

Colleen Jones

Public Engagement Meeting 3 June 2026

Annual Budget 2024/2025

Annual Budget 2026/2027

First I refer to the 2024/2025 Annual Budget. On 25 July 2024 Neil Holdom replied in an email to me that a budget is available to investigate and establish non-fluoride water source for the public. After just one test, in the vicinity of the NP Racecourse which did not test to be viable, this community option of water supply was dropped seeing the budgeted money being spent elsewhere.

My understanding resulting from an OIA, that at the request of council elected members, the sum of \$355.671 was added to this budget to carry out investigation and include rough initial costs to build the necessary pipework for water treatment and collection. The total cost spent was \$303.00 (excl GST) on analysis of water at this site. The remaining in full of \$355,368 was then spent on completely unrelated activities to what was in the LTP being a sludge cone system and fish screens.

Spending this Annual Plan money differently was a joint decision made by NPDC project governance and management.

Whom made the decision not to proceed with the investigation/supply of a non-fluoride water source as per the 2024/2025 Annual Budget ?

Under whose instruction did project governance and management re-allocate the funds which were put aside for non-fluoride drinking water?

*This addition to government legislation was applied in the NPDC 2024 LTP -*

Updated legislation to the Health Amendment Act 2021 has inserted - A direction to add fluoride to drinking water may allow the local authority to supply, at 1 or more specified sites, water to which fluoride has not been added.

By what reasoning does NPDC disregard what is in the 2024 LTP for non-fluoride drinking water supply?

My reasonable request is that an appropriate budget is reinstated into the upcoming 2026/2027 Annual Plan budget to continue the investigation and build at least one tap supplying non-fluoride water in a central location. A series of taps within the district would be good.

Referring to simple designs that other councils have established, the cost to NPDC is likely to be a lot less than the \$355,000 originally budgeted.

Brief points -

- Government legislation allows for councils to supply drinking water to which fluoride has not been added
- Set up of a Tap will be at minimal cost
- Non-fluoridated water will be welcomed by members of the community
- Councillors to re-evaluate the decision which was to spend the previously allocated money on something different and to re-instate a budget to the supply of a community non-fluoride drinking water source.

I am trusting the integrity of each one of you to be committed to doing the right thing for the right reason, being elected members maintaining a clear separation between your personal view and your duty as an elected member of council.

Thankyou,

Colleen Jones

Neil Holdom - July 2024

colleen.jones@xtra.co.nz Public non-fluoride system.

**From:** Neil Holdom <Neil.Holdom@npdc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 July 2024 5:04 PM  
**To:** colleen.jones@xtra.co.nz  
**Subject:** Re: concerning issue

Hello Colleen,

Right now we have a budget only with a decision from council indicating we wish the supply to be available to the public.

In principle we are wanting to establish a series of taps in a public place where people will be able to fill containers, bottles etc.

Our team now have to assess options.

I have a sample of the racecourse bore water which is pretty gross and has high sulphur content so fair to say that option is out.

Our team have indicated an option worth considering is a rainwater supply from the stadium or sports hub or both - then a micro treatment plant to ensure it is safe for human consumption - we will aim to assess sizing etc and viability of the options this financial year.

N.

Neil Holdom  
New Plymouth District Mayor  
M: 027 284 5875

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**From:** colleen.jones@xtra.co.nz <colleen.jones@xtra.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 25, 2024 12:55:36 PM  
**To:** Neil Holdom <Neil.Holdom@npdc.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Gareth Green <gareth.green@npdc.govt.nz>; David Bublitz <David.Bublitz@npdc.govt.nz>; Sam Bennett <Sam.Bennett@npdc.govt.nz>; Max Brough <Max.Brough@npdc.govt.nz>; Amanda ClintonGohdes <Amanda.ClintonGohdes@npdc.govt.nz>; Harry Duynhoven <Harry.Duynhoven@npdc.govt.nz>; Dinnie Moeahu <Dinnie.Moeahu@npdc.govt.nz>; Gordon Brown <gordon.brown@npdc.govt.nz>; Anneka Carlson Matthews <annekacarlson.matthews@npdc.govt.nz>; Murray Chong <murray.chong@npdc.govt.nz>; Bali Haque <Bali.Haque@npdc.govt.nz>; Bryan Vickery <Bryan.Vickery@npdc.govt.nz>; Te Waka McLeod <TeWaka.McLeod@npdc.govt.nz>; Tony Bedford <Tony.Bedford@npdc.govt.nz>; Marie Pearce <marie.pearce@npdc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: concerning issue

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Hello Neil

Sam had noted this potential water supply would be available in the likely event of a Civil Defence Emergency, as a result it would be available for freedom of access.

