

27 September 2024

Mayor Glen Hartwig
Gympie Regional Council

Mr Robert Jennings
Chief Executive Officer
Gympie Regional Council

By email: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

Subject: Gympie community water fluoridation

Dear Mayor Hartwig and Mr Jennings

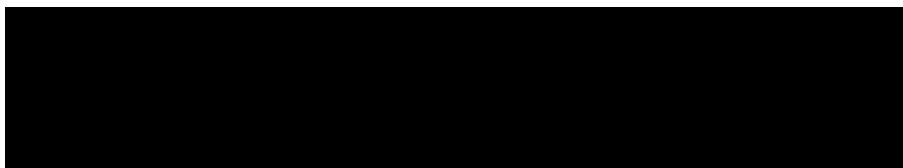
Research unequivocally shows that poor childhood oral health leads to poor adult oral health. Likewise, our most disadvantaged groups, particularly First Nations Queenslanders and children, have a much higher risk of dental disease than that of other community populations.

Thankfully, water fluoridation is one of the easiest and most effective methods to decrease the prevalence and severity of oral disease across both child and adult populations. It is also supported by a robust and widely accepted body of research.

Despite this, we are alarmed by reports that Gympie Regional Council is considering stopping the provision of this important public health benefit to its community. Doctors and dentists continue to be distressed by increasing rates of tooth decay and associated poor health outcomes, particularly among children. They are also concerned by the widening dental health gap between patients living in regions such as Gympie and those in South East Queensland.

AMA Queensland calls on your Council to urgently reassure the Gympie community that it will continue to provide water fluoridation to protect our most vulnerable Queenslanders and ensure health equity with their metropolitan counterparts.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nick Yim
President
AMA Queensland

Dr Brett Dale
Chief Executive Officer
AMA Queensland