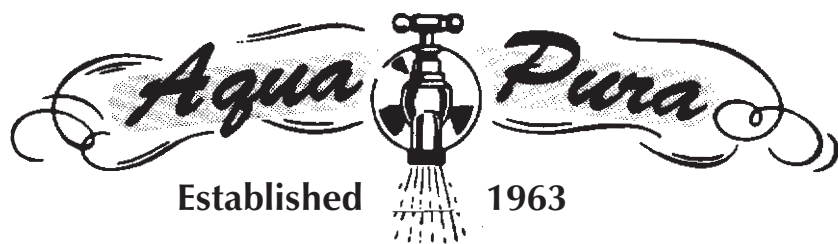


# THE AUSTRALIAN FLUORIDATION NEWS



**ARTIFICIAL FLUORIDATION  
IS WATER POLLUTION**

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## BRISBANE

# FLUORIDATION OVERDOSE SCARE

**Illness of residents consistent with fluoride poisoning symptoms; dogs sick; pet birds died**

On 14 May 2009, Queensland Premier Anne Bligh publicly reported that the water supply to residents of two suburbs in northern Brisbane had been overdosed with fluoride nearly two weeks previously, on 1 May 2009.

**She stated that 300,000 litres of water piped to 4,000 households had been affected, the water containing "30 times the standard dose".**

During the next 10 days, the Premier made two further press statements, each time amending earlier versions of events leading up to the overdose scare "as more facts became available".

Initial reports were that the overdose resulted from failure of the fluoride pump to be stopped when the North Pine water treatment plant, about 25 kilometres north of Brisbane, was shut down for three days for routine maintenance. The water treatment company had taken nearly two weeks to report the overdose, as a routine daily test on 29 April was not processed for nearly two weeks.

The disaster was a major news story in Brisbane and was also reported interstate, including on national ABC radio.

The event was particularly embarrassing for the Queensland Government, which had legislated fluoridation for Queensland in March 2008, funding the scheme to the tune of \$30 million. Addition of fluoride chemicals to Brisbane's water supply had commenced in early 2009.

## "NO CONCERN" OR ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Premier stated that the accident occurred between 9am and midday on Friday 1 May, with tests showing the water had between 30 and 31 milligrams per litre (mg/L), or 30 to 31 parts per million (ppm) of fluoride. The overdosed water was released from the North Pine Dam and "affected up to 4,000 homes in parts of the suburbs of Brendale and Warner in northern Brisbane".

*Ms Bligh said she was angry about the bungle and had ordered a full investigation, "While I am very concerned about this incident, it does not concern me in relation to the benefits of fluoride in our drinking system".*

Chief Health Officer Dr. Jeannette Young said the amount of fluoride that passed through the pipes over a three hour period was "of no health concern at all".

**So the Premier of Queensland and the Chief Medical Officer, are not concerned!** Yet a day later the Premier stated "We have been able to identify residents who have been

affected and they will be provided with a written document today". What was this meant to achieve!

Readers, what WOULD YOU call a politician who is prepared to compulsorily dose you and your fellow citizens with a toxic poison? When there is a fluoride overdose delivered to the population, there is "no health concern at all"!

**The deplorable outcome of this fiasco is that the population of Queensland now knows that both the Premier of the State and the Chief Health Officer take no responsibility for possible damage to their health resulting from a fluoride overdose.**

The first responsibility of a medical professional should be to ensure that a prescribed medication will do no harm. This responsibility takes on even greater significance when the dose of medication is not a finite amount, but controlled by the thirst of the recipient, as is the case with fluoridation. It is an even greater responsibility when there is no safety margin between an alleged "safe" dose and a dose known to cause harm, as with fluoridation.

Daily consumption of water dosed with fluoride at one part per million gives the supposedly 'safe dosage' of the fluoride ion. This has been shown to cause harm to a proportion of the population, revealed by visible dental fluorosis and other symptoms<sup>1</sup>. In other words, there is an overlap between an alleged safe dose and a dose known to cause harm.

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*There is an overlap between an allegedly safe dose and a dose known to cause harm.*

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After the Premier's initial announcement, she made a second announcement on 16 May, saying the overdosing had not occurred on 1 May but on 2 May; she also defended the time it had taken to report the blunder.

On 22 May, the *Courier Mail's* front page carried the headline:

## FLUORIDE TAP DANGER

**Premier forced to change story again on fouled water**

The article stated that:

*The fluoride fiasco has descended into farce, with the Premier admitting everything the public had been told about the recent overdose was wrong.*

An interim investigation has found the Premier gave the public the wrong date for the error, the incorrect areas affected and a vastly different fluoride level in the water.

This latest advice was that the error had occurred on 30 April between 8am and 9am, not between 9am and 12 noon on either 1 May or 2 May as previously advised. Responsibility for supply, treatment and reticulation of water supplies in Brisbane had been taken over from councils in 2008.

Reporter Craig Johnstone commented:

*The performance of those in charge of the region's water supply suggests that there is a lot more to be revealed about the whole process of shifting the ownership of southeast Queensland dams, pipes and treatment plants off one set of books and on to another.*

The headline of the *Courier Mail*, stated on **23/4 May**:

## **EVEN MORE BLUNDERS FOUL OUR WATER**

The *Courier Mail* editorial stated:

***Day after day this week we have seen stumbling responses to burst pipes and utter confusion over the Government's new policy of adding fluoride to our drinking water. At first we heard there was too much, and then there was too little, and then a complete revision of much of what we had been told earlier.***

The Premier ordered an investigation to be carried out by Mark Pascoe, chief executive of the Brisbane based International Water Centre, (IWC) his report being due on 26 June 2009.

