



5 September 2012

Standing Committee on Environment & Public Affairs  
GPO Box A11  
PERTH WA 6837

Dear Members

**Re: Petition No. 166 – Cessation of the Chlorination of the Busselton Water Supply**

I would like to make a submission in relation to the above Petition, as follows:

For over 100 years, Busselton has had access to one of the purest sources of water in our State, the Yarragadee Aquifer. In that time, despite the growth of the Busselton region and the extension of the water supply network, there has never been ***one single case*** of *Naegleria Fowleri* detected in the whole region. In fact, there has never been a single case of *Naegleria Fowleri* contracted through drinking water in all of Australia!

I firmly believe that Busselton Water has placed the people of Busselton at high risk of disease and infection by introducing chlorine to our water supply system. The existing state of the art UV disinfection system provided more than adequate safeguards against bacteria. This system caused no health problems or other ill-effects to members of the community, and had no impact on the taste or smell of our water.

By introducing chlorine to our water, Busselton Water has exposed us to many different health problems, including asthma, skin allergies and rashes, mouth ulcers, sore throats, headaches and potentially, a greater risk of cancer. In our household, which is close to a pumping station, our water is undrinkable. We have to buy all of our drinking and cooking water; even our dogs won't drink the tap water. As we are close to a pumping station, the effect on our water is unacceptably high; Busselton Water have basically told us to move if we don't like it.

My wife is a recent cancer sufferer, and we have done a lot of research into the effects of chlorination and the overwhelming consensus is that ***people who ingest chlorine, either through drinking or bathing, over an extended period of time are at much greater risk (up to 87%) of contracting cancer than those who don't.*** We have discussed this with her Oncologist, who tells us that she should not, under any circumstances, drink Busselton tap water.

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I myself suffer chronic lung disease and have found that my symptoms are greatly worsened since chlorine has been introduced. For example, the fumes which come off the water when I am showering are so great, I have to have the shower screen door and bathroom door open, and a fan running to dissipate the fumes, otherwise I will have an asthma attack. For the same reason, I can no longer enjoy a hot bath.

I cannot see the point in introducing chlorine to replace an already adequate UV disinfection system, knowing that the chlorine will have potential detrimental effects upon the community. I believe that Busselton Water has erred in relying too heavily on the basic, flawed research of one consultancy firm, i.e. Hunter Water. More research should have been done, using local water with its unique chemistry, and the decision should not have been taken without consultation with the local community.

Please carefully consider Petition 166; the 7000 odd signatures collected for the petition were collected in a matter of just a few weeks, which shows how strong the sentiment is about this issue.

Yours faithfully  
JOHN SAMPSON

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