



PUBLIC

Minister for Water; Mental Health

Our Ref: 37-08949



Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Ellis

PETITION NO. 79 - PROPOSED CHLORINATION OF BUSSELTON'S WATER SUPPLY

Thank you for your letter dated 18 August 2010 regarding petition No. 79 that was referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs. My comment was sought on the petitioner's concern that "no community consultation has been undertaken on the proposed chlorination of Busselton's water supply".

Since Busselton Water made the decision to implement chlorination of its water supply in February 2010, it has communicated the decision through a range of material on its website, including:

- media releases
- factsheets
- Hunter Water Australia's report on "Disinfection Investigation Options Analysis".

Busselton Water also wrote to all its customers on 1 March and 27 April 2010 to explain the reasons behind changes to water supply disinfection. Further consultation with customers occurred through four community information forums that raised awareness and enabled public discussion on chlorination matters.

I am well aware of chlorination issues in the Busselton community and I have advised Busselton Water of its obligations to provide details on the proposed works prior to my final decision, in accordance with Sections 40-45 of the *Water Boards Act 1904*. Considering existing consultation and further need to engage the community on works plans, I am of the view that adequate opportunities for consultation will occur prior to any final works approval.

I understand that the Minister for Health will comment on other concerns raised in the petition.

Yours sincerely

**DR GRAHAM JACOBS MLA
MINISTER FOR WATER; MENTAL HEALTH**

10 SEP 2010