



Ref: [REDACTED]

Civic House, 110 Trafalgar Street
PO Box 645, Nelson 7040, New Zealand

23 September 2024

P (03) 546 0200
E LGOIMA@ncc.govt.nz
nelson.govt.nz

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST – FLUORIDATION

I refer to your official information request dated 9 September 2024 'LGOIMA (Local Government Official Information Act request)' regarding the fluoridation of the Nelson drinking water supply, which is reproduced below:

1) *What percentage of the annual rates goes to water?*

I am not referring to our separate water rates.

I want to know what % of my annual rate bill is allocated to providing water to my property. Our current annual invoice is for

2) *How much money has Government 'given/allocated' to NCC to set up the infrastructure to put fluoride in our water supply? Is this money 'allocation/gift' required to be reimbursed by NCC over time?*

3) *From 2025 onwards, how much money is being budgeted annually by NCC to maintain the supply of fluoride and implementation/testing/monitoring of fluoride in our Nelson water?*

4) *What research is NCC relying on to rely on the safety and efficacy of putting fluoride in our water as a health measure? Please be specific and cite the source of information.*

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

- 1) Council's Long Term Plan 2024-34 is available on the Council website and contains details of the financial information you are seeking. Please use this link to access the Plan:
<https://www.nelson.govt.nz/council/plans-strategies-policies/long-term-plans/long-term-plan-2024-2034/>
- 2) Central Government is contributing a maximum of \$909,069.00 towards the construction of the infrastructure required to dose fluoride into the water supply. This contribution is a grant and is not required to be reimbursed by Council.
- 3) Council has set a budget of \$110,000 each year from 2024/25 to operate and maintain the fluoridation process. This figure is adjusted annually for inflation in the Long Term Plan 2024-34.

Internal Document ID: [REDACTED]

- 4) Council is acting under a Directive from the Director – General of Health. Your query should be addressed to the Ministry of Health.

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 stroke extending to the right.

Alec Louverdis

Deputy Chief Executive / Group Manager Infrastructure