

28 August 2026

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Local Government Official Information Request – SR.114285 – Fluoridation Information

I refer to your official information request received by the Western Bay of Plenty District Council (Council) on 17 August 2026 where you have requested information pertaining to fluoridation of water within the Western Bay of Plenty district.

The answers to your questions are set out below:

1. What parts of the region under the council's jurisdiction are fluoridated?
Western Water Supply Zone: Supplies Waihi Beach, Island View, Bowentown, Athenree, Katikati, and nearby rural areas.
2. What fluoride chemicals are used to fluoridate the water supply?
Hydrofluoridesilicic Acid – HFA22-B.
3. What company does the council source the fluoridation chemicals from?
IXOM New Zealand.
4. What level is water fluoridated at?
Between 0.7parts per million to 0.8 parts per million.
5. How frequently is the level of fluoride in the water tested?
Water quality is continuously monitored throughout the treatment process to ensure compliance with drinking water standards and to optimise treatment performance.

Key parameters, such as fluoride concentration, is measured using online monitoring equipment that provides real-time data. This ensures water quality remains within target limits.

In addition to continuous online monitoring, water samples are routinely collected for independent laboratory analysis. Samples from the reticulation network are

collected weekly, while samples from the water treatment plant are collected fortnightly.

These samples are analysed by the Tauranga City Council Laboratory, which is IANZ accredited, providing independent verification of water quality and ensuring compliance with New Zealand drinking water standards.

6. Who performs the testing?
As mentioned above all water samples are analysed by Tauranga City Council laboratory who are IANZ accredited laboratory.

7. Where is the wastewater discharged?
There is no wastewater discharged from the treatment process.

The treatment plant operates without generating a wastewater stream that requires disposal. Treated Water used for online monitoring is minimal and does not constitute a wastewater discharge.

8. How much per annum is spent on fluoridation chemicals?
Annual hydrofluorosilicic acid (HFA) chemical cost: \$15,526.33 across two water treatment plants.

9. How much per annum is spent on implementing water fluoridation?
Over the past 12 months, \$10,500 has been spent on servicing and maintenance of the HFA dosing systems across the two treatment plants. This figure excludes the cost of fluoridation chemicals.

10. How much per annum is spent on testing the levels of water fluoridation?
Per annum cost:
245 samples @ \$20 = \$4,900

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at freephone 0800 802 602 or at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Ngā mihi



Brad Singh
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