

## Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Advisory Committee Meeting 01-2015 –Minutes

**Date & time:** 30 October 2015, 10:00 am

**Location:** NSW Health offices, 73 Miller St, North Sydney NSW 2060

Item	Key discussion points	Actions
<b>1. Welcome and apologies</b>		
	Apologies	
<b>2. Previous minutes</b>		
	<p>Previous minutes were accepted.</p> <p>All non-fluoridating Councils have been sent a letter encouraging a meeting with NSW Health.</p>	Glen Innes – Health to follow up with DPI Water and Council regarding replacement plant.
<b>3. Introduction to Fluoridation portfolio and role of FPWSAC</b>		
<b>3.1. Introduction</b>	Outline of global context, history and current arrangements for fluoridation of public drinking water supplies in NSW	NSW Health to investigate the numbers of people who are not connected to reticulated drinking water supplies, but could be connected to an existing supply or set up with their own systems.
<b>3.2. Legislation and Code of Practice</b>	Key legislation is the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act, associated Regulation and NSW Code of Practice for Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies.	

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<b>3.3. Role of FPWSAC</b>	<p>The Committee has a formal role in the process for requesting approval or direction to fluoridate a water supply.</p> <p>The Committee considered whether its role includes providing education and advocacy on the role of fluoridation in a wider view of general health?</p> <p>The Committee considered whether its role includes working with community groups on communication about the safety and efficacy of fluoridation, and the evidence base for this.</p>	<p>Include a standing item in the agenda to report on advocacy and education activities.</p> <p>NSW Health to assist the Committee in developing a risk and communication strategy.</p> <p>Committee members to provide advice to NSW Health on fluoridation communication work.</p>
<b>3.4. Role of a water utility</b>	<p>A water utility's role is to operate fluoride equipment according to legislation.</p>	
<b>3.5. Role of NSW Health</b>	<p>NSW Health's role is to support the committee, arrange funding for new and replacement plants and monitor of data from routine testing of fluoride processes.</p>	
<b>3.6. Role of DPI Water</b>	<p>DPI Water's role is to approve the design of fluoridation equipment and inspect new installations.</p>	
<b>3.7. External reviews and advice on fluoridation</b>	<p>Supporting advice is in documents from NHMRC, ADA, AMA, WHO and US CDC, as well as statement from Minister for Health.</p>	
<b>4. Public water supply fluoridation – Implementation and management</b>		
<b>4.1. Overview</b>		<p>Committee and NSW Health to consider engaging with LG NSW to emphasise to local councils the value and importance that they gain from their plant operators.</p>

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<p><b>4.2. Kempsey SC</b></p>	<p>Council has engaged a contractor to implement fluoridation within two years. Committee can write to Council if there continue to be delays.</p> <p>Potential for a regional water supply plan and long term plans for construction of water filtration plant.</p> <p>Possibility of further public engagement and education before commencement due to delay since direction was made. The primary health network, LHD and Aboriginal Health Services are very keen to reduce decay in Aboriginal communities. They would likely be happy to support fluoridation in Kempsey.</p>	<p>NSW Health to report to Committee on progress. NSW Health to consider looking at engagement strategies as a case study.</p>
<p><b>4.3. Rous Water</b></p>	<p>Background to the complex arrangements for the Rous Water supplies.</p>	
<p><b>5. Public water supply fluoridation – expanding fluoridation coverage</b></p>		

