



NO FLUORIDE

**Subject Mentions and sample
comments**

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Overview

38% of respondents (2764 people) were opposed to fluoride being added to the city's water supply.

Poison	494	Better Education Needed	43
Individual Choice	346	Doesn't target Right People	29
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Poison: there were **494 mentions** that fluoride is a poison.

It is a poison. It affects thyroids, liver, kidneys etc. Absolutely NO! !

Science has proven fluoride added to water supply causes cancer, bone malformation, ADHD, asthma, and a range of other health issues Most importantly FLUORIDE IS A POISON and not necessary for a healthy lifestyle or person.

It is a poison, if people are so keen for fluoride they can take a tablet each day. I strongly object to the dentist who has been interviewed on ABC radio, he is not even from Australia. My teeth are fine (I am 69 years old) and my children and grandchildren have good teeth too, all without flouride.

Giving one example of scientific studies done, Fluoride was officially classed as a neurotoxin in the prestigious medical journal the Lancet in March 2014.

Because fluoride is unsafe poisonous shouldn't be in our water supply. We have the right to drink pure clean water and not mass medicated. Can the council be 100% sure that fluoride is safe?

It's a poison. I buy toothbrushes at school for my class as some children do not have a toothbrush. dental care has to be taught. The people who don't clean teeth/ provide brushes drink soft drink ...not water with poison in it.

fluoride is a toxic by product from the aluminium processing industry, after all the years of fluoride being added to many communities around the world has shown no benefit to oral health - but has shown many side effects to brain and organ health - DONT ADD THIS POISON

Everybody has the right to be supplied with fresh, uncontaminated drinking water. If anyone wishes to have fluoride added to their drinking water, then they should buy fluoride tablets and poison themselves. It's only common sense, fluoride cannot be taken out of the water but can easily be added.

Fluoride is a poison as outlined by the WHO. Topical application fine for teeth - not ingested.

Fluoride is a by-product of aluminium which is poisonous and ban in most of western countries. Fluoride is carcinogenic in a long run. The main culprit for kids having problems with their teeth is sugar from softdrinks, colas and high sugar products such as biscuits, ect.ect...As a ratepayer I don't want chemical in my drinking water. Dentists in Cairns haven't got any ideas about what the harm fluoride can do in children. I believe it's a big responsibility for Cairns city council to decide to put fluoride in water knowing it's poisonous, you've got enough information on the internet to find out. SOLUTION: people who want a by-product of aluminium for their children can buy fluro tablet subsidize by the city council, or to help us to buy a reverse osmosis filtering system for those against fluoride.

Because in all studies from everywhere else, it is a poison. My pets, clothes and garden don't need fluoride; cost saving; provide tablets to those who want them.

It's a violation of my human rights to choose medication, fluoride is actually a toxic poison, there is no way of controlling the dose my family and I get, I don't trust the source of the fluoride (where are you getting the fluoride from, what isotope is it and what other potential contaminants are in it) and

there are no independent scientific studies that show that fluoride in drinking water increases dental health let alone also proving that it doesn't have a negative impact on the greater health of people such as toxic effects on thyroid health.

It is poison. Educate about better ways to look after our bodies / teeth, but do not mandate poison in our water supplies.

Must not subject those of us that don't want fluoride in our water to its documented adverse health effects. It should be a choice not a poison forced upon us.

Topical fluoride OK, NOT Ingested! WHO states it is a neurotoxin!

It is a known poison and nobody should put this in their bodies

Fluoride is a bio-accumulative, endocrine disrupting, carcinogenic neurotoxin with no nutritional value

Something as crucial as our water supply should not be tampered with. I have a thyroid condition and fluoride is harmful to my health. Poison has no reason to be in our water. Should it be added to Cairns water, I would consider moving away to a place without poison in the drinking water. If people want fluoride, let them add it to their own water!

Fluoride is a toxic by-product from industrial smelters that cost the company to dispose of. It is cheap for them to put it in our water supply. Also on toothpaste it says don't ingest because fluoride is toxic. Please don't put it in the water supply.

The world health organisation has in the last few months classed fluoride in the same category as arsenic ... brushing teeth is how you stop decay - ask any dentist

It has now officially been classed as a neurotoxin. Many places around the world are beginning to ban Fluoride. I'd rather think Cairns Council is smarter than other Councils by not messing with the water supply.

it's a neurotoxin that 50 studies (incl. by Harvard Uni) have shown to reduce IQ in children...fluoridealert.org

It's a neurotoxin banned in most of Europe.

I absolutely object to poisonous industrial waste being dumped into the public water supply

It is a poison

A report from the world's oldest and most prestigious medical journal, The Lancet, has officially classified fluoride as a neurotoxin, in the same category as arsenic, lead and mercury. The fluoride they want to add to our water supply is a toxic by-product from the fertilizer industry and there's no doubt about it: this fluoride should not be ingested, if so you would be exposed to a toxic drug-like substance every time you take a sip. This is reckless, as you cannot control the dose ingested, or who receives it, and there's no medical supervision. Water fluoridation clearly violates your right to informed consent as far as medical decisions go. There are no benefits from ingesting fluoride, for

fluoride to have any benefit in regards to dental health it has to be applied in a topical manner. Please keep fluoride a known neurotoxin out of our water supply

Fluoride is cumulative toxin that affects our general health in a non discriminatory manner. It is ridiculous to believe that it only changes tooth enamel but does not affect kidneys, liver, digestion, etc. Materia Medica lists fluoride as a POISON.

It is toxic to ingest and we should have the CHOICE whether we wish to be exposed to chemicals!!! This sort of application of fluoride means there is NO WAY to control dosage or level of consumption.

The fluoride they put in our drinking water is not a pharmaceutical grade additive, or as many think, natural. It is an industrial waste by-product. The substance added to our drinking water is called hydrofluorosilicic acid. It is a toxic waste substance created from the production of aluminum, fertilizer, steel and nuclear industries. It's not the natural element of fluoride, again, it's industrial toxic waste from China. If someone is so keen on ingesting this, they should take fluoride tablets and not expect others to be forced to drink and bath in it.

Fluoride is a toxic by-product of mining and should not be dispersed in our drinking water. Mining companies should be held responsible to clean up their site. Tap water should be kept as pure as possible. If fluoride is added to our drinking water there is no option I can take it out. Therefore I would be forced to consume a toxin.

The type of fluoride used is highly toxic to the kidneys and causes all types of health problems, if parents want it for their children they should use safe alternative form in the form of fluoride tablets from the chemist the majority of the population it is a toxin and we need to filter our water as a results or buy bottled water if we want to stay well. Most people are very misinformed on the dangers of this toxin in our water.

It is a extremely toxic and being sourced from an industrial waste product - I very much want a tax on sugary foods.

fluoride is a poison we consume large amounts of water in the tropics and this amount of poison is not good for anybody. The simple act of brushing your teeth and eating less sugar work much better than forcing people to ingest poison

The fluoride that would be added isn't natural - it's a by-product of the fertilizer industry from china and is harmful. It accumulates in the body. Nobody wants it even though there is an agenda pushing for this to happen. Enough people have said no in the paper and on social media. It is poison.

we don't need it and why should we who have hygiene be chemical treated because of those who cannot make the effort plus the cost is very high and the compound is very poisonous in its concentrate and another accident waiting to happen.

Fluoride is a toxic by product & contributes to dementia & other neurological conditions. This is mass POISONING of the population. I want the choice to NOT drink POISON.

Individual Choice: there were **346 mentions** that adding fluoride to the city's water supply would take away people's choice on whether they ingest it.

I'm not against fluoride but I against not having a choice, If I wanted my family to drink fluoride I could put drops in our home drinking water, If council put in the water supply I will have to buy water if I decided I don't want my family to drink it. It is taking away our right for choice

It should be personal choice.

No choice for people who watch their diet and clean their teeth. I strongly believe in taking responsibility for one's own health. The Council years ago gave out free fluoride tablets for children up to age 12 (I think it was). I'd much rather see that reinstated rather than mass medicating.

