

Shannon Molloy

From: Shannon Molloy
Sent: Monday, 12 December 2011 3:11 PM
To: Edmund Burke; Nicole Scurrah
Subject: OurSay - draft responses
Attachments: Responses DRAFT.docx

Hi there,

The Premier's OurSay closed for submissions yesterday. The top three questions which now require a response were on fluoride, daylight saving and investment in solar energy. I've drafted the attached responses with the assistance of the policy team. I'll pop them in the pack tonight for the boss.

The final video package is due Friday morning.

Cheers,

Shannon Molloy
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RTI RELEASE

Question

Last year, a state government report concluded that "the quality of Queensland's solar resource is comparable to the world's best solar resources." Rather than build gas plants and expand the contentious Coal Seam Gas industry, what concrete steps will your government take to build baseload concentrating solar thermal power plants with molten salt storage?

Emma Carton

Response

The Queensland Government is committed to utilising the power of the sun by investing in solar projects right across the State.

We are building a 250 Megawatt solar power station at Kogan Creek, called Solar Dawn.

When we look at solar initiatives in Europe, one thing is clear – they are incredibly expensive. Take Spain, which has a 20 Megawatt solar plant that operates 24 hours a day with molten salt. The electricity from this station costs about eight times as much as a power station run by gas.

What we're doing in Queensland is building a solar state in a cost effective way.

We are growing a solar industry right here, and encouraging households to get in on the action. And it's working.

We've gone from 1000 solar panels on home owners' roofs, to over 100,000 in just the past four years.

RTI RELEASED

Question

Why will you not hold a referendum to allow the citizens of QLD their chance to decide if we should introduce Daylight savings or not? There is a majority of people within the southeast who find it incredibly frustrating this time of year when dealing with southern states who are 1 hour ahead of us. All I'm asking for is the chance to take this to the vote, if it loses then fair enough but let us decide please.

Paul Smart

Response

Early last year, I called upon the Queensland community to share their views on Daylight Saving for South East Queensland.

All Queenslanders were encouraged to take part in an online survey and poll on whether a trial or referendum should be held. Government Members also surveyed their constituents on the issue.

From this consultation, it was clear that the issue of daylight saving – and more specifically splitting the State into two time zones – remains a contentious issue.

It's true that the results of the online survey indicated a majority of support in South East Queensland for a trial and referendum.

However it was also clear that attitudes from the business community and those people in rural and regional Queensland were significantly opposed to the proposal.

This, coupled with the results of independent research by AC Nielsen on attitudes towards daylight saving in Queensland, led the Government to reaffirm its view that introducing two time zones in Queensland would create division between the South East and the regions.

The Government is not prepared to split the State in two, either by imposing daylight saving on the regions – which clearly do not want it – or by creating two time zones within the State.

Question

Will you hold a referendum in conjunction with the next Queensland state election to allow the people to decide if they want Fluoride in their water? The American Dental Association warns mothers not to make up infant formula with fluoridated water and there are now 25 studies showing that Fluoride lowers IQ. Fluoride and the silicon delivered with it are threats to human health in numerous ways. Over 2.5 million people have turned off fluoride in their communities in just the last year

Geoff Pain

Response

The case for water fluoridation is based on credible scientific evidence

This research has been through rigorous scientific reviews and the findings consistently show that water fluoridation is safe, and effective in reducing tooth decay.

Research has also indicated that claims of links between water fluoridation and low intelligence, cancers, allergies, Alzheimers disease, autism and other ill-health effects are baseless.

Papers that peddle these mistruths are of poor quality, published in single issue or biased literature and are not subjected to independent peer review.

A National Health and Medical Research Council Review dispels the common myths associated with water fluoridation.

I encourage Queenslanders to read this paper – it's available online.

RTI RELEASED

Shannon Molloy

From: Shannon Molloy
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2011 3:08 PM
To: Owen Wareham
Subject: RE: Fluoride question

ASAP ☹

From: Owen Wareham
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2011 3:03 PM
To: Shannon Molloy
Subject: RE: Fluoride question

No prob, when's this due?

From: Shannon Molloy
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2011 2:32 PM
To: Owen Wareham
Subject: Fluoride question


Hello,

Are you the man to talk to about fluoride? I'm chasing information about how long it has been in the water supply of Sydney, Townsville and Melbourne. Premier suspects Sydney is 60 and Townsville is 40, no idea about Melbourne. Seeking to clarify.

It's for the OurSay project.

Cheers!

