



BUSSELTON WATER

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BUSSELTON'S WATER DISINFECTION PROCESS TO CHANGE

The Board of Busselton Water, at its February meeting, resolved to implement full-time chlorination of the Busselton water supply.

As Busselton has grown, so to has its reticulation network with the pipes extending up to nearly 300 kilometres, a 25% increase in just 5 years. The current Ultra Violet (UV) disinfection system does not offer residual disinfection to protect the water in the pipes.

At the February meeting the Board considered the final in a series of commissioned reports which found that, as a result of the growing reticulation network Busselton's water is at risk of developing a water quality problem, and that full time chlorination was the only effective long term solution.

Board Chairman, David Reid said "This is a major step for the Board and one it hasn't taken lightly. It has made this decision to protect the long term health of the water supply and hence the community and visitors".

"The quality of the extracted water is as good as it ever was. The implementation of chlorine is to manage the risk of the growing reticulation system. In essence, it is not the water, but the pipes that require chlorination" Mr. Reid said.

"While we have not detected any serious health risk to date professional advice suggests that the Board of Busselton Water cannot risk the community's health" said Mr. Reid.

"There are a number of design investigations and other preliminaries that need to be undertaken before an exact implementation date can be announced, but it is likely to be within 12 months" said Mr. Reid.

"In the meantime Busselton Water will continue as it has been with a rigid sampling regime and spot chlorination should it be required, until full time chlorination can be implemented.

“This is a significant change for the residents of Busselton and Busselton Water is therefore making every effort to keep the community informed. Letters have been sent to all of its customers explaining the decision, fact sheets have been developed to assist with answering questions and forums will be held to enable the community to hear first hand why this is happening. I encourage all residents who have questions or would like to know more about the implementation process to attend one of the forums” Mr. Reid said

The forums will be held at St. Mary's in Busselton on 22nd and 23rd March at 10am and 7pm on both days.

Ends

Media enquiries are to be directed to the Manager, Customer Services on 9781 0506 or julie.rawlings@busseltonwater.wa.gov.au