



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS

MEDIA RELEASE

STATEMENT: FLUORIDATION PETITION

Monday, 30 January 2012

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Administrator Neil Porter has clarified statements made by local members of the Fluoride Action Network that a community poll could be conducted on the issue of water fluoridation at the Local Government elections in September.

Mr Porter said in the context of a discussion with a community member on the process required to conduct a poll on any issue of concern at the next Local Government election, he advised that Council no longer has a formal policy in place regarding polls. This policy was revoked in June 2010.

However, Mr Porter advised that there are steps that can be taken to formally request Council to consider conducting a poll at the next election on an issue of concern affecting residents of the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA. These include submitting a formal application with demonstrated evidence of strong community support (i.e. a petition containing at least 1000 signatures submitted at least three months before the election).

Mr Porter added that there is considerable cost involved in engaging an independent person or organisation to develop the 'for' and 'against' case for the poll question(s) and for a poll to be conducted.

On the issue of fluoridation, Mr Porter will not support an application for Council to consider conducting a poll at the September elections. He said Council has been directed by the NSW Minister of Health to fluoridate the Hastings water supply and conducting a poll on the issue is not appropriate given this direction.

The Ministry of Health is currently finalising approval for the commencement of fluoridation in Port Macquarie-Hastings with a decision expected within the next week.

When approval is granted, Council will notify residents of the date fluoridation will commence.

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If you do not receive the complete message phone (02) 6581 8111