I was born here and we didn't have it in our water then and my teeth are fine. Give people a choice whether to put it in their bodies or not.

I have to buy filters to filter it out...if people want fluoride they can use toothpaste. It is a waste of taxpayers money to add to our water system, with debatable benefits. Biggest problem with teeth decay is kids sucking on sweet drinks and food loaded with sugar. If it was really about our dental health then give everyone a new toothbrush every 3 months. By the way the people who have the worst teeth don't drink water... they drink coke!

Fluoride should be a matter of choice, not mandated by anyone who thinks they know what's best for the community! As far as possible our water supply should be kept pure and natural with no additives except those that are absolutely necessary.

Freedom of choice. We have healthy teeth and it has been through a healthy diet and the usual cleaning.

Those who want Fluoride in their bodies can self dose it shouldn't be forced onto people.

Every person's right is to have clean drinking water without additives. If people want fluoride let them buy it !!

Fluoride is not necessary for teeth health by way of introducing it into the water. Our toothpaste does enough. I do not wish to have extra fluoride into my body by way of the drinking water. TOTALLY UNECESSARY!!!

Drugs like Fluoride should be a personal choice

It should be everyone's choice whether or not they want to consume fluoride. Tablets should be made available to those who want it.

We, as a democratic society, should be able to have a choice , give the option of free fluoride tablets if people want to take fluoride

I think adding anything to the water that isn't necessary takes away a person's right to choose what they put into their body. Untainted water is a basic human right and there are members of our community who are sensitive to fluoride.

I believe each person should be able to decide if they wish to take this additive, which is available via tablets and not in the drinking water. Yes it is said to improve teeth in children but perhaps we should be putting the money into healthier diets which support the health of teeth and leave the water with one less additive.

I don't think people should be forced to have fluoride in their water because others "don't look after their teeth".

I believe in the person's right to choose what goes in their body and forcing someone to drink something they have not agreed to is wrong - too many chemicals in our life (eg food) without putting some in our water

It forces all of us to digest chemicals. If people want to digest fluoride then they can take fluoride tablets which can be easily purchased or council could sponsor the cost of the fluoride tablets if council is concerned that some people won't buy them. Just like everything else those that want fluoride should accept responsibility and pay for the fluoride tablets and not force their viewpoint on other people.

Not healthy / health issues: there were **277 mentions** that fluoride is not good for your health, or has adverse health effects.

Fluoride has been proven to be detrimental to human health when ingested. Why would you put it in water? It is a topical treatment for teeth. Not one that should be ingested. Just Google it for many, many pages of LONG term damaging effects fluoride has to our health, and no positive health benefits for putting in water. What about dental clinics instead?

Not good for my health, get headaches whenever I drink fluoridated water or use fluoridated toothpaste

I believe it has toxic effects for those with some pre-existing medical conditions. If individuals wish to have fluoride they can arrange this for themselves without imposing it on everyone.

Most developed countries do not consume fluoridated water and some are even taking measures to remove it, if their natural levels are too high, due to the health problems that can occur. These include dental fluorosis, damage to the brain, can lower IQ, affects the pineal gland, affects thyroid function, causes arthritic symptoms, damages bones, can cause bone cancer, dangerous to those with kidney disorders, can cause reproductive problems and is dangerous for bottle fed babies (a baby being bottle fed consumes up to 300 times more fluoride than a breast fed baby). Fluoride also accumulates in the body, we only excrete about 50%, and there have never been any randomised, controlled trial to demonstrate fluorides effectiveness or safety. Please don't do this. I beg you.

Research indicates that it can be bad for our health, sure it is good for your teeth but bad for our bodies. It's only good for people who neglect their daily oral care.

I have read and researched the scientific evidence regards long term negative health effects of fluoride.

Fluoride has an adverse effect on both the thyroid and pituitary glands as well as accumulating excess amounts in the bones and not enough has been done to educate people and dentists that it is not needed.

Because it is unnecessary and there are many medical studies that have proven it is detrimental to health. Otherwise, why was it removed in the first place?

Fluoride (the type added to water) is a waste product of the agricultural industry, which is a carcinogenic. It negatively affects one's health and is not necessary for healthy teeth.

Research from 25 cities showed that fluoridated water increased the risk of various types of cancer by an average of approx 40%. This research was conducted by Dr. J Yiamoupannis, Science director of the US National Health Federation. A caution by the US Surgeon General warned hospitals not to use fluoridated water in kidney machines. The synthetic fluoride in drinking water can inhibit the functions of vitamin C and in regards to the skeletal system, vitamin C promotes hardening of the bones and tooth enamel.

My research has led me to believe that fluoride in the drinking water can have quite severe effects in human health particularly the absorption of essential nutrients in the body.

Test have shown over 25years that fluoride can cause Alzheimers disease

A lot of people are allergic to fluoride, myself included. It causes rashes and tastes terrible. When we lived elsewhere, we would buy water to drink and use the rainwater garden tank for showers.

Side effects. It is damaging to some people's health if they have specific health conditions. They should not be forced to have their health damaged

Because I don't feel healthy consuming it and it tastes terrible and I get dry skin when I shower in fluoridated water.

It is not good for our health long-term. People should have a choice whether or not to ingest fluoride, the decision should not be made for us.

I have kidney and liver issues and if it is added, I would have to buy water to drink and cook with, as even small amounts harm me. I am opposed to mass medication against my will especially when it will cause me physical and financial harm.

There are side effects of these such as kidney problems we don't want our kids to have such health problems in future. It is not used in USA, Japan and Europe. you should focus more on facts and do more research on this

When we had it last time it made my thyroid 100 % worse. I ended up quiet sick and had to buy a water filter to get by.

I do not agree with fluoride as it has negative impacts on the overall health of people, depleting important minerals in our bodies which are already limited to begin with.

It is proven to not be good to our health. I suffer thyroid conditions and this makes it worse. If people wish to have fluoride in their water buy the tablets

I suffered terrible skin rashes and itching for the entire period commencing with the introduction of fluoride into the Cairns water supply and I have only felt relief and stopped taking a daily antihistamine since the council stopped this forced drug consumption. I will supply a doctor's report and take action through the Queensland Fair Trading Office if the council recommences fluoridation.

It shortens people's average lifespan and is liquid toothpaste. The risks outweigh the benefits.

Causes extreme side effects & long term health dangers to human. That's why it is banned in other countries

Fluoride has been implicated in thyroid disease by the University of Kent. I have thyroid disease and grew up in Melbourne drinking fluoridated water. I also have fluorosis. Fluoride has also been shown to cause low IQ. It is forced medication. The human body does not require fluoride. It is only beneficial if applied to the surface of adult teeth. It has no benefit if swallowed.

It is toxic and causes bone degeneration /osteoporosis down the track and if people want it the Council can provide it in another form rather than taking away our rights to drink water without fluoride.

Other Ways to Get Fluoride: there were **247 mentions** that there are other ways (eg: toothpaste and tablets etc) to have the benefits of fluoride without adding it to the water supply.

It's in toothpaste - I'm covered

Regular brushing and flossing is proven more effective than a chemical waste product that has short term benefits to strengthening the outer enamel whilst leaving the core more susceptible to rot

If people want to use fluoride they can add it to their own water, or use mouthwash and tooth paste. Adding it to the water supply is wrong. Many people don't want it and only a tiny part of a percentage of the water ends up being drinking water in the end. Most of the fluoride will end up on people's lawns or down the toilet or shower drain. What good is fluoride when you're washing your car? It doesn't make sense. Make sure there is fluoride in soft drinks instead. And you can hand out fluoride tablets for free at the libraries for those who want to use them. Target the supply a little smarter. Please don't add it to our drinking water.

It's not natural, people can get fluoride from other products if they wish eg. Toothpaste

If people want to have fluoride in their water they can add it themselves. I don't think I should have to be forced to intake chemicals. This should be an option. People that want fluoride have access to this by tablet and adding it to THEIR water themselves.

