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Finance and Administration Committee
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Reference: SE Queensland Water (Restructuring) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012

Submission regarding the proposed amendments to the Queensland 'Water Fluoridation Act 2008'

Dear Sir / Madam

Following is a submission relating to the, 'Amendment of *Water Fluoridation Act 2008* to extend the criteria under which an exemption may be sought from the requirement that a relevant water supply be fluoridated and to clarify that an exemption may only be sought for an eligible relevant public potable water supply' to be discussed in parliament in the near future.

This submission is a request that serious consideration be given by the Queensland Parliament to substantially amend the Water Fluoridation Act 2008, not just the amendments proposed, by providing a clause or section, being an exemption in the Act that will give any Queensland Regional Council (local government) the ability to withdraw/ opt out of the provisions of the said Act. I envisage that such exemption would be subject to the will of the applicant community and decided by local referendum or a similar democratic process.

While I understand that the current proposed amendments extend the community size from 1,000 to 10,000 people, it only relates to the cost burden of the community.

The financial imposition to a community is only one aspect of this issue. There are other much more important issues surrounding water fluoridation which concern, not just me, but a substantial number of informed people. The more significant issues relate to the health of the whole Queensland community.

This request is submitted subsequent to a letter, dated 10 October 2012 and addressed by me to my local Member of Parliament, the Honourable Mr Jack Dempsey and Member for Bundaberg regarding Water Fluoridation.

I first became aware of the seriousness of water fluoridation from reading the many media reports in the Bundaberg News mail newspaper and from other sources regarding the Water Fluoridation Act 2008 and the intended fluoridation of Bundaberg's water supply.

As a result I have informed myself of this issue through consultation with other informed persons and through researching the many scientific documents available through the internet. In particular, I have obtained and read a report by Environmental Scientist, Declan Waugh who has this year submitted a comprehensive report, 'Human Toxicity Environmental Impacts and Legal Implications of Water Fluoridation' to the government of Ireland. That report includes more than 1200 references to 220 peer reviewed studies/reports'.

One of Mr Waugh's conclusions was that, '*the science behind water fluoridation is deeply flawed and the evidence of risk greatly outweighs the minor benefits associated with water fluoridation*'.

Those reports are available at:

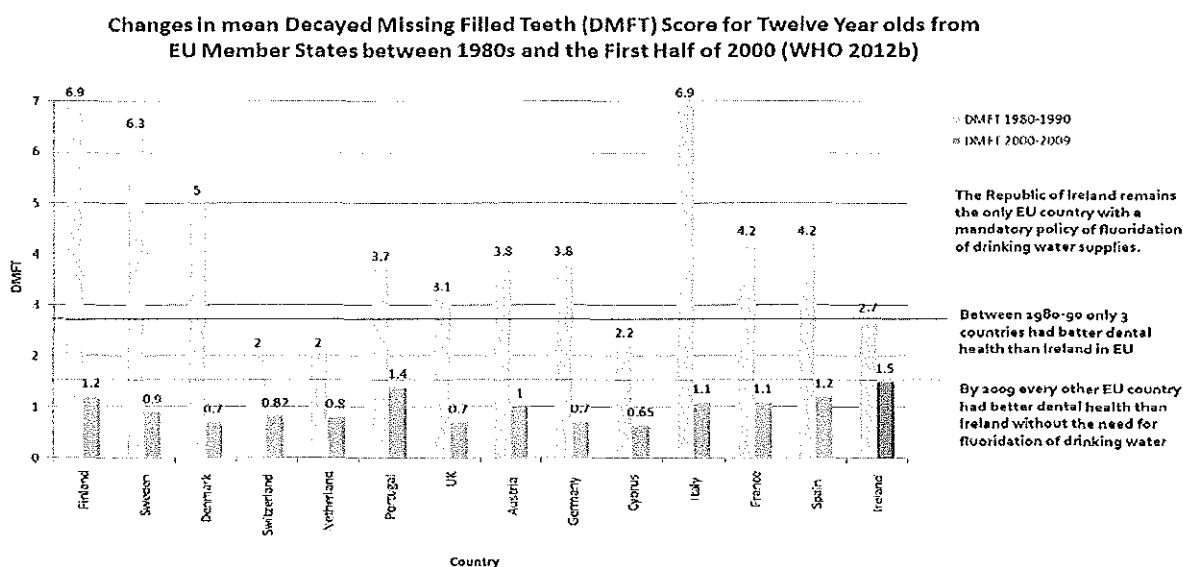
- http://enviro.ie/Summary_Report_Fluoridation.pdf
- http://enviro.ie/Human%20Toxicity,%20Environmental%20Impact%20and%20Legal%20Implications%20of%20Water%20Fluoridation_February%202012_EnviroManagement%20Services.pdf
- http://enviro.ie/Rebuttal_June_2012.pdf

