

Country Alliance calls for fluoridation meeting to be called off

The County Alliance party has called for next week's meeting in East Gippsland to introduce fluoride into local water supplies to be called off.

Andrew Jones, who will be the party's lead candidate for Eastern Victoria at next year's state election, says the Department of Human Services is treating the people of East Gippsland with contempt.

"Our policy on fluoridation is that if the communities don't want fluoride in their water supplies, then their views should be respected," he said.

"If the government believes the benefits of fluoridation are there, then it is up to it to make out the case to the locals, rather than try and force it upon them."

"In this case, DHS is trying to steamroll local concerns which is treating them with contempt. The department should take a less confrontational approach than what it appears to be taking now".

He said if the department can't sell the benefits to the local community, then the project should not go ahead.

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