### **INCORRECT FLUORIDE DOSE FOR THREE MONTHS - BURST WATER MAIN**

On 19/20 May, the *Courier Mail* reported that at Anstead in Brisbane's west, one of the two major water mains, which supply all of Brisbane's water, had burst on 19 May with 150 megalitres of water surging through properties.

**The *Courier Mail* reported that for the first three months of 2009, Seqwater had failed to put the regulated amount of fluoride into the water supply. Although the dose is meant to be within 0.1mg/L of the target concentration of 0.8mg/L, in the first three months of the year the dosage had been as low as 0.04mg/L.**

The dosage failure was revealed in a report for the first three months of 2009 by Seqwater, which was received by Queensland Health on 15 May. A Seqwater spokesman said the low levels were recorded when the treatment plant being tested was "offline". All of the six treatment plants adding fluoride to drinking water supplies had failed to put enough fluoride into the water.

**Failures were blamed on various commissioning problems and equipment faults.**

As the fluoride chemical added to water is acidic, it attacks steel and cast iron water mains, as well as household pipes and fittings, causing corrosion and accumulation of fluoride in the lining of pipelines and fittings. In fluoridated areas, analysis of the interior of corroded pipes for fluoride has shown up to several thousand parts per million fluoride<sup>2</sup>.

It can therefore take weeks or months for the standard dose to reach households at extremities of the reticulation system, because even if a standard dose is metered into the water at the treatment plant, some of the reactive fluoride leaches out of the water into pipelines before reaching households.

LinkWater took over responsibility for water mains from the Brisbane City Council from July 2008. However Brisbane City Council remains responsible for emergency repairs to the mains.

The state government, by diversifying control of water treatment and maintenance of pipelines to different bodies and mandating fluoridation, has imposed additional maintenance responsibilities and costs on Brisbane City Council and ratepayers to repair pipeline damage to LinkWater pipelines, when longterm pipeline damage caused by Seqwater's fluoride chemical treatment occurs.

Ironically, the Brisbane City Council had initiated a report, which could not recommend fluoridation!

### **REPORTS OF ILLNESS**

#### **● On 16/17 May, the *Courier Mail* reported residents complaining of illness:**

*Mother-of-two Caroline Rossiter from the suburb of Warner said her family, including her dog and cat, had been ill for two weeks. 'I have headaches, chest pain, shortness of breath, gastro,' she said. 'We still haven't been contacted about it'.*

Robert Gow, a Bunya resident near Warner, said 10 of his budgerigars had died and his cockatiel was sick. His daughter Renee lives at Warner and her budgerigar also died.

*All the birds basically got the runs with lots of watery discharge in the cage and they were dehydrated, Mr. Gow said.*

Sentiments expressed in letters to the editor on 18 May were summed up by the heading "**NO faith in our water supply**". One letter stated: *This accident with fluoridation demonstrates that this is all about choice and that the Government has it wrong.*

Another letter from R.F. Darling, Parrearra, said: *I object to (a previous correspondent's) view that a bit of fluoride never hurt anyone. The fluoride which has been added to toothpaste is sufficient to cause me a painful weeping rash, so I installed a reverse osmosis filter. A scheme is needed to assist those who cannot afford this.*

#### **● The ABC's report and interviews on 22 May included the following:**

**NICOLE BUTLER:** *When an overdose of fluoride was released into Brisbane's water supplies three weeks ago people became sick. Most had gastroenteritis but there were other conditions. Todd Crew believes the elevated fluoride levels affected his seven-year-old daughter's skin.*

**TODD CREW:** *Her skin started to blister and looked like a rash and then it proceeded to move to her back and her buttocks and then her shoulders and then her face and then her head.*

**NICOLE BUTLER:** *The Queensland Government didn't reveal the problem until stories of illness started to emerge two weeks after the overdose happened. A week later an interim report has found that when Premier Anna Bligh did come clean she gave the public the wrong information.*

**ANNA BLIGH:** *It's not unusual in investigations for the original understanding of any incident to sometimes be clarified or understood in a different way.*

**NICOLE BUTLER:** *Premier Bligh initially said the overdose happened on 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. The report said it took place on 30<sup>th</sup> April. The Government said the mistake at North Pine Water Treatment Plant affected the suburbs of Brendale and Warner. It actually caused problems at Joyner and at a YMCA camp site where over 200 children were staying.*

*And the Premier first said the water contained 31 milligrams of fluoride per litre. In fact it contained 19.6, still well above the maximum of 1.5.*

**ANNA BLIGH:** *The plant operators provided the information on the best understanding of the facts at the time...our independent expert has now thoroughly investigated it and*

he's able to establish beyond any doubt this time that there was a different explanation. ...There is no precedent that we can find anywhere else in the country...

**The Premier's statement is not correct. There are several examples of fluoride overdoses in Australia and numerous overseas cases. One example is in her own state, in the northern town of Dalby. The operator of the fluoridation plant, his wife and children had to be hospitalized after fluoride poisoning from an equipment malfunction. (See article on fluoride spills, this issue).**

**But residents in affected households are supposed to be happy, as they will receive a written apology from the Premier saying she is sorry!**

## REPORTS REVEAL NUMEROUS PROBLEMS

On 26 June 2009, the Queensland Government published the result of three investigations into the "North Pine Fluoride Incident".