The issues identified in that report include numerous environmental and health risks including; delayed eruption of teeth in infants, dental fluorosis, lowered IQ in children, osteoporosis, osteosarcoma (cancer of bones in children and young adults), accumulation of fluoride in the bones and calcification of arteries to name a few.

There were also significant negative factors identified with the release of fluoridated water into the environment.

I have also become aware that except for the Republic of Ireland, every other country in mainland Europe have independently reviewed and examined the information on water fluoridation and withdrawn support for, or terminated water fluoridation programmes on public health, ethical and environmental grounds.

In relation to the reduction of dental caries, which is the only argument to support water fluoridation, Mr Waugh has prepared the following graph which clearly shows that fluoridation does not reduce tooth decay. The graph shows the relationship between the Republic of Ireland which has water fluoridation and European countries who do not have water fluoridation.



The World Health Organisation in recent years has stated in a report;

"In countries where dental health awareness in the public is very high and alternative vehicles for fluoride (e.g. fluoridated toothpaste) are widely available and widely used, a decision to not fluoridate the water would likely be of little consequence."

There are numerous other peer reviewed scientific studies/reports available worldwide including reports by European Government and the World Health Organisation which conclusively link the ingestion of fluoride with a number of serious health issues.

Aside from the more important health issues, in relation to the Bundaberg Region I would submit the following information:

1. Bundaberg is unique, in that water is drawn from a number of sources
2. Fluoride occurs naturally in the water supplies in the Bundaberg region

3. Fluoride levels ppm vary at the difference sources

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The issues for Bundaberg in relation to the above three points are:

- 1 The costs of fluoridation of the Bundaberg water, having regard to the number of sources where water is drawn
- 2 The actual cost of fluoride and ongoing impost on the Bundaberg community
- 3 The costs associated with continuous monitoring of fluoride levels at all source points
- 4 Maintaining levels at a constant ppm having regard to the naturally occurring fluoride in the water supply

Notwithstanding the above information and the recent Government efforts to reduce the debt burden imposed on the state by the previous Labour Government, there has been substantial concern and objections raised by the Bundaberg community to being forced medicated with, what is a dangerous poison/drug without the consent of the community. This community concern was demonstrated in a recent, although limited, petition, conducted at Bundaberg by one person (Mr Grant Davies with the support of the Member for Burnett, Mr Steven Bennett)

Conclusion

In view of the afore mentioned information and related scientific references, I respectfully submit and request that the Queensland Government uphold the principles of our democracy by:

1. Not forcing without consent Water Fluoridation on the people of Queensland
2. That the issue of water fluoridation be re-considered, not just the cost issue but more importantly the health of the community and the environment, by reviewing and informing themselves through the many scientific studies and reports available, and
3. That in relation to Bundaberg particularly, the 'Water Fluoridation Act 2008' be amended to include an 'exclusion clause' or section which provides individual communities the opportunity to exit the requirements of the said Act.

Signed By: Jeremy Kiraly