If people need fluoride in their supplements they can take it individually and not be forced into it.

People who want fluoride can buy toothpaste or pills, do not poison the whole city

There are other ways to address the issue that does not affect all water users. I prefer to drink water that is less chemicalised.

Whoever wants fluoride can buy it from the chemist, but nobody should get forced to take fluoride with their water.

Although I'm not strongly opposed to it, I believe we no longer need it in our water as we now get enough fluoride from other sources.

because it's a lazy and ineffective and inefficient solution to the problem - there are other ways the target demographic can be reached without doing this to water which should remain as pure as possible.

99% of the western continental Europe has rejected or banned fluoride in their water. After all, we have fluoride in toothpaste. There are fluoride tablets for those who feel they need more. Unnecessary waste of money to fluoridate our water with poison and not giving a choice to the people who oppose it.

Fluoride is available in nearly all toothpaste, dentists regularly apply it topically, markets in countries where it is banned (98% Of western Europe) simply carry salt with Fluoride (like iodine) as an option. And Council could distribute for free, for far less cost than the apparatus that will deliver more than 95% of the Fluoride to our dishwashers, toilets, wash machines, farms, swimming pools, lawns and the Great Barrier Reef. It should be a choice that individuals choose to take in extra fluoride or not.

Those in favour can opt for other means of using fluoride, rather than subject the entire population rather than subject the entire population to mass medication. There is the danger of error and accidental overdosing, especially for infants and the elderly.

Because you can get it from toothpaste or other means if you wish. It should not be imposed on the whole population.

If people want fluoride they can take the tablets, we do not want that poison in our water.

Toothpaste contains fluoride. You can buy tablets. Your dentist coats your teeth with fluoride. I am not convinced that it is safe to put in water supply. It should be each individual's own choice.

While there is no doubt fluoride is good for teeth over dosing is not. Most European nations have cut their dosing rate back to a third because people are getting fluoride from other sources so public provision may cause an overdose

Fluoride tablets are available to those who wish to take fluoride. Why should the ratepayers and water users be subject to mass medicating. Also water used for consumption is only a very small percentage of the overall water use. Waste of money and resource

I gave my children fluoride tablets, it should be up to the individual on what they ingest.

Toothpaste has fluoride, fluoride tablets are available, then you rinse your mouth with fluoride water & drink bottled water!!!

Fluoride only works as a topical application, that's why it's already in toothpaste. Most people would not drink enough water for it to make a difference if it was in our water supply. It does not make sense at all to put it in our water. People who want extra fluoride can just buy dissolvable tablets to put in their water so don't go forcing fluoride on the whole population!

People can use fluoride toothpaste if they want fluoride. Nothing should be added to the water supply without 100% approval from all who drink it. Soft drink is more dangerous to kids teeth; people should be more responsible about what they put in their and their kids bodies.

toothpastes available, fluoride tablets who most need it and better oral hygiene - should not be added just because a part of the population can't look after their teeth

If they wanted fluoride in there water you can buy tablets we have the best water in the best drinking water in the Cairns ,why should I pay to have it fluoride

If you want to improve dental health give out fluoride tablets for free. Make people brush their teeth. Don't put potential dangerous substances into the domestic water supply. I only use 200ml of water for dental hygiene. There is no logic in this appeal, expect of the dispose of two hazardous substances through this scam. Stop misleading people.

If people want fluoride in their water they can buy the tablets. Our daughter's teeth were stained by excessive fluoride at the recommended rate

There are other ways of encouraging people to look after their dental hygiene. This includes purchasing fluoride toothpaste, regular visits to dentists, purchase of fluoridated water etc but certainly not forcing the entire community into ingesting a chemical compound they do not wish to have in their bodies. Please see attached article as further explanations into why I do not want our drinking waters fluoridated: <http://fluoridealert.org/articles/50-reasons/>. This is just another influence exerted by pharmaceutical companies on Council politicians to benefit their bottom line as well as fill the election coffers of the supportive Council.

People who need fluoride need to take responsibility for their own preventative health. As a child I was given fluoride tablets. I now use a fluoride toothpaste

It's already in toothpaste, people should try using that every now and then. Water fluoridation is an unnecessary measure, and a major health risk

There is an abundance of toothpastes and supplements if people want a FREE choice on what they ingest.

As there is such a great dislike of fluoride being in our water supply and fluoride toothpaste is available to use, why create a problem. One tube of this toothpaste will probably last me six months for a cost of \$10.00.

Chemical: there were **229 mentions** that fluoride is a chemical and therefore people should not be forced to consume it.

Too many chemicals in our life (eg food) without putting some in our water

It forces all to digest chemicals. If people want to digest fluoride then they can take fluoride tablets which can be easily purchased or council could sponsor the cost of the fluoride tablets if council is concerned that some people won't buy them. Just like everything else those that want fluoride should accept responsibility and pay for the fluoride tablets and not force their viewpoint on other people.

I have chemical allergies, drinking fluoride in water caused me continual headaches and gut upsets

I grew up on well water completely chemical free and I'm 30 now and have not a single filling or issue with my teeth as I was taught the importance of dental hygiene I don't want that toxic chemical in my water!! It's not my fault people can't look after their own teeth I shouldn't be punished for their stupidity!!!

It is a chemical that I do not want me or my family to be consuming. I have zero fillings and have never consumed fluoridated water. It is outrageous that we would all have to consume this chemical because some people are too pathetic to clean their teeth.

It is some sort of chemical and I do not like it in water. People should be able to look after them self not be forced to.

I feel that I look after myself and my family and do not feel that adding chemicals to my water is the right way to go. People who have issues need to work it out or be helped. Sorry, but there are enough chemicals in all that we consume and are surrounded by.

1) Fluoride is the only chemical added to water for the purpose of medical treatment. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) classifies fluoride as a drug when used to prevent or mitigate disease (FDA 2000). As a matter of basic logic, adding fluoride to water for the sole purpose of preventing tooth decay (a non-waterborne disease) is a form of medical treatment. 2) Fluoridation is unethical. Informed consent is standard practice for all medication, and one of the key reasons why most of Western Europe has ruled against fluoridation. Water fluoridation is forcing whole communities to take a medicine irrespective of their consent. 3) Tooth decay reflects low-income not low-fluoride intake. Since dental decay is most concentrated in poor communities, we should be spending our efforts trying to increase the access to dental care for low-income families. We should be spending our efforts on promoting healthy eating habits in our schools, tuckshops and communities! 4) Fluoride is not an essential nutrient. No disease, not even tooth decay, is caused by a fluoride deficiency. (NRC 1993; Institute of Medicine 1997, NRC 2006). Not a single biological process has been shown to require fluoride. On the contrary there is extensive evidence that fluoride can interfere with many important biological processes. Fluoride interferes with numerous enzymes (Waldbott 1978). In combination with aluminium, fluoride interferes with G-proteins (Bigay 1985, 1987). Such interactions give aluminium-fluoride complexes the potential to interfere with signals from growth factors, hormones and neurotransmitters (Strunecka & Patocka 1999; Li 2003). More and more studies indicate that fluoride can interfere with biochemistry in fundamental ways (Barbier 2010). I do not want this chemical in our water supply!

Don't want more chemicals in water if you want more fluoride give out free tablets to people . This gives everyone the choice and not just make it compulsory to everyone.

Feel that the addition of any chemicals to drinking water is unnecessary and can easily lead to random problems such as over-dosing or contamination.

It is a toxic chemical which causes major health issues.

fluoride (the chemical that is added to water supplies) is a neurotoxin and dangerous when ingested regularly. Fluoride can be beneficial for dental health, but the advantages are in topical applications (such as done at a dentist) and not through regular ingestion.

Chemical by-product and eliminates personal choice. Individuals should be able to decide what goes into their body.

We, the people should not be adding chemicals to a water supply when there are other alternatives.

Because putting chemicals into our bodies is a personal choice and should not be compulsory

We are not a large city with millions of people, we are a small city with decent water that doesn't need chemical. Not to mention the disputed health risks.

