

NSW EPA

Our reference: DOC13/504

Mr John Teagle
36 Yeovil Drive
BOMADERRY NSW 2541

Dear Mr Teagle

Thank you for your email correspondence of 30 November 2012, 29 December 2012 and 3 & 4 January 2013 raising concerns in relation to the addition of fluoride to the reticulated drinking water supply by Shoalhaven Water, a division of Shoalhaven City Council.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is responsible for the administration of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act). Schedule 1 of the POEO Act stipulates certain activities that are required to be licensed by the EPA in order to be undertaken. The treatment of drinking water including the addition of any fluoride is not listed in Schedule 1 of the POEO Act as an activity that is required to be licensed by the EPA. **As such, the drinking water treatment plants that are operated by Shoalhaven City Council do not hold any licences with the EPA. Accordingly, the EPA does not have any role or oversight with respect to the addition of fluoride to the reticulated water supply by Shoalhaven City Council. Further, the POEO Act prohibits the disposal direct to waterways of fluoride waste streams that are generated from industrial or manufacturing processes.**

As detailed in the letter you have supplied from Shoalhaven City Council dated 17 December 2012, **the addition of fluoride to public water supplies in NSW is regulated by the *Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1957* and the *Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Regulation 2012*.** The EPA understands that NSW Health has responsibility for the administration of this legislation. As such, NSW Health is the appropriate authority to pursue your concerns with. In this respect, the EPA advises that the NSW Public Health Unit at Wollongong can be contacted on either telephone number (02) 4421 6700 OR POSTAL ADDRESS Locked Mail Bag 9, Wollongong NSW 2526.

I trust that this information is of assistance and clarifies the EPA's role in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely

NIGEL SARGENT
Manger – South East Region
Environmental Protection Authority
22/1/13