



## THE COUNCIL'S STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS

The Council provides the water supply to Gore and under the Local Government Act 2002 it has an obligation to continue that supply. It must also ensure municipal water supply meets New Zealand Drinking Water Standards (NZDWS).

In short, the Council has a responsibility to maintain both the quantity and quality of water it provides to residents.

### Drinking Water Standards

The national drinking water standards set maximum acceptable values for organic, inorganic and bacterial elements in water for public use. The values are at a level that requires the water supplier to act before water quality can cause adverse health effects, or aesthetic issues arise.

The maximum acceptable value for nitrate in drinking water is 50mg/L. At Cooper's Wells a nitrate level of 30.16mg/L was recorded in 2010 and since October last year nitrate levels have been between 20.68mg/L and 25.24mg/L.

As a result the Council has had to

- notify health authorities,
- undertake more frequent monitoring, and
- act to ensure the protection of water quality.

### Public health risk management

The drinking water standards require the Council to have a Public Health Risk Management Plan for its drinking water supply. This was completed earlier this year and places the risk of microbiological and chemical contamination, without preventative action, at very high.

### Water treatment options

As a water supplier, the Council has a public health responsibility to the community to provide safe drinking water. The Public Health Risk Management Plan is the basis for planning upgrades and implementing better management practices to the water supply. The plan has identified a minimum water treatment level and the Council is committed to investigating options to meet this, including the possibility of significant investment in a new water treatment plant. These are long term projects therefore it is important to achieve water source security in the immediate future via a designation.

**NITRATE  
LEVELS OF  
20-25MG/L**