Too many chemicals in water supply. Should be a personal choice to take fluoride not just a chemical given to everyone.

I am concerned about adding a foreign chemical to our water supply, no matter how small the amount, I am concerned about the health risks of such a measure compared to the benefits.

There are enough chemicals in our water to start with without adding another poison. Besides the fact that mass medication of the population isn't councils decision

I am uncomfortable with putting chemicals in drinking water. I do not think the potential benefits of fluoride in the water are worth it.

The unwanted chemicals that are associated with fluoride in the water that cause harmful complications to your health

Personally I have a bio-chemical intolerance. I use non-fluoride toothpaste too. Sugar is the big problem here, maybe education to the pro-fluoride people is better than adding chemicals to our beautiful water. The big question I have for the pro-fluoride crowd is why fluoride? There are literally hundreds of chemicals you could add to water to help fight a variety of illness that are fatal, but we're always focused on fluoride?? You can't die from bad teeth. Lack of vitamins can be fatal, so why fluoride??? I'm bio-chemically intolerant due to all the additives I've accumulated throughout my life and please note this: Fluoride never leaves your body. It's also banned in several 1st world countries - again I'm happy to give examples. Just leave the water alone, educate on less sugar and just have people brush their teeth. Easy.

Mass Medication: there were 138 mentions that putting fluoride in the city's water supply was equivalent to mass medication of the community.

Fluoride in water is mass medication! Residents can receive tablets if they wish to self-medicate.

Because whilst it may be desirable for human health, I oppose mass medication of the environment as well as well as people.

People need to be responsible and accountable for their own teeth. Adding fluoride to water is mass medication and why should I be forced to ingest fluoride in water? A certain amount of fluoride occurs naturally in food and toothpaste anyway and people have the option of taking fluoride tablets. I wouldn't have the option of removing fluoride from my drinking water if it were added. Cost of implementing fluoride into water would affect rates payers. Another reason is the environment struggles enough the addition of yet another comical to our water and possible effects on the reef.

Because it's forced mass medication, is toxic and is pure insanity

I would like to decide if I want to medicate or not - not have it forced on me. Fluoride in the water is forced mass medication regardless of fluoride being effective on teeth or not.

Right to choice for my body and family. Mass medication is dictatorship and immoral. Too many chemicals in our life (eg food) without putting some in our water.

Poison mass medication. Topical is OK, ingested is not. WHO states it a neurotoxin.

Scientific studies prove the damage fluoride does to one's health.. It a no brainer! No no no!!! If one wants to poison themselves and their offspring take it in tablet form. Definite NO! To mass medication .

This is an incredibly emotive, contentious and even divisive issue. Whether or not it improves dental hygiene outcomes for persons who don't take responsibility themselves, the concept of forcing literally 10s of 1,000s of people to ingest it without their consent is in breach of state, federal and international common law. Beyond that, it simply does not make sense, when fluoride is readily available for anyone who wants it, whether it be toothpaste, dental treatment, pills or fluoridated salt. It is also hard to understand why ratepayers should be paying for a program where over 95% of the product is not being delivered to the desired destination. Is this sustainable practice, sending what is otherwise considered a toxic waste into our water courses?

People should be given the choice. My plants and animals do not need fluoride and neither do people who are older. If people wish to take fluoride then they can't the drops or tablets for free from the council (This use to be how it was done). World wide studies have led other countries to remove fluoride from their water supplies due to health risks. The dental association only supports the use because of their financial links with companies like Colgate. Sorry for the rant, but please let me CHOOSE whether or not to take fluoride. DO NOT MEDICATE ME WITHOUT MY PERMISSION.

When my children were small, council provided fluoride in tablet form to those who wanted it. This gave people a choice. For the good of a few, the majority of the community should not have to be

forced to take an unnecessary chemical. People need the choice, not the Big Brother attitude that they know best what is 'good' for us!

Intake of fluoride can be managed individually and I want Cairns Council to support democratic views as a result.

because it should be a personal choice, not something we are forced into.

it is up to the individual to 'medicate' themselves

I want to choose if I am to have fluoride, not mass poisoning

No choice for people who watch their diet and clean their teeth. I strongly believe in taking responsibility for one's own health. The Council years ago gave out free fluoride tablets for children up to age 12 (I think it was). I'd much rather see that reinstated rather than mass medicating.

Fluoride should be a matter of choice, not mandated by anyone who thinks they know what's best for the community! As far as possible our water supply should be kept pure and natural with no additives except those that are absolutely necessary.

We as a democratic society should be able to have a choice , give the option of free fluoride tablets if people want to take fluoride

I think adding anything to the water that isn't necessary takes away a person's right to choose what they put into their body. Untainted water is a basic human right and there are members of our community who are sensitive to fluoride.

Waste: there were **97 mentions** that putting fluoride in the city's water supply would be a costly waste, with majority of water used for other purposes than drinking.

why fluoride water when for showering, flushing, washing and watering, let those who want it get it for themselves . like in the 80's when you could get a bottle from the library

Unnecessary additive to town water supply when most of the water is used for other purposes. Only a small proportion is used for drinking.

I have diabetes type 2 and drink a lot more water than those without this condition. At age 60, I do not need fluoride for my teeth. There are more efficient and effective ways of delivering fluoride to those (children) who would benefit from this without making the whole water supply (used for washing, cleaning, toilets, commercial purposes etc.) contain this dubious additive. If it was so healthy, the bottled water suppliers would incorporate it into their products as well.

A very inefficient way to target the people who need it. Also is a cost impost on those who choose not to drink it.

Because it's a total waste of money, as most water is used for garden, showering or toilet.

Because it is a waste of money and is actually poisonous. Cairns water is perfect, leave it alone you idiots!

Majority of water will be wasted on sewerage, plants etc. Doctors advise not to make baby milk formula with fluoridated water. Give people a choice!

Waste of money, people need to teach their kids to brush their teeth with fluoride toothpaste and eat healthy food. Most town water never goes near teeth and not everyone drinks the assumed amount of water.

Less than 2% of water is ingested. Most is disposed of through bathing, toilet, washing etc. Only children at a particular age may have benefits from fluoride.

I think it's a waste of time as we filter water which removes fluoride. I also think we would be digesting a chemical unnecessarily when we can get enough fluoride on our teeth from toothpaste and mouth wash. The money would be better spent on dental care education or free toothpaste with fluoride for people who can't afford it.

It is a waste of money. Much of the water is not used for drinking and i believe diet is the most important factor in healthy teeth. Fluoride is accessible to people if they want it personally should not be put on the masses.

This is a wasteful method to treat a tiny minority target, even if it was an effective application for that minority. The percentage of our water supply that is actually ingested is miniscule by comparison to our dam(s). If people wish to dose their children they should be supplied with free fluoride tablets. I also believe it to be merely toxic waste, and a harmful chemical to ingest.

I think terrible waste of money, don't need fluoride to wash cars, water the garden or wash windows, If you want to take Fluoride use the correct tooth paste or take a pill.

Personal choice, not needed for many other things eg: washing, cleaning, gardening. Reports indicate that it can sedate the community

Not healthy - most of it ends up on the reef.

Water goes to sea. Little people can have their fluoride through a school and day care policy as a choice.

The water for drinking is a very small proportion of the total water used. Supply fluoride to those who want it. It is the rubbish the children eat which causes tooth decay together with not looking after their teeth.

A high percentage of the water goes down the drain - I feel it would be better put in bottled water and given to schools and other centres.

The amount that actually gets into teeth compared to being washed down the drain

Waste of time and money

Most water is used for showers, toilet, laundry, dishes, garden etc so most of the fluoride added and the associated costs would be wasted. Are supplying tablets an option. With the controversy surrounding the safety and effects I would like to be able to choose to consume it.

A very small percentage of total water used is actually drunk. My toilet or my washing or my shower or my grass/garden does not need it. Why not provide free tablets for those who want to use it.