**From:** New Plymouth Ratepayers Alliance <ratepayersnp@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 March 2026 7:37 pm  
**To:** Colleen Jones  
**Subject:** Fwd: CSM26/505819 Response to your Official Information Request regarding details of budget allocated to non fluoride water supply

Hi Colleen this is the Fluoride OIA copy

Kind regards  
Sheridan

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** LGOIMA Team <notifications@flowingly.net>  
**Date:** Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 2:56 PM  
**Subject:** CSM26/505819 Response to your Official Information Request regarding details of budget allocated to non fluoride water supply  
**To:** <ratepayersnp@gmail.com>

Kia ora Sheridan

Thank you for your LGOIMA request received 20/02/2026 regarding details of budget allocated to non fluoride water supply.

New Plymouth District Council has considered your request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and our response is as follows:

*Could you please confirm how much budget was allocated for a non fluoride water supply in the relevant LTR Budget for a non-fluoridated water supply was not included in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan. At the request of Council Elected Members, \$355,671 was added to the 2024/2025 annual budget to investigate using the Racecourse water bore as a potential non-fluoridated water option for the community. The amount of budget was determined based on rough initial costs to build a pipe network to an accessible point for water treatment and collection near the Racecourse.*

*How much of the LTP budget was spent on testing the water supply at the Race Course? How much was left in the budget after the Race Course test ? The cost of analysis was \$303 (GST excl.) Hours worked by staff were not captured or charged to the project.*



Water from the bore at the racecourse was found to be non-potable rendering this water source unusable for public consumption.

*We would like to know who authorised for this budget to be spent differently It was decided jointly by project governance and management.*

*what was the budget for fluoridated water spent on instead ?*

- \$150,000 was utilised to replace a sludge cone trigger system at the New Plymouth Water Treatment Plant.
- The remainder was allocated to the replacement of fish screens at Lake Mangamahoe.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at the [ombudsman website](#) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

LGOIMA Team

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<http://www.flowingly.co>

**New Part 5A inserted**

After Part 5, insert:

**Part 5A Fluoridation of drinking water**

**116C Purpose**

The purpose of this Part is to—

- (a) enable the Director-General to direct a local authority to add fluoride or not to add fluoride to drinking water supplied through its local authority supply; and
- (b) require the local authority to comply with the direction.

**116D Interpretation**

In this Part,—  
**drinking water**—

- (a) means water that is used for—
    - (i) human consumption; or
    - (ii) oral hygiene; or
    - (iii) preparing food, drink, or other products for human consumption; or
    - (iv) washing utensils that are used for eating and drinking, or for preparing, serving, or storing food or drink for human consumption; but
  - (b) does not include bottled water that is prepared or manufactured by a food business, and is regulated, under the Food Act 2014
- local authority** has the same meaning as in section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 2002
- local authority supply** means the infrastructure and processes that—
- (a) are used by a local government organisation to abstract, store, treat, transmit, or transport drinking water for supply to consumers; and
  - (b) are controlled by a local authority
- local government organisation** means a local authority, council-controlled organisation, or subsidiary of a council-controlled organisation that provides water services.

**Subpart 1—Direction relating to fluoridation of drinking water supply**

**116E Director-General may direct local authority to add or not to add fluoride to drinking water**

- (1)



The Director-General may direct a local authority to add or not to add fluoride to drinking water supplied through its local authority supply.

(2)

The Director-General must seek and consider advice from the Director of Public Health on the matters in subsection (3)(a) and (b)(i) before deciding whether to make a direction.

(3)

Before making a direction, the Director-General must consider—

(a) scientific evidence on the effectiveness of adding fluoride to drinking water in reducing the prevalence and severity of dental decay; and

(b) whether the benefits of adding fluoride to the drinking water outweigh the financial costs, taking into account—

(i) the state or likely state of the oral health of a population group or community where the local authority supply is situated; and

(ii) the number of people who are reasonably likely to receive drinking water from the local authority supply; and

(iii) the likely financial cost and savings of adding fluoride to the drinking water, including any additional financial costs of ongoing management and monitoring.

(4)

For the purpose of subsection (3)(b)(i), the Director-General may take into account any evidence that the Director-General considers relevant.

(5)

As soon as practicable after making a direction, the Director-General must publish the direction and the reasons for the decision to make the direction on the Ministry of Health's Internet site.

### **116F Contents of direction**

(1)

A direction must specify a date by which the local authority must comply with the direction, which must not be earlier than the date by which the Director-General considers it would be reasonably practicable for the local authority to comply.

(2)

A direction to add fluoride to drinking water must specify the level at which fluoride must be added.

(3)

A direction to add fluoride to drinking water may allow the local authority to supply, at 1 or more specified sites, water to which fluoride has not been added.