- 1. "An Independent Investigation, led by Mark Pascoe** (Adjunct Professor and Chief Executive, International Water Centre), which included an investigation into the cause, recommendations on any remedial actions... and provision of independent advice to the Chief Executives of the *Department of the Environment and Resource Management and Queensland Health...*" (21 pages plus 6 pages of recommendations).
- 2. A regulator investigation by "the Office of the Water Supply Regulator**, to determine the sequence of events and identify potential legislative breaches by drinking water providers: Seqwater and LinkWater, under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008.*" (10 and 6 pages respectively).
- 3. A regulator investigation by "Queensland Health**, to determine the sequence of events and identify potential legislative breaches by Seqwater of the *Public Health Act 2005* and the *Water Fluoridation Act 2008.*" (8 pages).

## 1. INVESTIGATION BY MARK PASCOE

**"Report to Department of Environment and Resource Management"** by adjunct Professor Mark Pascoe, Chief Executive, International Water Centre, 25th June 2009

The cover page of the report lists as members: the University of Queensland, Griffith University, Monash University and the University of Western Australia.

Mark Pascoe reported that the North Pine water treatment plant, previously the responsibility of Brisbane City Council, was transferred to Seqwater in 2008:

*The fluoride dosing system was designed to introduce a solution of sodium fluorosilicate<sup>3</sup> into the treated water after all other chemical treatments of the water and as the final water leaves the plant. (Reference "3" added by editor)*

*The target level of fluoride is 0.8 milligrams per litre (mg/L) with a maximum level of 1.5 mg/L.*

*The sodium fluorosilicate is purchased as a dry powder and made into a high strength solution with water in batches at the treatment plant. The solution is then dosed into the treated water using an automated process based on the output of a magnetic flow meter and monitored online and manually, using an ion selective electrode.*

*On 11 May, analysis of the water sample collected from the delivery main on 29 April showed that the fluoride content was 31.2 mg/L (31.2 parts per million). The Treatment Plant was offline, but despite this, 12,000 litres of high strength fluoride solution had been dosed into the delivery main, contaminating about 400,000 litres of treated water.*

*It was initially assumed that this contaminated water was distributed to about 4,000 homes. However Seqwater advised that two backwashes of the treatment plant filters in fact drew the contaminated water back into the Treatment Plant service main. This potentially exposed site staff, four nearby houses and Camp Warrawee, a YMCA camp with 211 visitors, to the overdosed water.*

## Circumstances regarding the overdosing revealed:

- *Malfunction of a flow meter on the treated water main sent a signal to initiate fluoride dosing into the main.*
- *A flow switch, which was meant to prevent overdosing, had been disabled on 24 April, due to reported malfunction.*
- *The fluoride solution was therefore dosed into the main until the fluoride analyzer detected a high concentration – this occurred over 5 hours on 29 April. The fluoride dosing system then shut down automatically and initiated an alarm, but no action was taken to investigate the reason for the alarm. Spurious alarms had occurred some days before.*
- *An operator at North Pine Water Treatment Plant recorded consumption of 16.09kg of dry fluoride powder in the 24 hours up to the morning of 30 April during the time the plant was offline. It was not clear that this use of the chemical when the plant was offline was investigated.*
- *Water production of 50 Megalitres (50 million litres) was recorded during the time that the plant was not operation. Subsequent hydraulic modelling of flows in the pipework demonstrated that the concentration of fluoride delivered to customers would have been much less than the measured concentrations in the treated water delivery main.*

## Conclusions

### The incident occurred as a result of multiple failures:

- *Failure of the Linkwater Flowmeter on the treated water delivery main*
- *Failure of the flow switch device on the feed to the treated water pumps*
- *Inadequate response to a high fluoride alarm*
- *Inadequate communication among operations staff and between operations and maintenance staff*
- *Inadequate analysis of recorded information and the lack of a system view in that analysis*
- *Ambiguous understanding of the control philosophy for the fluoride system among operation staff.*

## Analytical Laboratory Services

*One limitation to the best understanding of the impact of the North Pine incident is that the water sample was analysed three times, each time with a different result obtained – 31.2 mg/L, 19.6 mg/L and 17 mg/L. All are significantly above the Queensland Health Regulatory maximum limit of 1.5mg/L.*

## Key Points on Fluoridation Accident Cases Identified

***A review of reported incidents involving fluoride was undertaken. Overall, 23 cases were identified, most of them in the United States of America. Only one case outside the US was identified in Hungary. (Emphasis added).***

*Human error was the most dominant factor leading to fluoride incidents. One case resulted in dismissal of a utility staff member. At many other plants where major health impact occurred staff retraining was undertaken. The other common causes of the disasters were malfunctioning of equipment or poor design of plants.*



Among the cases where responses were identified, the use of fluoride was generally not stopped indefinitely. Even in Alaska where the number of communities fluoridating their water fell from 130 to as low as 20 in the 1990s because of a major fluoride incident at Hooper Bay, it is reported that communities are reverting to the use of fluoride, with the number estimated to have risen to 35 in 2007.

## 2. REGULATORY INVESTIGATION BY THE OFFICE OF WATER SUPPLY REGULATOR – SEQWATER June 2009

The report backed up Mark Pascoe's findings and concluded that:

1. Seqwater breached the monitoring and reporting notice. That is, Seqwater did not provide the regulator written confirmation ... of the incident ... within the required 24 hour timeframe.
2. It is the regulator's view that Seqwater should have undertaken a more rigorous assessment of the situation to determine conclusively if the series of activities would have affected drinking water quality or its ability to treat or provide drinking water.

Given the potential public health risk that this incident could have posed, and the desire to mitigate any future incidents of this nature occurring, it is recommended that some formal action be taken. Prosecution action is not recommended at this stage. However a formal warning notice is appropriate given the multiple compliance issues that have occurred. If further breaches occur, serious consideration will be given to taking prosecution action.

