

Hon Simeon Brown

Minister of Health
Minister for State Owned Enterprises
Minister for Auckland



04 MAR 2025

Andrew Moraes
Chief Executive
Rotorua Lakes Council

Cr Karen Barker
Chair
Infrastructure and Environment Committee

c/o kim.mcgrath@rotorualc.nz

Ref. SBC-77

Dear Andrew and Karen

Fluoridation of Rotorua Lakes Council water supplies

Thank you for your letter of 13 February 2025 concerning the Director-General of Health's direction to Rotorua Lakes District Council to fluoridate the Rotorua Central and Rotorua East water supplies.

You have requested to have the direction to fluoridate withdrawn until there has been a public enquiry into the safety and effectiveness of community water fluoridation. I also acknowledge your request for me to direct the Director-General of Health to pause any proposed legal action in relation to any non-compliance with the direction to fluoridate.

In December 2021 the Health Act 1956 was amended to give the Director-General of Health the power to direct local authorities to fluoridate drinking water supplies. Given this independent statutory power to direct local authorities to fluoridate sits with the Director-General of Health, the matters you raise in your letter are not matters for me to address. Any queries you have in relation to the direction to Rotorua Lakes Council to fluoridate should be directed to the Director-General of Health.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Brown'.

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Health