Because it is going to cost to put it in the water and more water will be flushed down the pipes than go into particularly children mouth. Less sweets more fluoride toothpaste is better

Most of the water is used in toilets, showers, gardens and cooking, effectively just going down the drain without any real benefits to people.

A lot of it ends up on the garden or down the drain when we were young our parents feed as fluoride tablets

City water supply is not an efficient method of fluoride distribution

The water is not only for drinking, it would be dispersed widely in gardens, drains etc. Other alternatives should be considered - fluoride tablets etc for those who really want it

not an efficient way to administer fluoride, the benefits are if applied topically not swallowed. The percentage of fluoridated water that is used for drinking would be small compared to waters other uses (watering the garden, washing, ect). Not proven to be any benefit. Not fair to be medicating people that don't "need" it, or want it.

Waste of money as most goes down the drain. Fluoride toothpaste better.

It seems to be an inefficient way of ensuring everyone gets fluoride as most water is used for non-drinking purposes (most would end up being washed down the drain). While fluoride is beneficial for teeth, I'm not completely sold on swallowing large amounts of it (particularly if someone works outside for a living - they may be consuming 8-10 L per day vs the average person drinking 1-2 L). Toothpaste is great for cleaning teeth, but I don't know anyone who voluntarily swallows large amounts of it...

Of the total water used only an extremely small amount is used for personal human consumption. Most is used for other uses such as washing, gardening, pools etc. There are other ways people that believe in fluoride use can treat themselves and their family without so much wastage.

My car, my dog, my garden, my washing and dishwashing, my shower DO NOT need fluoride, those who do can get free of charge tablets !!

A very small percentage of the treated water is drunk so free fluoride tablets would be more efficient and cheaper. Also the fluoride only works on young children, so the percentage is even smaller.

Most water used in households is poured on the lawns, into pools and washing machines. adding fluoride to the general supply is a huge waste of money and effort. if someone wants fluoride in their drinking water, they can add it themselves, to their daily intake of water.

Only a small amount of the fluoride in the water benefits teeth. The rest is simply wasted (eg, laundry water, showers, gardens). It's an expensive, broad-brushed approach to treating a very specific health issue.

no point in putting this in the water when most of it goes to washing, watering garden etc

The water is used for everything such as gardening/filling pools which does not need fluoride. It doesn't need to be in every household and if people want it they can add it to their own water.

Only a miniscule amount of water from town water supplies is consumed by people. Most is used for washing, sanitation, cleaning and gardening. Much more sensible to add fluorine to water that is directly consumed by people, i.e in soft drink or bottled water.

Complete and total waste of ratepayers' money. For those to whom fluoride is important, provide fluoride tablets. I expect that about 99.9% of fluoridated water is wasted on gardens, showers and flushed down the loo.

Not needed: there were **87 mentions** that putting fluoride in the city's water supply was simply not needed.

No need

Don't think there is a need, spend the money on education dental hygiene & sugar intake

I don't believe it is needed. I already don't drink tap water due to the already added chemicals and fluoride is another reason why i would choose not to drink it.

Not necessary

Never had don't need

I don't see the need for fluoride in all our water supply - my washing will not benefit from fluoride. I believe the council in the past provided fluoride tablets to the community free of charge. This system allows the community to choose if they want fluoride or not. If you strongly agree to fluoride you can put it in your own water without contaminating everyone else's.

No need for it

Don't believe it's needed we receive fluoride treatment at the dentist

It is unnecessary. If people want to increase their fluoride intake, they can take supplements. Just like other people need to do when they are depleted in something. Fluoride is toxic, particularly for myself and my family with pre-existing medical conditions.

It's not needed. People should brush their teeth/floss, not drink sugary drinks etc. There's plenty of education from school etc and people need to take ownership of their and their children's dental health. I don't believe in adding in a chemical to everyone's water when there is an alternative. Also, I don't think evidence shows that adding fluoride is the best option long term.

I don't think it is necessary - most brush with a fluoride toothpaste which is proven to be enough fluoride to provide the relevant amount of dental health

It is not needed, and long term health effects are unknown.

it is not needed in the water most of which is not used for drinking. Give people who want it tablets etc much cheaper.

it is of no benefit to the system, and is healthy only as topical treatment to teeth (brush on- spit out), better promote dental health as a school program (annual dentistry visit in schools for all primary years) like in other countries.

I haven't had it for 40 years here and for only a few, I don't think we need it.

It isn't needed, people who need it don't drink water.

It is unnecessary for the majority of people.

There is no need for it. Most of the water is used on gardens/toilets/washing machines etc. If people want it in their system then let them buy fluoride tabs etc. Kids don't drink water these days. It's all lolly water or nothing.

Not necessary. Want fluoride, go buy some pills or better still the council provide them free like they did when our kids were young. Then everyone has a choice.

Unhealthy and totally unnecessary please stop being dictated to when this decision has been made and consensus not to fluoridate has been decided numerous times.

Now with fluoridated dental hygiene products, it is no longer necessary to add fluoride to the water supply. Most Western, Industrialized countries have rejected water fluoridation. Countries with and without water fluoridation have both experienced the same decline in dental decay. An excessive accumulation of fluoride in the body may cause a number of illnesses. Do not feel it necessary.

Not required, if people want their children to have fluoride in the water, take a tablet.

There is no need to introduce an unwanted chemical to a person's water supply - funding should be diverted to schooling for food and dental programs

It is not required so why waste money

There is no need to add fluoride to the water as people who want it can easily self medicate. We shouldn't all have to ingest something which is controversial.

My son is 17 has perfect teeth. He has never had soft drink, juice, cordial ever and doesn't eat lollies. He brushes twice a day and flosses. Pretty simple. Don't add fluoride to the water as the water to every house is used for flushing the toilet, laundry washing, showering etc. How many people actually drink water from their home tap. Don't waste my rates on this nonsense. DO NOT FLOURIDATE THE TOWNS WATER SUPPLY.

Never had it in the water and I have grown up in the Cairns area and my teeth are absolutely fine - with very little intervention from the dentist.

My 3 adult children do not have one single dental filling between them and they are aged in their 20s and 30s. Why? Because I brushed their teeth for them until each of them was 8 years old and I was satisfied they could continue to care for their teeth properly. They have NEVER had fluoride.

not warranted

Research shows it's not needed. People shouldn't be medicated to suit some. Make fluoride tablets available to those who want it. It's also a money waste as most will be used for non drinking purposes.

I have 3 children who have great teeth and we have no fluoride in the water. I think the money needs to be spent focusing on education and support to encourage parents to teach their kids to look after their teeth. Kids who would be their target of fluoride in water - it is questionable if they actually drink water. Are they more likely drinking juice and soft drink? Spend the money on education and provide a more targeted response.

not needed, brushing teeth twice a day is more than enough for dental health

We've never had it therefore we don't need it. Besides if you brushed your teeth you would get an adequate amount of fluoride from your toothpaste

It's unnecessary. If people want to use fluoride they can use the toothpaste. It's not worth tainting our water supply.

Completely unnecessary - has been banned in Europe since years for a reason...

Our children's teeth are great no fillings etc. They brush their teeth and don't eat too much sugary food. We drink a lot of water and believe there are already enough additives.

I'm careful with my diet and my family's food intake also. Our teeth are in good health, why would we need fluoride? If fluoride is needed then fluoride tablets should be given to families who need it. I don't want to ingest, bathe or wash in fluoride when there is no need for it. People's food and drink intake is the main cause of bad health and those of us who are careful shouldn't have our lives affected by this.

Parents' responsibility or Own Responsibility: there were **85 mentions** that believed dental care was parents' responsibility, or the individual's responsibility.

People should be responsible for their own wellbeing as well as their kids, not the councils.

It's not of benefit to all citizens and therefore one's health is ones responsibility

People need to take responsibility for their own teeth

Because I don't think we should be adding anything to our wonderful water and think people should take responsibility for their own health and should buy a toothbrush and toothpaste and brush their teeth.

