



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

Growing strong communities.

24 May 2024

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Dr Diana Sarfati
Director General of Health

Office 20 Thames Street
Private Bag 50058

By email: diana.sarfati@health.govt.nz

Oamaru 9444
Waitaki District
New Zealand

Dear Dr Sarfati

Urgent Request for Extension of Fluoridation Directive Deadline

I am writing on behalf of Waitaki District Council to seek an extension to the directive by former Director-General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield, under section 116E the Health Act, to add fluoride to the Ōamaru water supply by 30 June 2024.

While we have been advised by the Ministry of Health that the directive still stands regardless of the High Court judgement made on 10 November 2023 and have prepared to fluoridate the supply accordingly, Waitaki District Council has concerns around the potential impacts arising from the ongoing ambiguity resulting from this judgement.

Like other councils issued with the directive, Waitaki District Council is caught between the prospect of facing significant fines if we fail to comply, and strong opposition to fluoridation from several within our community who may challenge us with proceedings in light of the High Court findings.

To manage this situation in the interim in the best interests of our community, Council has instructed that on their behalf I request an extension of time from you to commence this action in line with extensions already given to other water supply entities.

While we are conscious of and appreciate the need to achieve the right public health outcome for our community, we are also concerned at the implications of taking final steps to comply with the directive by 30 June without more definitive outcomes from the High Court judgement.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to a response as soon as possible in advance of the 30 June deadline.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Parmley', with a horizontal line underneath.

Alex Parmley
Chief Executive