

24 September 2024

Mayor Amy Eden  
Cairns Regional Council

Mr John Andrejic  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cairns Regional Council

**By email:** [Amy.Eden@cairns.qld.gov.au](mailto:Amy.Eden@cairns.qld.gov.au) | [council@cairns.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@cairns.qld.gov.au)

**Subject: Reinstatement of Cairns community water fluoridation**

Dear Mayor Eden and Mr Andrejic

Research unequivocally shows that poor childhood oral health leads to poor adult oral health. Likewise, our most disadvantaged groups, particularly First Nations Queenslanders and children, have a much higher risk of dental disease than that of other community populations.

Thankfully, water fluoridation is one of the easiest and most effective methods to decrease the prevalence and severity of oral disease across both child and adult populations. It is also supported by a robust and widely accepted body of research.

Despite this, Cairns Regional Council ceased water fluoridation in 2013 and the community have since not been afforded this important public health benefit. Doctors and dentists continue to be distressed by increasing rates of tooth decay and associated poor health outcomes, particularly among children. They are also concerned by the widening dental health gap between patients living in regions such as Cairns and those in South East Queensland.

AMA Queensland calls on your Council to urgently reinstate community water fluoridation to protect our most vulnerable Queenslanders and ensure health equity with their metropolitan counterparts.

We would welcome an opportunity to discuss this important issue with you further.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nick Yim  
**President**  
**AMA Queensland**



Dr Brett Dale  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**AMA Queensland**