People need to take responsibility for their own health not rely on something to do it for you. I am concerned for the health risks involved with adding fluoride to the water.

Parents should be responsible for their children's health, not local or state government.

Responsibility of parents to medicate

Supply to parents and ask them to administer to children or toothpaste

It should be a person/parent's own responsibility to keep teeth healthy through regular brushing and less sugar consumption (which will also help reduce obesity), not have it forced on the rest of us.

it is up to parents to manage their children with healthy diets

Benefits children only and tablets are available. Parents are responsible for their children's health people should take personal responsibility for their own dental health

I do not want to be forced to drink a toxic substance. Too much fluoride does more damage than not enough. It is everyone's individual responsibility to look after their own teeth. We eat health food and clean our teeth and I do not want to live in a dictatorship.

I don't believe it helps - it is just a bandaid. People should be looking after their health and they wouldn't need things like this. Address the issue of eating correctly as opposed to fluoride in water.

I believe it may harm the digestive system. I parents want their kids to have fluoride they can give them tablets, fluoride toothpaste and stop giving them soft drink.

unnecessary addition of chemicals. If people are concerned about their children teeth then use the fluoride toothpaste or buy the tablets. I don't want it inflicted on me. Parents take responsibility for your children.

Health care of individuals' teeth is their responsibility or more importantly their parents, not the Councils. This issue is from poor diet and health care and should not need to be mass treated to lessen a minor side effect of a poor individual diet or health care. Council should provide clean healthy water, not medication.

If people want fluoride they can provide it themselves in a way that suites them. It should not be forced on everyone

Poor dental health is the responsibility of the parents. The whole community should not have to be fluoridated. Parents need educating on proper eating habits and dental hygiene.

It is up to the individual to determine and maintain their own oral health and hygiene and not the responsibility of government. Better education and promotion of oral health is required to get families/individuals to maintain the health of their teeth and bones.

Everyone's responsibility to look after our own teeth. Children drink soft drink and sweet stuff and don't look after their teeth very well! Our children never have problem about their teeth. Because we teach them how to look after teeth. We need good education instead of fluoride. Why we have to pay for that? We definitely do NOT need it! individual responsibility!

When my children were young we were able to get fluoride tablets or drops from the Council. This should be done again and parents should be more vigilant to do so and stop giving sugary drinks, food, etc

Benefits a minority of population and parents should take responsibility for children's welfare not the council

It doesn't do a dam thing with children drinking so much sugar drinks and not brushing teeth. parent responsibility to get treatment at dentist if you want it. I have to ask why so many countries overseas are removing it but then we are a Nanny state.

The type of fluoride added to town water is not the beneficial type. Our children grew up with fluoride and have spots in their teeth as a result. It can cause significant health issues. Parents need to be educated to understand that sugar is damaging to their children's teeth and general health. Water is a healthy, and necessary drink.

We are too much of a Nanny State now. Parents need to take more responsibility for their children, not less. I have 4 children; 2 in their thirties and 2 in their forties (nearly fifty) and the eldest have had only 1 cavity each in recent years and the youngest 2 (one nearly 40years old) have had none. This isn't because their parents had good genes. Their father and I grew up with mouthful of fillings. It's because I cleaned my kids teeth for them till they were about 6years old, not just handing them a toothbrush and letting them do the job by themselves, as, I'm sure, most parents do and maybe not twice a day. Also, I have secondary cancer and have had almost 5 years of chemo. Not only have I had a lot of chemicals in my system, I am trying to avoid as many as possible. Why should we all be subjected to another chemical in our lives? Let parents buy fluoride tablets for their kids.

Why should those of us in the community be penalised in having this poison added to our water, because of a proportion of our Society choose to eat all the junk food - drink soft drinks & other such sugar filled drinks - together with chocolates & other associated bad habits in their diet. What society needs, is EDUCATION & NOT POISONING. I'm in my mid 60'S, & we were taught the benefits of a good diet when we were kids growing up in the 50-'s. I then taught my children the same, so why can't others - I'll tell you why, just take a look at the Parents & start with them. For some children growing up today, they have no role models in their parents. Their parents prioritise Alcohol & cigarettes ahead of teaching their children about the importance of a good diet - so that's the reality - WE NEED TO FOCUS ON EDUCATING OUR YOUNG CHILDREN EVEN IF THEIR PARENTS CHOOSE NOT TO.

Feel that people need to take personal responsibility for this. The more councils and other forms of government do the less people need to take responsibility and are not empowered to make personal life changes.

It is person's responsibility to take care of their dental hygiene. Our family gets sufficient fluoride through brushing teeth twice a day. We do not need to be getting an extra dose just because there

are some sectors in the community who are lazy or ignorant with dental hygiene. I have grown up with non fluoridated water and have no problems with my teeth.

Not enough evidence to support benefit or better dental health:

there were **69 mentions** that believed there was not enough evidence to show fluoride in the tap water would be beneficial to dental health.

There is no scientifically PROVEN evidence to say that fluoride is beneficial for oral health via INGESTION. Statistically there is no proper correlation between drinking water fluoridation and oral health benefits. Municipal water polluted by fluoride eventually ends up in the Great Barrier Reef. Fluoridated drinking water is not a medication. Even forced medication is unethical and cannot be forced by any health professionals or any other organizations. Therefore a petition like water fluoridation can be legally challenged.

From my own research on this topic, there is too much opposition and negative chatter from a safety point of view to even consider.

Not enough evidence to show ingestion is beneficial and outweighs harm

There is no proof it helps kids teeth. Kids eat and drink too much sugar.

Fluoride is a waste product of alumina and there is no scientific benefit recorded that ingesting fluoride is beneficial.

Scientific evidence that this is not necessary.

I am strongly opposed to fluoride being added to the water in Cairns for the reasons stated below. The fact is that Tooth decay (dental caries) is not the result of fluoride deficiency, it is caused by acids in your mouth, typically created from sugar being metabolized by bacteria (Streptococcus mutans) The prevalence of dental caries in a population is not inversely related to the concentration of fluoride in enamel, and a higher concentration of enamel fluoride is not necessarily more efficacious in preventing dental caries. SOURCE: CDC (2001). Recommendations for using fluoride to prevent and control dental caries in the United States. Mortality and Morbidity Weekly Review 50(RR14):1-42. Water fluoridation is a United States practice from the 1950s that most countries have never embraced. Although the World Health Organisation endorses fluoridation, the large majority of the WHO's members states do not fluoridate their drinking water, 97 per cent of Western Europe's population drinks non-fluoridated water. There is no difference in tooth decay between western nations that fluoridate their water and those that do not. World Health Organization data, show that childhood tooth decay has decreased similarly in recent decades in 16 non-fluoridated countries and 8 fluoridated countries. (SOURCE: Neurath C. (2005). Tooth decay trends for 12 year olds in non-fluoridated and fluoridated countries. Fluoride 38:324-325) Fluoridated toothpaste sold in Australia variously contains 500 to 5,000 times as much fluoride directly to teeth than does 1mg per litre fluoridated water. When water fluoridation began in the 1950s, there were no fluoridated

toothpastes - now 95 per cent or more of toothpaste sold in Australia is fluoridated. In 2009 Queensland Health acknowledged that no risk assessments had been done for fluoridation, and that the State Government had just relied on a 2007 NHMRC recommendation when the Bligh Government mandated fluoridation. Mandated Queensland fluoridation was overturned at the end of 2012 and since then 24 Queensland councils have formally voted to reject fluoridation. As of April 2016, 50 of 57 studies have investigated the relationship between fluoride and human intelligence linking high fluoride exposure to lowering of children's IQ. In 2012, Harvard University researchers published Developmental Fluoride Neurotoxicity: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis (27 studies published over 22 years), that raised concerns about high fluoride exposure being a developmental neurotoxin as the average decrease in IQ across 27 studies was nearly 7 IQ points. In 2013, based on the body of work from the Harvard review, Lancet published a paper which officially classified fluoride as a developmental neurotoxin. 'The Lancet Neurology, Volume 13, Issue 3, in the March 2014 edition' Fluoride is a universally acknowledged toxic substance, and in the clear absence of substantive, credible, long term testing as to its possible side effects on humans, a prudent person or government (or dentist), would hopefully follow precautionary principles and defer introducing it into drinking water supplies until the evidence either way is abundantly clear. This is the cautious approach that the governments of many European countries have taken, and it is an eminently sensible and rational one.

