



Hon Lawrence Springborg MP
Minister for Health

- 3 DEC 2012

Level 19
147-163 Charlotte Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 48 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3234 1191
Facsimile +61 7 3229 4731
Email health@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 1946-12, tabled in Parliament on 30 October 2012, in relation to the fluoridation of the Mount Isa water supply.

As some petitioners would be aware, the Government had proposed amendments to the *Water Fluoridation Act 2008* to expand the grounds under which Local Governments could apply for an exemption from the requirement to fluoridate their drinking water supplies. The Government had also proposed to clarify which water supplies would be eligible to apply for an exemption.

On further consideration, the Government has decided to bring forward amendments to the Water Fluoridation Act that will see the removal from the Act of the mandatory obligation to implement fluoridation of drinking water supplies in Queensland.

These amendments will now ensure that the decision on whether to fluoridate a water supply can be made by Local Government; and it will be Local Government's obligation to determine what is 'in the best interests of the community' when deciding whether to fluoridate or not.

In those situations, such as that of Mount Isa, where drinking water is provided to a community via a Water Board, the decision whether to commence, or to continue, water fluoridation will lie with the Local Government. This means that the Water Board will have to comply with the decision of Local Government.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



LAWRENCE SPRINGBORG MP
Minister for Health