floss or dental brushes all work effectively it used correctly and frequently).

I don't belong to a group I am just one concerned citizen,

Yours sincerely

I know this is old but the data seems to point to the fact that there is such a slim amount of difference between fluoridated and non- fluoridated as to be of little consequence. You may have access to more current charts. I would want there to be a significant difference before I started looking at spending quite an unnecessary amount of ratepayers money on the process of adding possibly detrimental chemicals to a public water supply. If the Nelson City Council is not planning to do so then congratulations on having wisdom and common sense!!!

Internal Document ID: [REDACTED]

I am able to confirm the following in response to your queries:

- 1) Nelson City Council, under a directive from the Director General of Health, have to fluoridate its water by the 30 December 2024 and we will be meeting that deadline.
- 2) Council has no plans to provide fluoride free water once fluoridation begins.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alec Louverdis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alec Louverdis
Acting Chief Executive