

24th May 2010

Kāpiti Coast District Council
Private Bag 60601
PARAPARAUMU 5254

Dear Mayor and Councillors

Kapiti Coast District Council Draft Annual Plan 2010/11: Proposal to consider ending the addition of fluoride to treated water supplies

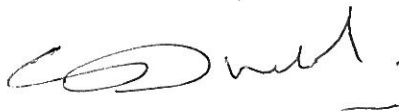
I have been advised that the Council proposes that fluoride should cease to be added to the treated water supply for Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Raumati as part of the Draft Annual Plan.

I would like to express my support for continuing to fluoridate these drinking water supplies to the levels recommended by the Ministry of Health¹. Water fluoridation is an effective and efficient means of preventing dental disease and reducing inequalities in dental disease in the Kapiti District population. Water fluoridation has benefits for all age groups, including the substantial older population living in the Kapiti District.

I note that the fluoridation of drinking water supplies for oral health benefit is promoted by the World Health Organisation, the US Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the US Surgeon General, the World Dental Federation, the Ministry of Health, and the New Zealand Dental Association. The Associate Minister of Health, Hon Peter Dunne has endorsed the Ministry policy to support and promote water fluoridation. Senior clinical and management staff at C&C DHB also support continuing to add fluoride to these Kapiti Coast water supplies.

I strongly recommend the Council give weight to the information provided by organisations and experts such as the Ministry of Health, HVDHB Community Oral Health and C&C DHB Dental and Oral Health Services. I urge the Council to re-consider this proposal to cease water fluoridation for Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Raumati.

Yours sincerely



Ken Whelan
Chief Executive Officer

¹ For oral health reasons, the Ministry of Health recommends that fluoride content in drinking water is adjusted to levels of between 0.7 and 1.0 mg/litre (Ministry of Health. 2008. *Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand 2005 (Revised 2008)*. Wellington: Ministry of Health.