Shannon Molloy
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Owen Wareham

From: Owen Wareham
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2011 3:45 PM
To: Tina Davey
Cc: Bruce Visser
Subject: RE: Fluoride

Great work, thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Tina Davey [<mailto:Tina.Davey@premiers.qld.gov.au>]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2011 3:44 PM
To: Owen Wareham
Cc: Bruce Visser
Subject: RE: Fluoride

Owen

Found a NHMRC publication which indicates that water fluoridation (at varying concentrations) was implemented on the following dates:

Sydney - 1968
Townsville - 1964
Melbourne - 1977

If you're interested, others:

Adelaide - 1971
Canberra - 1964
Darwin - 1972
Perth - 1968

Regards

Tina Davey
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-----Original Message-----

From: Owen Wareham [<mailto:Owen.Wareham@ministerial.qld.gov.au>]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2011 3:09 PM
To: Tina Davey
Subject: Fluoride

Hi Tina, can you please get me some quick advice on fluoride for Premier.

I need to know asap how long has it been in place in Sydney, Townsville and Melbourne.

Owen

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RTI RELEASE

Shannon Molloy

From: Shannon Molloy
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2011 5:51 PM
To: Owen Wareham
Subject: RE: Sorry, one more thing

Wonderful – thanks so much.

From: Owen Wareham
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2011 3:45 PM
To: Shannon Molloy
Subject: RE: Sorry, one more thing

Sydney - 1968
Townsville - 1964
Melbourne - 1977

And FYI:

Adelaide - 1971
Canberra - 1964
Darwin - 1972
Perth - 1968

From: Owen Wareham
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2011 3:14 PM
To: Shannon Molloy
Subject: RE: Sorry, one more thing

Ok, this one is BS. I am chasing the years of the others.

The ADAs position on fluoride is as follows:

The American Dental Association unreservedly endorses the fluoridation of community water supplies as safe, effective and necessary in preventing tooth decay. This support has been the Association's position since policy was first adopted in 1950.

Fluoridation of Water Supplies (Trans.1950:224)

Resolved, that in the interest of public health, the American Dental Association recommends the fluoridation of municipal water supplies when the fluoridation procedure is approved by the local dental society and utilized in accordance with the standards established by the responsible health authority, and be it further

Resolved, that the American Dental Association recommends the continuation of controlled studies of the benefits derived from the fluoridation of water supplies.

In 1993, the Association marked the 50th anniversary of community water fluoridation.

50th Anniversary of Community Water Fluoridation (Trans.1993:692)

Resolved, that the American Dental Association declare the 50th Anniversary of Fluoridation in Grand Rapids, Michigan to be of national significance in the history of preventive dentistry, and be it further

Resolved, that the Association identify appropriate opportunities to be visibly associated with this commemorative event.

Since the inception of water fluoridation, the American Dental Association has carefully monitored scientific research regarding safety and efficacy. Based on that review, the Association has continually reaffirmed water fluoridation as the most effective public health measure for the prevention of dental caries and strongly urges that its benefits be extended to those served by communal water systems. In 1997, the ADA House of Delegates confirmed its support for fluoridation by setting forth a comprehensive policy statement.

What they do say, in the FAQ section on fluoride on their website is:

If fluorosis occurs when teeth are developing, is it okay to use fluoridated water to reconstitute infant formula?

Yes, it is safe to use fluoridated water to mix infant formula. If your baby is primarily fed infant formula, using fluoridated water might increase the chance for mild enamel fluorosis, but enamel fluorosis does not affect the health of your child or the health of your child's teeth. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to talk to their dentists about what's best for their child.

What can I do to decrease the chances that my child's teeth will develop fluorosis?

- You can breast feed. Breast milk is very low in fluoride. Nursing mothers or pregnant women who drink fluoridated water do not pass on significant amounts of fluoride to their child.
- You can use ready-to-feed formula.
- You can use powdered or liquid concentrate formula mixed with water that either is fluoride-free or has low concentrations of fluoride.

From: Shannon Molloy
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2011 2:45 PM
To: Owen Wareham
Subject: Sorry, one more thing
Importance: High

Hiya,

Boss also wants to verify a claim made in the submitted question, below. Any idea?

Will you hold a referendum in conjunction with the next Queensland state election to allow the people to decide if they want Fluoride in their water? The American Dental Association warns mothers not to make up infant formula with fluoridated water and there are now 25 studies showing that Fluoride lowers IQ. Fluoride

and the silicon delivered with it are threats to human health in numerous ways. Over 2.5 million people have turned off fluoride in their communities in just the last year

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