



caring about you & your environment

Report 01.525

18 July 2001

File: H/4/3/1

Report to Wellington Regional Council
From Stuart Macaskill, Chairman

Water Fluoridation Petition

1. Having:

- (a) heard the Submissions from the Petitioners, and
- (b) considered the Reports from Mr Kennedy and Mr Maguire,

I do not believe that the circumstances or number of petitioners warrant a Referendum. In my view, there would have to be a substantial increase in the number of people calling for such a Referendum before the action could be justified.

Further, it is my strong view that any such Referendum would need to be proceeded by a substantial impartial public information campaign and cost in the vicinity of \$250,000.

2. **It is therefore my Recommendation that Council:**

- (1) *Note the Council's policy is that if any change to the Fluoridation Policy or its implementation is to be considered by Council, the change would need to be at the initiative of, and as a result of, a formal proposal from any one or more of the bulk water supply customers.*
- (2) *Note that if any Referendum was to be held with the 13 October 2001 Local Body Elections, the Local Electoral Act 2001 requires Public Notice to be given by 25 July 2001.*
- (3) *Note that the number of petitioners seeking the Referendum is (although not directly applicable) well below the threshold generally accepted as being sufficient to justify a Referendum.*
- (4) **Decline** to hold the Referendum as sought by the petitioners.

STUART MACASKILL
Chairman