**The report then recommended seventeen actions to be taken by Seqwater "to mitigate the future occurrence of such incidents, and reporting requirements of the regulator", prior to the sodium fluorosilicate dosing system recommencing on 30 September 2009.**

## 3. REGULATORY INVESTIGATION BY THE OFFICE OF WATER SUPPLY REGULATOR – LINKWATER June 2009

Similar to the investigation of Seqwater, the majority of the report confirms the report by Mark Pascoe.

One additional item included in the "Timeline of the incident", is a review by LinkWater of other samples taken downstream of the North Pine Water Treatment Plant:

**13 May 09, Time 16.06.** A sample taken 5 May 2009 from Aspley Reservoir indicated a fluoride concentration of 0.48 g/L.

Aspley Reservoir is about 17 kilometres downstream of the North Pine Treatment Plant, and the stated fluoride concentration of 0.48 g/L is 480 parts per million! Although it is almost certain that this is an error and the fluoride concentration was meant to be stated as 0.48 mg/L (0.48 parts per million), such an error does not inspire confidence in this report, or the Seqwater report, both being prepared by the Office of Water Supply regulator, Department of Environment and Resource Management, Queensland.

### Outcome of the review was that LinkWater:

1. Did not notify the regulator by telephone within the required three hour timeframe of the fluoride results on 12 May 2009 that indicated a fluoride concentration of 31.2 mg/L
2. Did not provide the regulator with written confirmation ... of the incident by fax or email within the required 24 hour timeframe.

Prosecution action is not recommended at this stage. A formal warning notice is not considered appropriate given the nature of LinkWater's actions.

### The report recommended that:

**"A warning letter be sent to LinkWater outlining the alleged offence, reminding LinkWater of its drinking water quality responsibilities, and the action plan of remedial actions it will be required to implement".**

Ten actions to be taken by LinkWater were then outlined.

## 4. REGULATORY INVESTIGATION BY QUEENSLAND HEALTH June 2009 Fluoride concentration

"Under the provisions of S6 of the Water Fluoridation Regulation a prescribed fluoride concentration of 0.8mg/L must be maintained in the water supply, with compliance being established if the fluoride concentration in the water supply, averaged over a quarter, is within 0.1mg/L of 0.8mg/L. The maximum standard set for fluoridated water under the Public Health Regulation is 1.5mg/L.

A water sample analysis result indicated a fluoride concentration of 31mg/L. The sample was taken by LinkWater on 29 April 2009 at a site approximately 150 metres from the fluoride injection point... Subsequent validation of the sample analysis found an error had occurred and the concentration was actually 17mg/L rather than the 31mg/L first reported. The sample was then sent to an external laboratory which returned a value of 19.6mg/L which was adopted as the most accurate sample analysis result.

The online fluoride analyser located at the treatment plant is only capable of measuring a maximum of 3mg/L and it has been demonstrated that the fluoride concentration exceeded this maximum level for over 27 hours during the incident."

### The supply of unsafe drinking water

**"There is no doubt that the fluoride concentration, demonstrated by the water sample analysis result, significantly exceeded the public health standard. It is difficult to determine whether this sample result represented the highest actual fluoride concentration as a result of this incident or whether the actual fluoride concentration may have been higher or lower for a period of time.** (Emphasis added).

There is little evidence to confirm that the water was supplied to the community and whether any water supplied was consumed by community members or used for other purposes. Consequently, it is difficult to confirm a level of public exposure, although it should be noted that investigations by Queensland Health did not identify evidence of community harm as a result of this incident.

The 'supply of unsafe water' offence within the Public Health Act implies a degree of negligence or wilful disregard which is reflected in the high level penalties and possible custodial sentencing. Interviews with plant operators did not demonstrate any deliberate negligence in their actions, but rather a lack of knowledge and expertise regarding the design and functioning of the fluoride dosing facility..."

### Conclusion

**"There is inadequate evidence to consider prosecution under the 'supply of unsafe water' offence. However, there are breaches of the requirement under the Water Fluoridation Act 2008 to comply with the provisions of the Water Fluoridation Regulation 2008 which support the issue of a remedial notice to Seqwater."** (Emphasis added).

NOTE: Italics in the above are extracts from the reports.

**In spite of the numerous problems with the fluoridation equipment and recording and reporting procedures identified in the above reports to the Queensland Government, no prosecution actions were recommended. In effect only “a slap on the wrist” for overdosing the public drinking water supply with the highly toxic chemical sodium fluorosilicate!**

## INDEPENDENCE QUESTIONED

*‘Independent’ investigator Mark Pascoe is also a director of the board of Water Secure, a Queensland government owned corporation, which owns the Recycled Water Plants, Pipelines and Desalination Plant. Mr Pascoe receives money from the Queensland government as a Water Secure director. Additionally, the Queensland Government financially supports the IWC (International Water Centre), of which Mr. Pascoe is C.E.O. We therefore believe that Mr Pascoe’s status as ‘independent’ is compromised.* Marilyn Haines - [www.qawf.org](http://www.qawf.org)

## UNCERTAINTIES REMAIN - INCONSISTENCY IN REPORTED PROBLEMS

According to the above reports, the only areas “potentially” receiving a fluoride overdose were site staff, the four nearby houses and the YMCA camp.

Ill residents and their animals, such as reported at Brendale, Warner and Bunya by *The Courier Mail* and *ABC radio*, were not identified anywhere in the reports as “potentially” exposed to high fluoride concentrations. These towns are 5 to 10 kilometres or so to the southwest of the fluoride dosing point where areas were identified as “potentially” receiving a fluoride overdose.

