



When replying please quote: 8733872

7 March 2022

Ministry of Health
133 Molesworth Street
PO Box 5013
WELLINGTON 6140

Delivered by email to: fluoride@health.govt.nz

Dear Sir

PLANNING FOR COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION

In response to your enquiry dated 15 December 2021, we have reviewed our four community water supplies of New Plymouth, Inglewood, Oakura and Okato and have established the rough order cost to introduce fluoridation.

The New Plymouth water supply was previously fluoridated until 2010. We have inspected the equipment which remains on site and found that it is no longer fit for purpose. We therefore consider that a “new build” solution would be required. The remaining three supplies have never been fluoridated. There are currently no plans to introduce fluoridation in the long term plan and no budget has been provided.

In assessing how we might introduce fluoridation we have noted that the operational costs for small supplies is disproportionately large in comparison to large supplies. The chemical of choice may be different and due to small volumes required the cost of the chemical is higher than for large supplies. The equipment required to dose fluoride and to monitor and control the dosing is essentially the same regardless of the supply size, requiring the same operator input for calibration and validation of instrumentation and similar maintenance of pumps, valves and controls.

The responses to your questionnaire are tabulated below.

	New Plymouth	Inglewood	Oakura	Okato
What is the status of fluoridation infrastructure? (select an option)	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed	Not Installed
Are fluoridation capital works underway or planned? (Yes/No)	No	No	No	No
Expected date for completion of capital works, if relevant (enter date) ie: respond if answer to Column D was yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Estimated capital works cost to fluoridate supply if a direction is issued (dollars)	\$250,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000

	New Plymouth	Inglewood	Oakura	Okato
Budgeted capital works costs to fluoridate supply included in long term plans or budgets (dollars and allocation year/s)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Estimated number of months that would be required to fluoridate water supply if a direction is issued	24	24	24	24
Name and contact details of key contact for Community Water Fluoridation	Mark Hall, Mark.hall@npdc.govt.nz 06 759 6060 Private Bag 2025, New Plymouth 4340			
Any other comments	Previously installed fluoridation decommissioned in 2011, and no longer fit for purpose.			

Yours faithfully



Mark Hall
Manager Three Waters