



BUSSELTON WATER

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MEDIA RELEASE

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BUSSELTON WATER RESPONDS TO COMMUNITY

Busselton Water Board would like to reassure the community that its recent decision to implement full-time chlorination was not one that was made lightly.

Board Chairman, David Reid said “Just like the community, the Board is deeply regretful that such a decision had to be made”. “We are aware that there are members of the community who are not happy with this decision, but, in matters of public health, the Board has to make decisions to ensure the long term health of the water supply, hence the community”.

“The Board made the decision to protect the community from a growing risk of a water quality problem. Knowing that a risk may exist, means we have to act to minimise it. This is not a matter that can be put to a public vote – not when it is a public health issue,” said Mr Reid.

“Investigation of the best long term solution to disinfect our water supply has been underway since October 2008. The only option that the Board had was to implement full-time chlorination,” Mr Reid said.

“The Board was presented with five options however, chlorination is the only method currently available that provides a residual disinfection within the water supply’.

“The Department of Health fully supports the Board’s decision and has requested that Busselton Water ensure that a residual disinfection process is implemented”.

“Some people have asked how harmful organisms can get into a closed network. Unfortunately the answer is ‘relatively easy’. Mains breaks and backflow would be the most common, although contaminants can also enter via faulty pipes. For example, a water main can burst or be dug up by accident - a water main is often also located in the same trench as a sewer main” explained Mr Reid.

“We invite all members of the Busselton Community to attend our community information forums, where Busselton Water will provide further details of the decision process and the reasons as to why this decision had to be made”.

The forums will be held at St. Mary’s in Busselton on 22nd and 23rd March at 10am and 7pm on both days. Visit www.busseltonwater.wa.gov.au for further information.



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Ends

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