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<p><b>5.1. Status of unfluoridated LGAs</b></p>	<p>Fluoridation has not been implemented by some water utilities in NSW, including Boorowa, Brewarrina, Byron Shire, Carrathool, Central Darling, Coonamble, Gunnedah, Gwydir, Jerilderie, Liverpool Plains, Murrumbidgee, Narrabri, Narrandera, Narromine, Oberon, Upper Hunter, Wakool, Walgett, Water NSW and Wentworth.</p> <p>NSW Health has ongoing consultation with the majority of these Councils.</p> <p>Some water supplies have naturally occurring fluoride, efficacy of which is being investigated by ARCPOH/Adelaide University.</p> <p>Opportunities exist to expand fluoridation in LGAs where other supplies are currently fluoridated.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to address requests for approval or direction by teleconference if required.</p>	<p>NSW Health to contact ARCPOH about including consideration of dmfs, rather than just dmft, when considering efficacy of naturally occurring fluoride.</p>
<p><b>5.2. Fish River (Water NSW) – Lithgow Villages</b></p>	<p>The Committee considered an application (s6A) from Water NSW regarding fluoridation of the Fish River Water Supply.</p> <p>The Committee resolved to support fluoridation of this supply. Water NSW will provide additional technical information for Form 1.</p>	<p>NSW Health and DPI Water to follow up request for additional technical information from Water NSW.</p> <p>NSW Health to advise the Secretary that the Committee supports fluoridation of the Fish River water supply and recommend that the Secretary make a direction to the Council, once Form 1 is approved by DPI Water.</p>

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<b>5.3. Lachlan SC – Lake Cargelligo</b>	<p>The Committee considered an application (s6A) from Lachlan Shire Council regarding fluoridation of the Lake Cargelligo water supply. A Form 1 has been approved by DPI Water.</p> <p>The Committee resolved to support fluoridation of this supply.</p>	<p>NSW Health to advise the Secretary that the Committee supports fluoridation of Lake Cargelligo supply and recommend that the Secretary make a direction to the Council.</p>
<b>6. NSW Health update</b>		
<b>6.1. NSW fluoridation statistics</b>	<p>The Committee considered how best to present statistics on fluoridation in NSW.</p> <p>Nyngan fluoridation system is currently offline, pending investigation. Council has received approval for a subsidy to replace the system with a more modern unit.</p>	<p>NSW Health to include number of samples in any statistics.</p> <p>NSW Health to consider graphical representation of statistics for future reports.</p>
<b>6.2. Research projects</b>	<p>ARCPOH is investigating severe dental fluorosis, the effectiveness of lower concentrations of fluoride, and a more detailed analysis of water fluoridation on adult oral health.</p>	
<b>6.3. Fluoride plant inspections</b>	<p>NSW Health is nearing completion of a program to inspect all fluoride plants in NSW constructed prior to 2003.</p>	<p>NSW Health to provide a detailed report of actions under this program at a future meeting.</p>
<b>7. NSW Office of Water update</b>		
<b>7.1. Form 1 approvals</b>	<p>DPI Water has considered Form 1s for Lake Cargelligo and Fish River new systems, Gloucester, Manilla and Glen Innes replacements.</p>	

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<b>7.2. Commissioning of new plants</b>	<p>DPI Water does not commission plants, rather inspect the commissioning as operated by others.</p> <p>Commissioning requires that a small amount of fluoride chemical is dosed to test dosing equipment. This happens prior to formal approval to commence fluoridation. The Committee endorsed this practice.</p> <p>Inspections have been carried out for Dungog, Nelson Bay, Anna Bay, Grahamstown and Mulwala to be inspected soon.</p> <p>Sydney Water and Hunter Water (Veolia) fluoride operators are required to complete approved fluoride training.</p>	<p>NSW Health to include reference to adding small amounts of fluoride during inspection to Code of Practice.</p> <p>NSW Health to remind Sydney Water and Hunter Water of operator training requirements.</p>
<b>8. General business</b>		
<b>8.1. Media</b>	<p>Regular media reports in north coast media questioning safety of fluoride for formula fed infants. Pro fluoride media run in the Daily Telegraph.</p>	<p>NSW Health to write to Rous County Council outlining Rous Water's responsibilities in fluoridating its water supplies.</p>
<b>8.2. Code of Practice review</b>	<p>The Code of Practice is being reviewed, nearly finalised.</p>	<p>NSW Health to present a summary of changes to the Code of Practice at a future meeting.</p>
<b>8.3. Training</b>	<p>DPI Water has prepared draft training packages for update training and for engineers/supervisors.</p>	
<b>8.4. NHMRC review</b>		
<b>9. Other business</b>		
<b>9.1. Access to fluoridated water in aboriginal communities</b>	<p>Committee discussed issues around oral health in discrete Aboriginal communities.</p>	<p>NSW Health to investigate opportunities for fluoridation of standalone Aboriginal communities.</p>