**This indicates either that the fluoride overdose extended to areas beyond those identified in the reports, OR residents, as well as their animals, who had adverse reactions to the sodium fluorosilicate chemical added to their water, were sensitive to this toxic chemical at or below the so called “safe” standard concentration of 0.8 ppm F. (There are numerous examples of sensitivity to fluoridated water at the so called “safe” concentration<sup>1</sup>). Alternatively, there is a possibility that some other factor caused illness with fluoride poisoning symptoms at the same time the fluoride overdosing occurred.**

Whether affected residents were allergic to fluoride in small concentrations or by higher concentrations of this toxic chemical, or for some other reason, they were still ill.

Disturbingly, there is no reference anywhere in the reports to any investigation of the illnesses reported in the daily media at the time of the fluoride overdosing. Welfare of the citizens is apparently irrelevant! Also the apparent thousandfold error referred to in *Linkwater Report* and no recommendation for the online fluoride analyser at the treatment plant to record high fluoride levels!

## FLUORIDATION ACT PREVENTS FLUORIDE DAMAGE CLAIMS

To prevent the public suing for fluoride damage, Section 94 of Queensland’s Water Fluoridation Act states:

***“A person does not have any civil right or remedy against a public potable water supplier in relation to the fluoridation of a public potable water supply under the Act.”***

So organizations treating and supplying drinking water to residents can be as slap happy as they like in dosing people with fluoride, whether or not the dosage supplied complies with the Fluoridation Act or massively overdoses the population, knowing that they cannot be sued by any resident, or even

the total population of any city or town in Queensland, should either acute or chronic fluoride poisoning results from mandatory fluoridation.

Although the State Government can prosecute a water supply company for failing to comply with safety standards, this is of no comfort to residents who may be adversely affected by consumption of toxic sodium fluorosilicate added to the water supply by direction of their state government.

This Brisbane poisoning is the latest example from Australia and overseas where excessive fluoride has been piped into homes, or escaped from fluoride dosing plants (See *article on fluoride spills, this issue*). Fluoridation is not a health scheme, but a political matter. It is an abrogation of the responsibility of any government and its advisers to look after the health of the population it was elected to serve.

After 50 years of mass experimenting on millions of people, dangerous fluoride spills are still occurring. This in another of the many reasons that fluoridation should be stopped.

**Fluoridation imposes the will of a government on a population to deny the basic human right of all adults and their children to choose what they eat or drink.**

## Fluoridation chemicals are compounds of the highly reactive element fluorine. Dr. Moolenburgh has illustrated their danger:

After listening to speakers at an International Society for Fluoride Research Congress, Dr. Moolenburgh reported: *All of them spoke of the dangers of this one strange element fluorine. The more I listened to them, the more amazed I became about the mass of evidence against this element.*

***It was if I saw a sort of black side of Creation. In our foods occur those essential elements which build us up and keep us alive, like oxygen, hydrogen, calcium, potassium and many more. Fluorine looked like the black sheep of this family. Far from being an essential element, it looked like an element which had been included in Creation to restrict the abundance of life, to shorten the span of life. It was an element of death, not of life.***<sup>4</sup>

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*“Fluorine...an element of death,  
not of life.”* Hans Moolenburgh

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***Do not let us forget that, in our times, belief in the healing power of God has given place to belief in the White Coat; medical magic sells easily. The dentists have offered the population the typical solution of our century: the magic pill with which to escape the effects of our wrong way of life. Just a little bit of fluoride and you can eat what you like and still keep the dentist’s drill at bay!***<sup>5</sup>

## References

Details of Brisbane’s Water Supply Fluoride Overdose were published extensively in the daily press, radio, some television stations, the Internet, Queensland Government press releases and reports by the Queensland Government, June 2009, with particular reference to the following sources:

- \* *Courier Mail*, Queensland, 15,16/17, 21, 22, 23/24, 27 May 2009; [couriermail.com.au/blogs](http://couriermail.com.au/blogs), 2009
- \* *The Australian*, 15 May 2009
- \* ABC Online, <http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2008/s2578355.htm>; *The World Today*, reporter Nicole Butler, 22 May; “Mixed messages after fluoride overdose leaves residents sick”.
- 1. Waldbott, George L: *Fluoridation The Great Dilemma*: Coronado Press Inc., Lawrence, Kansas, USA, 1978, ISBN 0-87291-097-0
- 2. Edwards, W.E., Corrosion consultant, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA: *Fluoride Causes Corrosion*; Dr. Edwards, Prof. Eng., reported up to 22,000 ppm F in the sludge and residue of water main breaks in San Francisco, USA. *The Australian Fluoridation News*, Vol. 4, No. 10, March 1967.
- 3. *The Australian Fluoridation News*, Vol 36, No 5, Sept-Oct 2000; [www.fluoridationnews.com](http://www.fluoridationnews.com)
- 4. Moolenburgh, Hans; *Fluoride: The Freedom Fight*; pp. 101: Mainstream Publishing Company, (Edinburgh) Ltd., 1987, ISBN 1 85158 040 9.
- 5. *Ibid.* p. 201.



# TERMINAL DAMAGE TO GREAT BARRIER REEF

**The Queensland Government to cut pesticide runoff, but will add hundreds of tonnes of toxic sodium silicofluoride to water runoff by fluoridating water supplies.**

A five-year study by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority released the first of five **Reef Outlook Reports** on 2 September 2009.

*The report, according to the WWF, states that levels of calcification have collapsed dramatically due to the ocean around the reef becoming warmer and more acidic, largely attributed to climate change. One-third of the reef was exposed to agricultural run-off, which damages marine life and coral.*

*The Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett and Queensland Premier Anna Bligh jointly announced a binding target to cut pesticide and other agricultural run-off by 50%. The Federal Government has devoted \$325 million to improve the health of the reef. (The Sydney Morning Herald, 3 September 2009).*

Less than 0.25% of fluoride chemicals added to water supplies are consumed by the target population, to allegedly reduce tooth decay. As a cumulative poison, about half of this

is retained in the body, the rest being excreted, primarily via the kidneys.