I'm not convinced there's been enough research.

No scientific evidence that it is beneficial

No real evidence of dental support and just another chemical we don't really know how it's systemically affect

No evidence it works. Anyone who wants to use fluoride should look after themselves in that regard instead of relying on Governments to provide everything for them. You can't control the amount of water people drink.

fluoride has no bearing to the health of your teeth. I grew where there has always been fluoride in the water and have a mouth full of fillings my husband has never experienced fluoride and has no fillings at all its not diet related as i eat better than him and fluoride is toxic at any level in our bodies especially the young

Banned in many countries, science is not 100% in on this and those vulnerable probably do not drink a lot of water anyway.

From what I've read I understood that the jury was out, that it doesn't really support teeth and bones, that only a topical application of fluoride can do that. I would prefer to keep to topical applications when brushing my teeth, rather than another chemical for my body to process.

There is no empirical evidence to prove its benefit, so it would be an unnecessary cost to be funded by taxpayers.

Industrial waste into our water supply? No real hard evidence to suggest it reduces Dental Cavities:<http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2016/05/21/our-daily-dose-fluoride-documentary.aspx>

there is NO ACTUAL scientific research to prove that fluoride added to town water benefits tooth decay. In today's society if people want more fluoride they buy it and its cheap (toothpaste) and it is taking away a person's choice and right to choose whether they need more fluoride or not. I see it as a mass drugging.

There is no evidence that fluoride in water is beneficial to public health. The evidence that there is shows that topical application directly to the tooth can work if applied by a dentist. Medicating/ adding additives does not achieve this dental solution. People deserve the choice if they wish to drink fresh water or adulterated water.

Taste: there were **66 mentions** stating that fluoride changes the taste of the water.

Don't like the taste

Makes the water taste horrible

because fluoride has a bitter taste and I prefer the water we have now but the added minerals are good ether way

Cairns water is the best tasting - why pollute it with a toxin?

Cairns is the only place that has good taste water, people can drink straight from the tap unlike many other places. So please don't put all of this chemical in the water, it can only do more harm than good in the long term.

It changes the taste of the water and has yet to be proven to be greatly beneficial and 100% safe. I grew up without fluoride in the water and my teeth are fantastic. I cannot stand the taste of water with fluoride in it and hate the idea of destroying our wonderful yummy drinking water.

because it is unnatural and taste is disgraceful

we had it and water tasted foul - it's poison

Having lived in other areas within Australia where fluoride is in the water, the taste is my main concern. Cairns has the best water - can another way be found to improve teeth?

It tastes terrible and I don't believe it is healthy for people

I grew up in Cairns and have lived in other places around Australia and the one thing I always found is that the water is nicer tasting to drink here. I think it should be up to parents to make sure their children are brushing their teeth. It's what I had to do. We shouldn't have to have this in our water just in case some people are not doing this.

Because it tastes disgusting. Had to buy bottled water due to white sediment showing in glass of water. Parents can teach their children on oral hygiene and good nutrition

I don't like the taste

It spoils the taste of water and a cup of tea.

Terrible taste, provide fluoride tablets to those that want it

Because it tastes terrible and nothing should be added to our water

Because there is no need to, Cairns is fortunate enough to have an abundance of fresh, beautiful tasting water. When you travel to other cities their water tastes awful.

Cairns water tastes fantastic. Coming from southern states where additives are placed in the water it is practically undrinkable. PLEASE do not mess with Cairns water!

Ruins the taste of the water, almost making it unbearable depending on how much of dosage is put in. And just unnecessary. If people don't take oral care, that's their problem. Not ours.

Because we have wonderful tasting water and we don't want fluoride added. If you cannot look after your own oral health you don't deserve to have teeth. People who want it in the water can go and buy tablets for themselves.

The taste is very off-putting

Water taste great, would like to continue to have great tasting water & not having to buy bottle water

Cost: there were **52 mentions** about the cost of putting fluoride in the water supply, pointing out that majority of water used is not consumed.

I don't believe the benefits to dental health will be worth the cost of adding fluoride when it is so easy to look after your own dental health now and people still do not do it!

Unnecessary additional cost to ratepayers therefore cost v benefit. We consume less than 1% of treated water so why add toxic chemicals to our water supply whereby 99% of which will be wasted.

Cost to Council to benefit a few, those that need it buy their own.

The money spent on maintaining fluoride should be spent on educating new parents on the importance of dental hygiene. Fluoride applied directly to the tooth is much more effective than ingesting it.

Waste of money for general public

It is a huge cost when not everyone needs it and our plants and cars don't need fluoride. Maybe council could provide tablets for free to those who want them.

For the cost outlay I don't think it is worth it. I believe very little of the towns total water is actually consumed by humans.

Benefit versus cost has not been clearly articulated in information presented to date. Before supporting addition of fluoride to our water supply I need to see the net benefit presented as hard data and not based on anecdotal evidence.

It's an expense to CRC and ratepayers that is unnecessary. Fluoride is in toothpaste. People should brush their teeth more!

I think that a cheaper option for the council would be to give tablets instead and those that don't then would have the option to drink the clean water of Cairns

It's a big cost to CRC and hence us ratepayers and I think it's the old sledgehammer to crack a walnut approach

Cost involved to the ratepayer, I used fluoride tablets as a child, why can't parents with children purchase the tablets at their own expense

a waste of money when individuals can look after their teeth by going to a chemist for help if they really want fluoride.

\$2-3million per year to fluoridate Cairns water supply which of only %1 is actually drunk most likely by people that brush their teeth. Over a ten year period including cost rise and maintenance could reach upward of \$40-50 million in expenditure which could buy Cairn a rectangle stadium and there will still be tooth decay.

Waste of money. Does not target the perceived problem areas.

Because there are alternatives if you want fluoride without it being foisted on the entire population. Also expensive for rate payers. Council could issue a voucher with rates or water bill which could be redeemed for fluoride tablets at a local chemist if fluoride is required. Would be cheaper I'm sure.

Better education needed: there were **43 mentions** that believed that better education about dental health was needed for parents.

The type of people this would need to be aim at, are the ones that prefer to buy soft drinks or juices for their kids than have them drink water, why is it that we need to poison our self with this stuff, spent the money on education to discourage parents to stop buying soft drinks, lollies etc. Fluoride is not good for you.

I believe we should focus on education re dental care and regular dental visits for children should be more readily available before spending large amounts of money on something that is corrosive and does not work unless it is coupled with good dental care

My daughter grew up in Cairns, she and all her friends have great teeth. Educate parents to teach their kids to brush their teeth and we won't need more chemicals in our drinking water. Everyone says yes because their too lazy to spend time teaching their kids basic hygiene. I have a filter system on my house to get most of the chemicals from the water. sometimes ore chlorine levels are so high we can smell it.

I think before putting fluoride into water, let parents to educate children to brush their teeth properly.

I prefer not to have unnecessary additives to our water supply, instead better education to parents re application of fluoride to children's teeth.

it is an issue which should be addressed at the home & should not be imposed on the community at large for the perceived benefit of a few. Like swimming, teach dental hygiene at home & school. water tastes terrible when it is present.

Better education on how people can protect their teeth is what's needed. If people want fluoride they can take the tablets (provided by council/health authorities), just as we did as children.

It's a ridiculous concept and the money should be spent on oral health education or dental vans for schoolkids. I do not want to ingest any amount of fluoride, it is in my toothpaste. That's enough.

We haven't had it for 40 odd years, people need educating on brushing their teeth and proper hygiene.

