Health and Environment Committee

Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

Public Briefing 16 December 2022 – Responses to Questions on Notice

Health and Environment Committee

Questions on Notice

1. What areas of Queensland currently do not have fluoridation?

50 of the 77 local government areas in Queensland do not have any fluoridated water supplies (see page 2). However, because of where the Queensland population is concentrated, approximately 72 per cent of Queenslanders do receive fluoridated drinking water and only approximately 28 per cent do not.

Of the 27 local government areas that do have fluoridated water, 21 have at least one water supply with added fluoride, and six have water supplies with high levels of naturally occurring fluoride.

2. What are the benefits of water fluoridation?

Water fluoridation helps to protect teeth against decay. Adding fluoride to water is the most effective way of providing oral health benefits to the entire community. Water fluoridation remains one of the safest and cheapest public health interventions to help tackle dental health inequality issues.

3. What are some reasons that local councils decide not to add fluoride to water?

While Queensland Health encourages water fluoridation, under the *Water Fluoridation Act 2008* local governments are responsible for deciding whether to add fluoride to water supplies. Local governments may have various reasons for deciding not to add fluoride to their water supplies.

For example, some local governments have water supplies that already contain elevated levels of naturally occurring fluoride.

Another example of local governments opting not to add fluoride to their water supplies relates to the complexity of their drinking water supply arrangements and infrastructure. For some communities, particularly where the water supply comes from several sources, the addition of fluoride would require multiple fluoride dosing plants to be built and operated to serve a relatively small population.

Local government areas without any natural or added fluoridation

Aurukun Aboriginal Shire Council
Balonne Shire Council
Barcaldine Regional Council
Barcoo Shire Council
Blackall-Tambo Regional Council
Boulia Shire Council
Bundaberg Regional Council
Burdekin Shire Council
Burke Shire Council
Cairns Regional Council
Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Charters Towers Regional Council
Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council
Cloncurry Shire Council
Croydon Shire Council
Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council
Douglas Shire Council
Etheridge Shire Council
Fraser Coast Regional Council
Gladstone Regional Council
Hinchinbrook Shire Council
Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
Livingstone Shire Council
Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
Longreach Regional Council
Mackay Regional Council
Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council
Maranoa Regional Council
Mareeba Shire Council
Mornington Shire Council
Mount Isa City Council
Murweh Shire Council
Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
North Burnett Regional Council
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council
Paroo Shire Council
Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
Richmond Shire Council
Rockhampton Regional Council
South Burnett Regional Council
Southern Downs Regional Council
Tablelands Regional Council
Torres Shire Council
Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Whitsunday Regional Council
Winton Shire Council
Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council
Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council