



When replying please quote:

27 June 2022

Dr Ashley Bloomfield
Director-General of Health
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Email: fluoride@health.govt.nz

Dear Sir

COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further comment on Council's readiness to fluoridate.

At the time of our response of 7 March we were working on an improvement plan for the New Plymouth Water Treatment Plant. The purpose of this improvement plan was to assess options to improve the seismic resilience of the WTP building and the compliance of our chemical storage facilities, along with considering options for maintaining adequate water treatment capacity for the predicted population growth over the next 30 years.

At a workshop held in mid-June it was identified that the existing chemical storage and dosing equipment will be best relocated to a new purpose built facility, designed and constructed to current seismic and legislative requirements. Subject to Council approval processes the work would commence in July 2024 and is estimated to take two years to complete. If instructed to fluoridate the New Plymouth water supply, Council will install fluoride dosing equipment at the same time as this work is undertaken.

If Council is required to fluoridate earlier than this, then a temporary installation will be required. Any equipment installed before the chemical dosing equipment is relocated would need to be abandoned when the new chemical storage and dosing upgrade is completed.

We do not have any reliable estimates for this work as we do not have a clear understanding of the scope of the work yet. Cost estimation is also very uncertain in the current construction market.

The capital costs submitted in March are a Class 5 estimates (in our system this means it is an estimate with the lowest level of certainty as we have no design upon which to base costs). Also they were based on the installation of fluoride dosing equipment within our existing building. It was not known at the time the costs were submitted that we would not be able to resolve the building seismic issues without relocating the chemical storage and dosing facility. Given the current inflationary environment and volatility in the construction market it is expected that costs could be significantly higher.

The ongoing operating costs were estimated at the time of our March response. To provide a fluoride dose of 0.7mg/L based on recent water volume to supply, the total annual cost of operating and maintaining the fluoride dosing to the New Plymouth water supply would be \$35,000 - \$40,000. Again, these are cost estimates with a significant degree of uncertainty given the current price

volatility. This Opex cost is not included in our current budgets and we would need to seek Council approval to increase budgets.

The low level of confidence in the cost estimates and the short term usable life for any dosing equipment installed now should be taken into account in any cost benefit analysis undertaken.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Hall', written in a cursive style.

Mark Hall
THREE WATERS MANAGER