




Speech by

Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

Hansard Wednesday, 20 June 2012

WATER FLUORIDATION

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (11.53 pm): The Atherton Tablelands community is concerned about the cost to ratepayers and the validity of continuing the former Labor government's mandated policy of water fluoridation of Queensland town water supplies. In my question to the Premier this afternoon I noted that the LNP moved an amendment to the Water Fluoridation Act 2008 to give ratepayers the final say in the fluoridation of town water supplies. I acknowledge the position and response from the Premier, and I welcome his offer of dialogue to resolve this issue. It is an offer that I will certainly take up.

However, I would like to go a step further and call for a moratorium on fluoridation of all town water supplies. The important reasons for this are twofold. The first is the growing body of peer reviewed credible research revealing the ineffectiveness of fluoridation on dental health and the adverse health effects of fluoridation, which call into question the cost-benefit analysis used to justify fluoridation of public water supplies. The second is the ongoing cost to ratepayers of mandated fluoridation—a cost that would be better allocated to rural health services or road infrastructure. For the Tablelands Regional Council alone the ongoing cost of fluoridation will be over \$370,000 a year. Even if we round off the annual cost of fluoridation to a yearly average of \$500,000 per local council, it is still money that could be better spent.

If people are worried about their teeth, there are other ways to protect them than mass fluoridation of our water supplies. I call on the Premier to place a moratorium on fluoridation of public water supplies and allow Queensland communities to decide the fluoride question.