Overall, about 99.9% of the sodium silicofluoride chemical used for fluoridation pollutes the environment, some of this, such as from sewerage outfall and runoff from garden watering, reaching the ocean.

**Sodium silicofluoride is very poisonous and very acidic, so fluoridation of water supplies along the thousands of kilometres of coastline opposite the Barrier Reef will inevitably add to ocean acidity and further reef damage.**

The government announcements to reduce pesticide and agricultural runoff, but at the same time add hundreds of tonnes of one of the most toxic and acidic pollutants to water supplies, fly in the face of logic and common sense.

It may be commendable to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to help preserve the Great Barrier Reef, one of the natural wonders of the world. But spending \$30 million to pollute water supplies, some of which outfall to the reef, let alone requiring Queenslanders to consume a cumulative poison by fluoridating the water supplies with a toxic chemical is not.

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## OPPOSITION TO FLUORIDATION BY VOTERS, MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS IGNORED BY QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

*In spite of clear evidence from 1997 to 2005 of opposition to compulsory fluoridation by voters, a Task Force investigation and Parliament, in 2008 the Queensland Government mandated fluoridation.*

### ● 65% Vote Against Fluoridation at "Referendum for Fluoridation"

At the election for Brisbane Lord Mayor and Councillors on 15 March 1997, Councillor Mills stood for the position of Lord Mayor as a profluoridation candidate, stating, "March 15 would be a referendum for fluoridation."<sup>1</sup> The Australian Medical Association (A.M.A.), the A.D.A., and the Liberal Party supported Councillor Mills.

Long articles in local papers supported fluoridation but the same opportunity was not available to those opposing fluoridation. One journalist published a rare article stating, "health practitioners have not been given a fair go", in the public debate and had been forced to take out a \$10,000 advertisement to put forward their point of view. A collection of doctors representing 3000 health professionals printed their own advertisement, questioning the safety of fluoridation, in the *Courier Mail*.

The President of the A.M.A., Dr. Eileen Burkett, is reported as stating: "Her organization, the A.M.A. believes fluoridation to be safe and an effective measure in preventing tooth decay." The Brisbane voters did not accept the A.M.A. beliefs and fluoridation propaganda, noting it was minus scientific proof to uphold such "beliefs". The public choice was a simple one – the people wanted TRUTH, plain simple honesty, democracy and the will of the people.

**The A.M.A. and sections of the media were made to look ridiculous fluoridation gladiators when their election count reported 65 percent against their fluoride hero standing for Lord Mayor of Brisbane.<sup>2</sup>**

### ● Task Force "Clearly Against Fluoridation"

The Council of Brisbane appointed a Task Force in 1996

*The Australian Fluoridation News - July-September, 2009 - 6*

to investigate fluoridation claims and recommend whether or not to fluoridate Brisbane's Water Supply. The Task Force of 17 members was heavily loaded with pro-fluoridationists; A.D.A., A.M.A., Health Departments, University Medical School and City Council representatives. The balance was about 14 to 3 in favour of fluoridation at the beginning of their Research.

The Lord Mayor of Brisbane reported the Task Force Conclusions (November 1997):

*Extensive public consultation was undertaken to ensure that the general public's views on fluoridation were taken into account.*

*Throughout this six month process the representatives of the community listened to the experts argue the case.*

***These community representatives came down clearly against the fluoridation of Brisbane water at this time.*** (signed Jim Soorley, Lord Mayor).

The Task force Report (180 Pages) stated:

***The evidence relating to what constitutes a safe or a toxic dose of fluoride was uncertain and confusing. A majority of Task force members were concerned that the margin of safety between a safe and a toxic dose may not be sufficiently wide.*** (p. 89)

Research evidence showed the complexities of separately identifying the benefits of fluoridation alone, as illustrated by the then recent comparison study of the children in Brisbane and Townsville (University of Adelaide).

*Dental decay rates (DMFT for 12 year olds) amongst children in Queensland (1.37 in 1995) appear to be similar to the Australian average (1.01 in 1995) as illustrated in the tables below.* (p. 88)

The Freedom From Fluoridation Federation of Australia made a number of submissions. One of the papers demonstrated the unscientific and erroneous statistical presentation from Adelaide University Dental School, comparing unfluoridated Brisbane children's teeth with those of fluoridated Townsville.

These two cities are not comparable even in population numbers, an essential requirement for any valid study, Brisbane 1,000,000, Townsville 90,000.

The dental submission concluded by showing that the real difference (using their data) between the 12 year olds was only 0.25 of a tooth (1/4). **Fortunately the Task Force understood.**<sup>3</sup>

### ● Queensland Government - 71 to 6 Vote against Mandatory Fluoridation.

On 20 April 2005, the Queensland State Government debated a Private Member's Bill, presented by a Surfers Paradise dentist member.

The dentist's Bill was for a Mandatory Act for compulsory

fluoridation throughout Queensland.

The debate on this serious matter was far from the necessary scientific standard that one should expect.

The result of the Parliamentary debate on 20 April 2005 was 71 against, 6 for.

The parliament concluded that fluoridation in Queensland would be by the decision of local councils but only after consultation with their particular community.<sup>4</sup>

### References

1. Brisbane Courier Mail, 2 March 1997.
2. The Australian Fluoridation News, Vol. 33 No. 3, May-June 1997; Vol. 33, No. 4, July-August 1997; also relevant, Vol. 33, No. 6, Nov-Dec. 1997.
3. Ibid, Vol. 37, No.3, May-June 2001; also relevant, ibid, Vol. 34, No.6, Nov-Dec 1998.
4. Ibid, Vol. 41, No. 3, May-June 2005.

