

BUSSELTON WATER SUPPLY — CHLORINATION

Petition

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [3.02 pm]: I have another petition that has 5 917 signatures and also conforms to the standing orders —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned say that we reject the decision by the Busselton Water Board (BWB) to implement full-time chlorination of our domestic water supply. This decision has been made without consultation with the community and the real threats and risks to Public Health and implications for the community have not been evaluated. BWB has not demonstrated valid reasons as to why *Busselton's unique, natural, chemical free* water supply *should now* require chlorination.

We point out that our water supply is unique as it is being drawn from deep artesian bores which offer high microbiological integrity. Busselton's circumstances offer an *opportunity for Australia* to implement change in line with *progressive overseas countries*. These countries have ceased to use chlorine in their domestic water supplies, adding support to mounting evidence showing that the risks of contracting cancer and other diseases from using chlorine are unacceptable.

We now ask the Legislative Assembly to revoke the decision by BWB and direct the Minister for Water, in consultation with the Minister for Health, to institute a public inquiry into the decision to introduce the known carcinogen, chlorine into Busselton's domestic water supply. We ask in line with *progressive countries overseas that alternatives other than full chlorination* be considered. *Our current UV treatment* is such a method. If an expansion of this system alone is considered *inadequate*, we ask that it be *augmented by a health supportive alternative*. We ask that the integrity of Busselton's unique water be preserved. We ask that *the widespread concerns and opinions of the local community be fully considered prior to the introduction of any changes to present treatment methods*.

[See petition 303.]