To the City of Tea Tree Gully government and the Hon Dana Wortley of the Ward of Torrens,

My name is Tom Bombadil. I am writing to address the issue of fluoridating of our water, which I think is a sensible idea.

People argue that water fluoridation is the cause of many medical conditions. However, NHMRC (the National Health and Medical Research Council) has found that almost all dental fluorosis in Australia is very mild or mild, does not affect the teeth functionality, nor is it of any aesthetic concern to those who have it. NHMRC have also conducted studies, finding that water fluoridation in Australia does not have any connection with cancer, down syndrome, cognitive dysfunction, lowered intelligence, or hip fracture. Arguments that tap water is dangerous to use with baby formula are also proven wrong, as infant formula products that are sold in Australia are made to be safe to be fed to infants when made up with water fluoridated at the levels used in Australia. Australian states and territories fluoridate their drinking water within the range of 0.6 to 1.1 mg/L, a safe amount to consume.

The Australian Dental Association states, “fluoridated water has proven to be the most equitable way of providing protection against decay to the Australian community.” As acid from sugary food and drinks corrode the surface of teeth, tooth decay occurs. Fluoride strengthens the tooth’s mineral structure, repairing the early stages of tooth decay before it becomes permanent. Research from the Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health studies examining the effectiveness of water fluoridation, have shown that children who have lived more than half their lives in fluoridated areas from 5-6 years have 50% less tooth decay in their baby teeth and children from 12-13 years 38% less tooth decay in their adult teeth, than children who have not lived in fluoridated areas!

According to Business Insider Australia’s studies, it also is financially better for Australia, saying that the annual savings from providing fluoridated water to Australians ranged from $5.49 to $93.19 per person in health care savings and lost productivity time. Victoria saved, over 25 years, some $1 billion “through avoided dental costs, days away from work or school and other costs.”

I agree with your decision to fluoridate South Australia’s drinking supply for dental and economical reasons and it would be unwise to take this away from Australians.

Thankyou.