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## FLUORIDE SPILLS, ILLNESS, CORROSION AND DEATH

### Some of the problems with fluoridation of public drinking water supplies in Australia

**Illness and cover-up by water supply authorities are the recurring theme in numerous examples of fluoride spills, some of which are recorded below.**

*Many of the symptoms suffered by affected members of the population from fluoride overdoses in their public drinking water supply are identical or very similar. The symptoms are consistent with the thoroughly documented classic symptoms recorded over the last 70 years in the medical literature of illness from fluorides, such as abdominal pains, vomiting, diarrhea, headache and skin rashes.* (Waldbott, George L: *Fluoridation The Great Dilemma*: Coronado Press Inc., Lawrence, Kansas, USA, 1978, ISBN 0-87291-097-0).

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*"Fluoride is a general protoplasmic poison...and death has occurred within a few minutes after ingestion".* (Jay M. Arena, M.D., *Poisoning: Toxicology, Symptoms, Treatment*, 3rd. ed., 1973, p. 122).

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**The report of the Queensland fluoride spill by Mark Pascoe, Chief Executive of IWC, identified 23 Fluoridation Accident Cases, all in the USA excepting for one in Hungary. A very major incident in Dalby, Queensland, was not reported! Neither were recorded fluoride spills in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania!**

With four universities members of IWC, (see *Brisbane's Fluoridation Overdose Scare* article) including interstate universities, it is disturbing to know that these fluoride spills were either largely not recorded in government or council records, or those major university resources were not utilized to reference these fluoride accidents. They are reported herewith.

### 1. Council Employee and his Family Almost Killed after Massive Fluoride Overdose - Dalby, Queensland, Australia, October 1976

The Council employee, Victor Collins, his wife Iris, their two children Victor and Darryl, were all admitted to Dalby Hospital with what was later diagnosed as fluoride poisoning.

Former Alderman L.T. Sturgess alleged that the town Health Committee withheld details from the public. No record of fluoride poisoning could be located in Council's business papers, although Council records showed radical variations in the quantity of sodium fluoride added to the water supply, as well as major variations in the average monthly fluoride concentration in the water.

In September 1976, 452 pounds of sodium fluoride were used, in October only 294 pounds, with nil used in November

and December. Yet the average fluoride concentration was 0.90 ppm in September, but 0.98 ppm in October when much less sodium fluoride was used. In Nov. and Dec., when no fluoride was used, the average fluoride concentration was 0.13 and 0.18 ppm respectively.

**Very high concentrations of fluoride were recorded in the urine of all family members, (5 to 11 ppm), with an extraordinarily high concentration of 18 ppm fluoride recorded in Victor's urine.**

A sample of water collected on 14 October 1976 from the Supervisor's Residence was an extreme 560 ppm. (Report No. E106/E132, to the Director-General of Health, Department of Health, Brisbane, Queensland, from the Government Chemical Laboratory, Brisbane, 22 October 1976, signed by D. Mathers, Laboratory Director for the State of Queensland, analysis of 27 samples collected between 4 and 20 Oct. 1976; (*The Brisbane Sunday Sun*, 30 Jan. 1977; *Dalby Herald*, 28 Feb. 1977; AFN, Vol. 14, No. 2, April 1977; Vol. 26, No. 1, Jan/Feb 1990; Vol. 27, No. 2 March/April 1991; Vol. 27, No 5, Sept/Oct 1991; Vol. 43, No 3, May/June 2007)).

### 2. A Tonne of Fluoride Spilt into Cardinia Creek - Upper Beaconsfield, Victoria, June 2006.

A corroded pipe in the water treatment plant at the Cardinia Reservoir in Upper Beaconsfield was believed to be the cause of the leak.

The Environment Protection Authority investigated the spill, discovered by reservoir operations staff on 15 June 2006. EPA and Melbourne Water officials were monitoring the creek but admitted, "It could be some time before the impact on the fragile waterway ecosystem was fully assessed". The creek is home to a rejuvenated population of platypus.

Melbourne Water operations manager Kevin Hellier said investigations had found that fluoride had seeped from a leaking pipe joint which led into the drainage system and into Cardinia Creek. It was believed that the fluoride had leaked into the creek over a three week period.

**Authorities warned people not to use the water from the creek for stock, crop irrigation or domestic purposes.**

EPA officials said if anyone had taken water to drink from Cardinia Creek they should refill their tanks with fresh water from a drinking water supplier. (*Pakenham Gazette Star*, Victoria, 21 June 2006).

### 3. Leakage from Fluoridation Plant; Pedigree Cattle and Sheep Died, Stillborn and Deformed Cows, Destruction of Pastures; Australia's Fluoridated "Death Valley", - Cygnet, near Hobart, Tasmania, 1977 to 1989

After a 13 year battle with authorities to stop fluoride leakage from the fluoridation plant at the edge of their property, which



was killing their cattle and sheep and destroyed their pasture, John and Sylvia Braim finally achieved justice in December 1989.

The Supreme Court of Tasmania ordered:

- **“that there be a permanent injunction restraining the Defendant (Rivers & Water Supply Commission) from using the fluoridation building ...in the Municipality of Port Cygnet from fluoride storage or fluoridation purposes and from permitting ‘fluoride’ within the meaning of the Fluoridation Act 1968 to escape therefrom onto the land of the plaintiffs (John and Sylvia Braim)...”**
- **“that judgment be entered for the Plaintiffs against the Defendant for \$65,000 together with an order that the Plaintiffs’ costs of and incidental of the action be taxed and paid by the Defendant.” (Costs granted were over \$50,000).**

The years of investigation and court battles by the Braim’s commenced when they had their last two poisoned sheep checked by the Kingston Veterinary Hospital.

