



BULLER
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

Update #2  April 2023

Community Update

Chlorination of Reefton's water supply



Kia ora koutou,

This is the April 2023 Newsletter updating you on Buller District Council's progress in preparing the Reefton water supply system for the introduction of chlorine.

Dear resident,

Buller District Council's project team is starting work on preparing the water supply system for the introduction of chlorine.

We expect permanent chlorination to be in place by June 2023.

Community Meeting in Reefton

On Wednesday the 12 April 2023, we held a community meeting at the Reefton Cinema. Members of the project team, along with Mayor Jamie Cleine were there to explain the process and the reasons for chlorinating Reefton's water supply.

We had a small, but engaged, group of residents attend who asked a lot of good questions about the processes being used, and potential implications for the community.

We felt that the meeting was useful in terms of helping people understand the why, what and how of chlorinating Reefton's water supply.

You can watch the video of the meeting on Buller District Council's YouTube channel or by going to this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LY0cGFUwKeU>

What's happening now?

There are four phases in the process (as below) and we are currently at the flushing stage.

- **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.

Flushing is very important as it essentially washes out or flushes the pipes. The more organic matter and built-up debris, slime or metal deposits we can clear from the pipes ahead of time, the less the chlorine will have to react with when it is introduced to the system.

It is this reaction that can cause people to notice a change in taste or smell during initial chlorination. That shows that it is working and improves after a week or two. Flushing will start now and continue for about a month.

What's next?

In early May we intend to start installation and commissioning. That's where we install and test new equipment at the Water Treatment Plant, including the automatic chlorinating equipment.

The next step will be installing the monitoring equipment for the reticulation system. Some of that is still on order and being affected by supply chain issues. We expect it to have arrived in plenty of time before we progress further.

For more information

Email

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

Newsletter

You can also sign up for this newsletter which is available online or at the Reefton Visitor and Service Centre.

You can subscribe on our website and select 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 Facebook page, with major updates on Buller District Council's Facebook page.

Website

Key information, newsletters, and any other relevant information on the project will be published on Buller District Council's website bullerdc.govt.nz



Reefton township
Photo by Buller District Council

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.