



# Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL  
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

**Growing strong communities.**

*Office of the Mayor*

24 May 2024

Hon Dr Shane Reti  
Minister of Health  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

[S.Reti@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:S.Reti@ministers.govt.nz)

Dear Minister

The Waitaki District Council is one of the Councils which received a directive from the Director General last year to fluoridate our largest water supply. Since that time, we have had a group of local people mobilise to fight against the directive and to encourage our Council to decline carrying out the order. We have received from them a petition containing the names of over five hundred Waitakians, requesting that we do not proceed with the fluoridation of the Ōamaru Water Supply.

Given that the directive has been determined to be unlawful, we are seeking to have an extension of time to allow the directive to go through the process to make it lawful. We ask that we are given that extension to ensure we are not in breach of any part of the directive.

Secondly, our Council resolved to consider writing to you to request that communities be given the right to choose whether or not fluoride is added to their water. In the spirit of local decision-making, we request that the government consider whether local communities should have the right to make that decision.

On that note, we believe that the responsibility to provide information to communities on fluoridation should sit with the decision-maker. Communities have the right to be fully informed of the benefits or risks of fluoridation and providing that information should not be left to local Councils if they are not making the decision. If the status quo is to be retained, with the decision to be made by the DG of Health, then that responsibility of information should be carried out by the Ministry of Health.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Kircher  
**Mayor for Waitaki**

*Whitestone Waitaki - naturally better*