The results were startling! The dead ewes’ rumens (stomach) contained 1900 parts per million (ppm) fluoride. Government Analyst - Laboratory No. 886294.

Further analysis of soil from the excavated drain from the Fluoridation Plant gave the result of Soil Slurry (mud) 6060 ppm F; 21,650 ppm F (dried weight).

Analysis from the rumen contents of another sheep was 2000 ppm F; from another, 1,900 ppm F.

Analysis of water and soil up to 16 feet from the fluoridation plant were up to 1280 and 3160 ppm F respectively.

Analysis of natural water from a spring near the fluoridation plant by the Department of Health on 26 October 1987 showed “less than 0.1 ppm F”; a water sample close to the fluoridation plant on the same date gave 128 ppm F – Department of Health Laboratory Report No. 876034/36.

But for the persistence by John and Sylvia Braim against the might of the government departments concerned, extensive analysis of numerous samples, the parallel experience of similar documented cases from overseas and the assistance of Professor Lennart Krook, an expert in this field, the authorities which tried to dismiss the case would not have been brought to justice and the Braim’s would not have received compensation.

Walking from the Supreme Court of Hobart after their victory over the government, 4 Dec. 1989, John Braim’s said “All I had left between me and starvation was \$100, we were on the verge of bankruptcy”. (Supreme Court of Tasmania, Hobart Registry, No. 1604 of 1987; *The Tasmanian Mercury* 25 May 1988; *The Australian Fluoridation News*, Vol.26, No.2, March-April 1990: Australia’s Fluoridated “Death Valley”). Complete 5 page report on website or send large self-addressed envelope to GPO Box 935, Melb 3001. (Non-members to also include cheque or stamps to value of \$3.30).

#### **4. High Fluoride Levels in Water, Yass – N.S.W., Australia, 1967**

**“The water was fluoridated in 1956 – a year before the enabling Act in New South Wales was passed. The action of the council there was definitely illegal, and only history will show what damage has been done to the bodies of people in that town.**

World research has been carried out on the proposition that the strength (of fluoride in the water) is 1 part in 1,000,000. A well known and leading biochemist, Mr W. H. Black, found that water taken from three different points in the town of Yass disclosed parts per million of fluoride of 0.95, 1.80 and 4.75: the latter two readings indicating poisonous amounts.

The medical therapeutic text book published by Messrs

Goodman and Gillman states that even in the minimum strength – that is where 1 part per million is used – 10 percent of people will suffer; when the proportion is raised to 1.7 parts per million, 40 per cent of people will suffer; where the proportion is raised to 2.5 parts per million, 80 percent of people will suffer; and when the proportion is raised to 4.5 parts per million, 100 per cent of people will suffer.

**This means that in Yass every single person – man, woman, or child – will suffer injury if they have consumed water from the last tap mentioned. Of every 10 people who drank water from the tap disclosing 1.80 parts per million, four will suffer injury after possibly five years, ten years, or in young children perhaps forty years. Fluorides are slow, insidious, accumulative poisons, building up and storing up in bones and human organs – heart, liver and kidneys.**

Although Yass has been held up as an example of the value of fluoridation, no worthwhile statistics are available. It is a joke. An official survey, conducted in 1962, disclosed that of 706 children examined only 316, less than half, had drunk fluoridated water exclusively. No comparable statistics were produced, and it could well be that the children of Yass between the ages of 5 and 12 years, have a greater proportion of decayed teeth than their counterparts of ten years ago, when fluoridation was introduced illegally in their town.” (New South Wales Parliamentary Debates, Forty First Parliament – Third Session, Legislative Council, 16 March 1967: The Hon. C. J. Cahill (a pharmacist), p. 4344-4368; extracts from speech calling on the House to disallow the Notification approving the addition of fluorine to public water supplies under the control of the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board [Sydney and suburbs]. The motion to stop fluoridation was unsuccessful.

#### **5. Sheep Died of Fluoride Poisoning - Tamworth, N.S.W., 1968**

Forty prime wethers grazing in a flock of some four hundred on a property adjacent to the Tamworth City Council Fluoridation works died suddenly and mysteriously.

A Tamworth City Councillor said the sheep belonged to a farmer Mr. C. J. Lye. The mishap was caused by the breaking of a carton of fluoride being spilt on the ground.

The owner, suspecting some form of poisoning, immediately notified the Pastures Protection board and Tamworth City Council and collected samples of soil from the area, which he sent to a Sydney analyst for a report. The report showed a high percentage of fluoride in the sample.

After six months, and receiving little or no satisfaction from either the Council or the Pastures Protection Board, the owner, on legal advice, engaged a Tamworth veterinary surgeon to collect and send to Sydney some samples from stomach contents of the carcasses. On receipt of the report, the veterinary surgeon issued a report to the effect that the sheep died from fluoride poisoning. The council finally compensated Mr. Lye for his loss. (Reported in *The Australian Fluoridation News* - Aqua Pura, Vol. 6. No. 6, November 1968 – details revealed by pharmacist The Hon. C. J. Cahill, in the NSW Legislative Council Parliamentary Debates, Forty Second Parliament, on 27 Nov. 1968.)

**Details of many other fluoride spills, illness, corrosion of pipelines due to fluoridation and deaths, will be published in future issues of *The Australian Fluoridation News* as space permits – editor.**

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