



BUSSELTON WATER

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Public Information on Chlorination

Busselton Water is pressing ahead with chlorination plans to ensure the safety of the water supply for the people of Busselton. It acknowledges the concerns expressed by members of the community through the consultation that has occurred to date, and has taken those community concerns into account in the context of the expert advice it has received.

Board Chairman, David Reid said “The Board has conducted annual surveys for a number of years which clearly indicated that the community preferred the current UV disinfection method over chlorination. Written comments to this effect were received as part of this survey process. The Board made its difficult decision fully aware that the community was not going to be happy, and recognizes the ongoing need for dialogue with the community to ensure accurate information is communicated as to the need for the chlorination decision to be implemented.”

“The central fact in all this remains. We have a species of Naegleria that we cannot eradicate in our pipes and storage tanks. This has to be addressed before we end up with the harmful amoeba Naegleria Fowleri,” Mr Reid said.

“I have immense respect for the wisdom that resides in the community but this is a health and safety issue. The Board has to be guided by experts. The Board can not and will not put community health at risk, and accepts the need to continue to educate the community both about the risk currently faced, and the chosen method to mitigate that risk. We are dealing with what could potentially become a lethal pathogen. The Board is responsible for managing that risk.”

“Some suggest that they are willing to ‘wait and see’ if something happens. The Board is not,” said Mr Reid.

“As part of the ongoing engagement with the community on this important issue, Busselton Water has twice written to our customers, has held information forums to assist people to understand the decision, compiled and distributed a vast array of additional information and met with people when requested on a number of occasions to discuss the matter.”

Information on the chlorination issue is available on Busselton Water’s website www.busseltonwater.wa.gov.au

Ends

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