



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!

Recognising that with a growing population, safeguards needed to be introduced to its pipeline system, Busselton Water, only a few years ago, introduced a state of the art UV disinfection system at huge cost to our community but which 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.

In introducing chlorine to our water supply system, Busselton Water has exposed our community to a wide range of health problems, and *for those of us who live in close proximity to the pumping stations, we are now unable to use tap water for drinking or cooking*. When I this queried with Busselton Water, they confirmed that those closest to the source will suffer the strongest effects; in other words, we are collateral damage.

As a recent cancer sufferer, I 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*. I have discussed this with my Oncologist, who tells me that I should not, under any circumstances, drink Busselton tap water.

I am on a disability pension, and am now forced to buy all of my water, which is a cost I can ill afford. Yet Busselton Water continues to charge me for providing water to my household; water which is unusable. When I told them I didn't want to pay for an unusable product, I was threatened with legal action.

PUBLIC

2.

I believe very firmly that Busselton Water has failed the community in relying too heavily on the flawed research of Hunter Water Australia; flawed in as much as their research fails to take into account the unique chemical composition of our water (i.e. high in calcium and lime) and the effect chlorine has upon it.

Please carefully consider Petition 166; this is a huge issue in our community; one that was based on poor research and that has the potential to cause severe long term damage to the health of our community.

Yours faithfully
CHERYL SAMPSON

PUBLIC