I grew up without fluoride with no problems. Only time I had problems was when I ate excessive sugar. Would be better to address the root cause of the issue, being consumption of sugary beverages and poor diet.

People who have higher rates of cavities generally drink soft drink instead of water. Money should be spent on educating people about oral hygiene rather than adding fluoride to water.

I think a better solution is to concentrate on access to dental care and health messages to promote better personal care for teeth. I'm not convinced that adding fluoride to drinking water is the answer; it could be argued that people with tooth decay problems don't drink tap water anyway (they possibly tend to drink soft drink instead)

Fluoride in water is a short-term solution. Education is the key. That topical application directly to the tooth can work if applied by a dentist. Medicating/ adding additives does not achieve this dental solution. People deserve the choice if they wish to drink fresh water or adulterated water.

Doesn't target the right people: there were **29 mentions** that stated that putting fluoride in the water supply would not reach the people who needed it most.

The people who most need fluoride are not necessarily the people who are going to drink tap water.

The people you are trying to target don't even drink water. Offer those that want fluoride free tablets like you used to

People who consume sugar drinks and bad teeth will not drink tap water. Lot of council money spent on nothing

I believe those most in need of Fluoride treatment actually don't drink much tap water, and it is a waste of resources to be using expensive fluoridated water to water my plants and wash my clothes and car.

Because the children who should benefit from it don't drink water

Families who have poor dental hygiene don't drink sufficient amount of water to warrant poisoning the entire water supply for the rest of us. They need education not poisoning.

The people with dental problems have them (in part) because of their diet (incl sugary drinks instead of water) so I don't believe imposing it on the masses will solve the problem. I have good teeth and it's not because of fluoride in my drinking water.

Fluoride should be given to people who need it not put into the water supply. Not everyone needs Fluoride.

The dental return on investment from fluoridated water is not poor. Target poor dental demographics with specific programs, not the entire population.

Fluoride has narrow benefits for a narrow proportion of the population yet has significant risks to a large proportion of the population due to its impact on thyroid function. If the Council returned it to the water supply I would join any class action that arose, as it is toxic to many people and has significant detrimental impacts on health

because the people who need it most don't drink water and the people who don't need it are the one who do drink water instead of sugary drinks.

People with cavities may not consume tap water regularly enough to be beneficial, therefore it is not reaching the intended demographic.

It is up to the individual and children may need it for growing teeth, but elderly people don't need as much, then workers in the tropics drink a lot of water and may get an overdose whilst the children don't get enough.

I opted to give my children fluoride when they were small but I do not like the idea of ingesting it past teeth growing age. I suspect that the people who would most benefit from fluoride don't drink water much anyway. I drink lots of water & I don't want to be drinking fluoride every day.

I don't really know much about fluoride but it seems to do a good job for those who need it but everyone else is drinking it when they don't need to.

because the people who need fluoride treatment don't drink water! I would rather not have something else in my water that may or may not cause long term harm.

Studies show it's harmful: there were **27 mentions** stating that studies showed the chemical was harmful.

I have made up my mind after reading scientific studies that oppose it

Read the studies

Evidence proves that it isn't good for your health

A study by Harvard University found that fluoride added to water adversely affects the I.Q'S of children. It's a health hazard . Studies also indicate the adverse effect fluoride has on frogs

Fluoride is good for teeth as studies have shown but not for ingesting in the body as studies have also shown this so I'm strongly opposed to drinking water that has this in it - our bodies aren't designed to filter water, that's what filters are for

There is irrefutable evidence that fluoride does not improve dentition, and it can cause other health issues as well. Australia is already deficient in Iodine, and as Fluoride is a member of the Halide family it can block Iodine receptors.

People should be able to choose if they fluoride or not, it is a basic right. Scientific studies have shown that fluoride can have adverse effects on health. The council does not have the right to impose this onto people who do not want it.

According to data from the World Health Organization, there is no discernible difference in tooth decay between the minority of developed countries that fluoridate water, and the majority that do not. This being the case, I'm opposed to unnecessary, forced medication.

Research! It's not necessary, people can add it themselves if they really want it. Should be an option not forced upon people.

Scientific research shows fluoride to be a neurotoxin.

The science of fluoride is well documented and other countries are taking fluoride out after 40+ years we are well behind the times in adding it. Educate not fluoridate for dental health of children. If "that sugar film" schools education pack was used in every school (or a similar program) we would see a marked increase in dental health of our children and adults too.

The research of fluoride shows that it has been linked to neurological and psychical diseases. I have a disease that fluoride has been linked to and I grew up in Victoria and drank that water daily. Since moving to Cairns for past 29 months the symptoms have significantly disappeared. Fluoride is dangerous and there is some in toothpaste, we don't need to feed our children it, to give them diseases just because some big 5 pharmacies say so or the government.

Scientific evidence that this is beneficial is inconclusive and there is also a (disputed) body of evidence for potential ill-effects. Decent research should be done before forcing this down people's throats :)

Many studies have proven the danger of fluoride. Each individual should be able to choose what they consume.

The science does not support oral fluoride being ANY benefit at all. Adding it would be mass public poisoning. Those that want it can take it in other forms. The world's leading communities have banned this out of date practice.

Effect on the environment: there were **26 mentions** that stated concerns about how fluoride might affect our environment.

If a few want it, then let them install their own fluoride systems to their houses at their own expense. We have enough environmental contaminants without deliberately introducing more. Far better to spend the money on Dental Health clinics for those that can't afford dental treatment.

1. To protect the reef, most will end up in waterways. 2. It is expensive to maintain the concentration for safe consumption. 3. The community reasoned to remove it and won.

Water is used for everything. Does your garden need fluoride. What are the long term effects on the reef? Soil quality?

because I'm allergic to it and I have a lot of stomach problems that I've already spend lots of money on products eliminating it such as my tooth paste. If they put fluoride in the water I would have to buy bottled water just to clean my teeth and I'm not sure which bottled water has fluoride in it. Don't think the coral and the reef creatures need fluoride flushed into them. I don't think the cows need fluoride in their grass to put fluoride into their milk. There is not enough known about the long-term or wide effects of fluoride. All the studies have been performed by drug companies that support fluoride and all our student dentists are being brainwashed that it is good without good evidence.

You are fluoridating everything! Our reef, our plants, our dog, our cats, our pool. Not necessary. Fluoridating School drinking taps or having regular fluoride tablets provided at School would be a much better option for our environment.

Drinking water is such a small amount of water used, so most of the fluoride would be wasted and likely to contaminate the land and sea including the reef.

scientific evidence it is a toxin. Toxic to humans, toxic to animals, gross run-off TOXIC TO REEF. beats me why we worry about farm runoff when we pump toxins from water straight out onto reef killing marine organisms coral etc. The studies have been done, prohibited in Canada because kills salmon spawning. Fluoride should be personal choice in toothpaste or buy special water. Once added difficult and expensive to remove. I will not drink water with fluoride added.

Whilst it can have some benefits, I'm worried about damaging the environment further.

Scientific evidence it is a toxin. Toxic to humans, toxic to animals, gross run-off TOXIC TO REEF. Beats me why we worry about farm runoff when we pump toxins from water straight out onto reef killing marine organisms coral etc. The studies have been done, prohibited in Canada because kills salmon spawning. Fluoride should be personal choice in toothpaste or buy special water. Once added difficult and expensive to remove. I will not drink water with fluoride added, why should I pay to have it removed.

Fluoride might be good in the short term but we need to consider the natural environment and the reef. Why don't you use public education and supply fluoride to only those who need it. Please consider our natural environment and the future of the planet.

If it would really work no dentist would advertise it as it would get them out of business. In the end all it properly would do is kill more of our coastal coral reef

Environmental impacts on reef and waterways. Health impacts on humans. Limited benefit to adult teeth.

Other:

Better dental hygiene required – 18

Banned in other countries – 15

Do not want it – 15

No way to regulate dosage – 14

Not a council issue / responsibility – 13

Keep the water natural – 7

Not right approach – 2

Already in toothpaste – 1