

Helen Blackburn Mayor PO Box 3130 Bundaberg QLD 4670 1300 883 699 helen.blackburn@bundaberg.qld.gov.au



19 November 2024

Dr Jay Hsing President Australian Dental Association Queensland

Dr Nick Yim President Australian Medical Association Queensland

Email:

Dear Doctors Hsing and Yim,

Thank you for your letter dated 6 November 2024 seeking Bundaberg Regional Council's support of water fluoridation.

The change of Council in March and my election as Mayor has not resulted in a change of policy in this space.

No alterations have been made to a motion adopted in February 2013 by a previous Council:

'Due to the complex nature and high costs to fluoridate the 10 reticulated water supply locations in the Bundaberg Region, together with the ongoing annual operation and maintenance costs: that Bundaberg Regional Council resolve not to fluoridate its reticulated water supplies.'

Estimations by Council officers in 2020 suggest the capital cost would be \$13.7 million and the annual operating cost \$760,000. These numbers would of course be much higher today.

Since coming to office, I have been public about Council's serious financial problems and our desire to cuts costs to address our significant operating deficits.

It is my view that any medical initiative be led and funded by the State Government.

Yours sincerely

Mayor Helen Blackburn

Bundaberg Regional Council