



BULLER
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

Update #1  April 2023

Community Update

Chlorination of Reefton's water supply



Kia ora koutou,

This update is to inform you that Buller District Council's project team is about to commence work on preparing the water supply system for the introduction of chlorine.

Dear resident,

We have put together this update to help the community understand the project steps and how you can communicate with council as we go along.

The Reefton Water Upgrade Project Team

What is happening?

The Reefton water supply is being prepared to be fully chlorinated by mid May to early June 2023.

This will involve about 6-8 weeks of preliminary work, starting in April 2023, which includes installing additional equipment at the water treatment plant. Water chlorination will affect all customers on the Reefton water supply. We will keep the community updated as we move through the different steps. Any changes to timeframes will be communicated to the Reefton community.

Why?

Under the Water Services Act 2021, passed in November 2021, all councils must provide residual disinfection (chlorine) for public drinking water supplies.

Chlorination has been used safely and effectively all over the world for around 120 years as a preventative treatment to avoid contamination of water supplies. It keeps millions of people all round the world safe from waterborne disease, including the

majority of New Zealanders.

We want to make sure the water is always safe to drink for everyone in our community and avoid the need for boil water notices.

When is this happening?

Council is planning for chlorination to be in place by early June 2023. Preparing the Reefton water supply for chlorination will occur in four phases:

- **Flushing** – pushing water through the pipes to clear them of build-up of slime and any metal deposits that may exist. This happens regularly now but will increase prior to implementation.
- **Installation and commissioning** – installing and testing new equipment at the existing Water Treatment Plant.
- **Operations** – trialling the equipment for short periods of time to gauge its effectiveness and identify any issues.
- **Go live** – permanent chlorination of the Reefton water supply.



Reefton township
Photo by Buller District Council

What's happened previously?

You may remember that in 2020 we found bacteria in the water supply, and this resulted in a boil water notice. We investigated and found some issues at our reservoirs.

Buller District Council's Draft Annual Plan 2020/21 budgeted for the following improvements:

- the realignment and replacement of the rising and falling main (complete)
- securing the integrity of the treated water reservoir (complete).
- **the provision of residual disinfection (chlorination) (scheduled for May/June 2023)**.

How can you find out more?

Community meeting 12 April 2023, 5.30pm

There will be a community meeting on Wednesday the 12 April 2023 at 5.30-7pm at the Reefton Cinema to discuss what this means for the community.

Members of the project team will be there to explain the process and the reasons for chlorinating Reefton's water supply.

It's important to note that chlorination is a legal requirement and no further consultation regarding whether or not to chlorinate will be undertaken.

Newsletter

A regular newsletter will be distributed via email, and for collection at the Reefton Visitor and Service Centre.

You can subscribe for the newsletter by signing up to Buller District Council's email list online by selecting Reefton.

Scan the QR code or go to bullerdc.govt.nz/do-it-online/water-supply-update-sign-up/.



Facebook

Updates on progress, timeframes and any other relevant information on the project will be posted on the Reefton Water Supply Upgrade Facebook page, with major updates on Buller District Council's Facebook page, and website bullerdc.govt.nz

Emails

If you want to contact the project team, please email info@bdc.govt.nz with the subject **Reefton chlorination**.

FAQ

Get started to find out more about what is happening by reading our frequently asked questions (FAQ).

How will Council chlorinate the Reefton water supply?

A new, automatic dosing system is being installed at the Reefton water treatment plant. The dosing system will provide a constant, low dose of chlorine into the water system that supplies Reefton with drinking water.

From the reservoir the chlorinated water flows through a network of pipes prior to reaching your tap. This provides plenty of time for the chlorine to kill any bacteria which may be in the water.

How will chlorination levels be monitored?

Reefton will have two chlorine monitors post-reservoir and one monitor at the treatment plant to optimise the chlorine dose and ensure the water is safe. This dosage may vary at specific times if it is needed to keep your drinking water safe.

How much chlorine is being added to my water?

The Drinking Water Rules require a minimum dose of 0.2 mg/L of chlorine in the water at the point of supply (toby). This ratio can vary based on the location within Reefton's water supply network.

Comprehensive FAQs are available on Buller District Council's website.

Go to bullerdc.govt.nz/your-council/key-projects/reefton-water-supply-upgrade/ or scan the QR code.



Reefton Visitor and Service Centre

Staff at the Reefton Visitor and Service centre will have copies of this letter, Frequently Asked Questions and newsletters as they are published.

Please remember they are there to help you access information.

Whatever your feelings about this project, please respect our staff when you interact with them.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have further questions, please email info@bdc.govt.nz with the subject **Reefton chlorination**. If you like to be added to the distribution list for updates **please subscribe at bullerdc.govt.nz/do-it-online/water-supply-update-sign-up** selecting Reefton.