

Embargoed till
3pm, 8 July

Wellington Water will recommence fluoridation in September 2022

'I am assured that Wellington Water has firm plans in place to resume fluoridation safely and effectively' – Doug Martin



Actions already taken to implement the Fluoride Assurance Framework

'Taken together, the changes made under this new assurance framework should address the current gap in performance measurement and reporting that led to this "blind spot" in relation to fluoridation' – Doug Martin

Amended key strategic documents (through a due governance process) to include the requirement to fluoridate in addition to providing safe and healthy water – these include the Statement of Intent, Annual Report, and quarterly reporting to councils.

Engaged with Ministry of Health to ensure regulatory lessons captured.

Adopted Fluoridation Code of Practice

Classified fluoride plants as Very High Critical Assets

Created a fluoridation notification framework within Wellington Water to cover Governance and Political impact.

Fluoride website created for customers

Inquiry Recommendations – Actions and timings

'I recommend a small number of further actions to strengthen performance in relation to fluoridation' – Doug Martin

Recommendation	Action	Aug	Sep	Oct
1: Maintain a relentless focus on effective fluoridation in both the short and long term	<p>Updates will be provided to every Board and Committee meeting during stage 1 (restoring fluoride as quickly as possible) and into stage 2 (long-term solution to best meet the new MoH standards) of the fluoride project.</p> <p>Development of a long-term comprehensive stakeholder/public communication plan that will be presented to the Board at their August meeting (this plan will build on the communication plan and activities already in place).</p> <p>An assurance report provided by the Director Regulatory Service to the Board that the above plans and briefings are implemented and have maintained the focus on fluoridation in the short and long term.</p>	★		★
2: Make sure the Board has the right collective experience and knowledge to govern effectively.#	On appointment of new director, the Board will update the October 2021 Board assessment against the Board Skills Matrix.		★	
3: Provide greater clarity of roles, responsibilities, and processes for managing fluoridation issues within Wellington Water	<p>Continued implementation of the Fluoride Reporting and Assurance Framework.</p> <p>Promulgation of a formal policy for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> raising Items of significance to the Senior Leadership Team; bringing 3WDMC's attention to deviations from technical standards; and whistle Blowing. <p>Develop a directive that outlines the criteria and responsibilities for advising the Chief Executive of issues (this will also include other matters than just fluoride).</p> <p>Assurance from the General Manager Network Management Group through the Chief Executive that responsibilities, authorities and the interrelations of all personnel who manage fluoridation are documented and understood within Network Management Group and reflected in the performance management system.</p>			★ ★ ★
4: Improve the standard of asset management	<p>Refreshing Wellington Water's current asset management improvement program.</p> <p>Briefing the Board of the plan to improve asset management systems.</p>			★
5: Continue to strengthen the regulatory function	<p>Appointment of a permanent Compliance Manager.</p> <p>Reviewing the focus of the Risk and Assurance Team.</p> <p>Provide the Board an assessment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the status of operational assurance activities; and where resourcing could be best applied to give assurance to the Board, its shareholder councils, and the public. 	★ ★	★	