



Standing Committee Environment and Public Affairs -

Re: Petition No 166. Cessation of the Chlorination of Busselton's Water Supply

Dear Committee Members,

The following is my submission in support of Petition 166: The health risks of adding chlorine to our specific water supply.

In 104 years, there has never been a report of anyone made ill from drinking or showering in Busselton's unchlorinated water. In fact, over the years, consumers have repeatedly voiced their appreciation and satisfaction with this water.

No pathogens exist in Busselton's water.

The water is tested regularly. Should any pathogen be found it can be dealt with speedily using methods safer and less offensive than fulltime chlorination, e.g. by Portachlor units

Chlorine is a poison, a hazardous chemical. Although relatively small amounts are added as a disinfectant, its effects on human physiology are cumulative. Because of their smaller size, children are subjected to disproportionately higher doses of chlorine than adults, from chlorinated water.

Because Busselton's water is not contaminated, the chlorine ions are not being oxidized or used up, in the disinfection process. Thus the chemical remains strongly detectable and offensive to consumers. Chlorine degrades gradually as it moves through the network. To achieve a residual of .5mg/l, Busselton Water adds approximately 1mg/l at the processing plants. Residents living close to the plants thus receive an unacceptably higher dose of chlorine, and are more affected by the unpleasant taste and smell.

Water from different sources has different characteristics. Our water is not "just the same " as water in Perth, Geraldton or anywhere else in Western Australia. This may account for some of the adverse reactions to chlorine, being experienced in Busselton.

Chlorinated water destroys the protective acidophilus which nourishes and supports immunity strengthening organisms lining the colon. As 60% of human immunity is derived from this area, we .can be left with severely compromised immune systems, leading to increased susceptibility to diseases.

Showering in heated chlorinated water is more dangerous than drinking it, as through our lungs and skin we readily absorb more chlorine from one shower, than we would from drinking 8 glasses of water.

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*When chlorine mixes with water, hypochlorite is formed. This compound generates excess free radicals in our bodies. Moderate numbers of both free radicals and oxysterols are required by our bodies, but an excess of free radicals oxidizes and destroys unsaturated essential fatty acids, (EFA's,) which are the building blocks of human brains and central nervous systems. Excess free radicals hasten the ageing process and with oxysterols, damage arteries and contribute to the risk of developing cancer. The deposit of plaque in arteries is frequently found at autopsy and appears linked to the consumption of chlorine, with heavier doses of chlorine leading to increased plaque deposits. There is evidence that where milk was included in the diet the blockage in arteries was markedly increased. Communities which drank unchlorinated water did not show this damage. Similar damage has been found at autopsy in zoo animals which had consumed chlorinated water.

Chlorine in treated water can cause a range of allergic reactions, from skin irritation and rashes to intestinal problems, headaches and arthritis.

A byproduct of chlorinated water named MX has caused genetic mutations and initiated cancer in laboratory animals. Health authorities now consider MX to be highly dangerous.

*Dichloroacetic acid in chlorinated water alters cholesterol metabolism, changing HDL (good cholesterol) into LDL (bad cholesterol.), another risk for heart disease, and is linked to liver cancer in laboratory animals.

Chlorinated water kills fish, and even plants do not thrive as well on chlorinated water when compared to those absorbing unchlorinated water.

Chlorine is not a natural product, and although it is not seen as a direct cause of cancer, in combination with other substances, its effects are harmful, particularly to sensitive individuals. Many of Busselton's residents came here specifically to avoid chlorinated water.

We do not live in a third-world country where contaminated water is a life threatening reality, and chlorine is the cheap and easy solution. Busselton's water is already clean, and modern technology offers methods far superior to fulltime chlorination, to maintain it. Water authorities in many Western world countries are now abandoning chlorine in favour of these improved methods.

*Reference; Joseph G. Hattersley Journal of Orthomolecular Medicine Vol 13 2nd Qtr 2000 pgs 89-95



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