

## **Acknowledgement by NSW Council that Water fluoridation can be detrimental to health and provision made for people likely to suffer harm.**

The documentation in following 4 pages was obtained in 2008 under the Freedom of Information Act.

These documents show that Deniliquin Council ( NSW ) in 2003 acknowledged that water fluoridation can be detrimental to health and determined to make some provision for people likely to be harmed by it. Deniliquin Council resolved to provide, free of any cost, a suitable purifier or an alternate supply of un-fluoridated water to those ratepayers who presented an individual personal medical certificate from a registered General Practitioner of Medicine or Specialist advising that fluoride is detrimental to their health.

Deniliquin Council sought advice from New South Wales Health as to ways of removing fluoride from a household supply. Advice from NSW Health in 2004 as per Peter Hill, the acting Chief Dental Officer / NSW Oral Health was *“ supplying reverse osmosis under sink filters for utilisation by households for those with medical certificates advising that fluoride is detrimental to health will be appropriate”*

In late 2004 Deniliquin Council purchased and later installed Reverse Osmosis Filters free of cost to those residents supplying medical certificates advising that fluoride would be detrimental to their health. It is known that at least one resident was provided a free rainwater tank as an alternative to receiving a free Reverse Osmosis filter.

Queenslanders For Safe Water, Air and Food Inc are currently petitioning the Queensland Government to acknowledge the precedent that has been set in making provision for people likely to be harmed by water fluoridation. Merylyn Haines on behalf of Queenslanders For Safe Water, Air and Food Inc [www.qawf.org](http://www.qawf.org) April 2009



## Reports of Administration Services

12A. REPORT SUBJECT: REMOVAL OF FLUORIDE FOR INDIVIDUAL WATER USERS  
File No: 16.3.7

REPORT FROM: GENERAL MANAGER  
Graeme Haley

REPORT TO: COUNCIL MEETING – 27/10/2004

### Background

Prior to the Plebiscite, held in conjunction with the Local Government Elections on 27 March, 2004, regarding the addition of fluoride to the Deniliquin Water Supply, Council resolved as follows:-

*"In the event of Council re-introducing fluoride into the town water supply, Council support the provision of, free of any cost (other than normal rates), a suitable purifier or alternate supply of unfluoridated potable water to those ratepayers who present an individual, personal medical certificate from a registered general practitioner of medicine or specialist advising that fluoride is detrimental to their health".*

Subsequent to the conducting of the plebiscite, Council resolved to take the necessary steps to add fluoride to the water supply of Deniliquin.

The opinion of NSW Health was sought as to methods of removing fluoride from a household water supply. In its response (copy attached as Appendix F) NSW Health advised that:-



*"Supplying reverse osmosis under sink filters for utilisation by households for those with medical certificates advising that fluoride is detrimental to their health will be appropriate.*

### Comment

To date Council has received seven (7) written requests to have fluoride removed from water supplies. Six (6) of these requests have been accompanied by a medical certificate. The remaining request was accompanied by a letter from a doctor stating:-

*"..... believes that ... is allergic to fluoride, and is requesting that ... be supplied with a fluoride filter on ... water supply".*

In accordance with Council's previous resolution, it would be appropriate to proceed with the fitting of reverse osmosis under sink filters to the six households that supplied an appropriate medical certificate.

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It is felt that the letter that accompanied the last request would not be considered to be a medical certificate and would not qualify for Council's

**NSW HEALTH**

DEPARTMENT

[www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

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A/Chief Dental Officer  
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6 October 2004

Trim ref: E04-6914

Mr Graeme Hayley  
General Manager  
Deniliquin Council  
PO Box 270 (Civic Place)  
Deniliquin, NSW, 2710

Dear Mr Hayley,

Thank you for your letter regarding the removal of fluoride for individual water users. We have received advice from the Water Unit in NSW Health regarding this matter. The Water Unit advises that there are 2 treatment devices that remove fluoride from water. These are the Reverse Osmosis Filters and Distillers.

Reverse osmosis is a process that reverses, by the application of pressure, the flow of water in a natural process of osmosis so that water passes from a more concentrated solution to a more dilute solution through a semi-permeable membrane. Most reverse osmosis systems incorporate pre- and post-filters along with the membrane itself.

Distillers heat water to the boiling point and then collect the water vapour as it condenses, leaving many of the contaminants behind, particularly the heavy metals. Some contaminants that convert readily into gases, such as volatile organic chemicals, may be carried over with the water vapour.

Supplying reverse osmosis under sink filters for utilisation by households for those with medical certificates advising that fluoride is detrimental to their health will be appropriate.

Yours sincerely

  
Peter Hill  
A/Chief Dental Officer

16.3.7/1 GH:FF

3 December 2004

  
DENILIKUIN NSW 2710

Dear 

I refer to your letter, in which you forwarded a Doctor's certificate requesting the fitting of a suitable filter to remove fluoride from your water supply.

Council has consulted with NSW Health and it is advised that NSW Health recommended that should Council determine to fit such filters, that an under-sink reverse osmosis filter would remove fluoride from drinking water and would be appropriate in your circumstances.

Council has ordered a supply of these filters. It is anticipated that they will be arriving in Deniliquin during the week commencing 6 December, 2004.

Council is currently obtaining quotes from plumbing contractors to professionally fit these filters.

You will be contacted shortly following the appointment of a contractor, to arrange a convenient time to fit the filter.

Council advises that this filter will remain your property while you reside in Deniliquin. Should you decide to move your place of residence within Deniliquin, you may remove this filter and have it installed at your new premises, at your own cost. If you leave Deniliquin, you are requested to leave the filter in place.

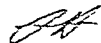
These filters will require periodic maintenance. This maintenance will include cleaning, flushing and filter replacement. You will be responsible for this maintenance and filter replacement. Details of this maintenance will be in a brochure accompanying the filter.

Should there be anything that will interfere with this installation, or if you have any concerns regarding this installation, please contact the undersigned as soon as possible.

You can be assured that the doctors certificate, associated with your application, has been treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Should you have any questions about this matter please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully



Graeme J Haley  
GENERAL MANAGER

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