



Hon Lawrence Springborg MP
Minister for Health

- 3 DEC 2012

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
George Street
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Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 1999-12, tabled in Parliament on 31 October 2012, in relation to the requirement for the Bundaberg Regional Council to add fluoride to its potable water supplies.

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.

This means that Bundaberg Regional Council will have the option to decide not to fluoridate its potable water supplies.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely


LAWRENCE SPRINGBORG MP
Minister for Health