**Options to conclude the Queensland Water Fluoridation Program**

**Minister for Health**

1. Under the Water Fluoridation Act 2008 (the Act) public potable water suppliers (water suppliers) are required to implement water fluoridation at a relevant public potable water supply (water supply) by a date prescribed in a regulation.
2. To date, 70 supplies have been fluoridated and 63 supplies are required to begin adding fluoride before, or by, 31 December 2012.
3. Owing to the mandatory nature of the Act, there is currently no head of power to allow the Minister for Health to consider applications by councils to be exempted from the requirement to fluoridate their water supplies other than in accordance with section 8 of the Act.
4. Since the 2012 State Election applications councils have made exemption application to the government, however because of the limited scope of section 8 of the Act no exemption is able to be granted.
5. Cabinet endorsed extending the scheduled implementation dates for the relevant water supplies to 31 December 2013; and the expeditious progress of amendments to section 8 of the Water Fluoridation Act 2008.