BACKGROUND

1972 – the Gore Borough Council starts investigating a future water supply for Gore.

1973 – a temporary bore is set up on McDowell's property, to the south of the present well site. Water quantity significantly drops after two years but the well is retained until the early 1980s.

1974 – testing at a pond on the Cooper property is positive. It is predicted two wells at the site would meet the Council’s water supply needs for 20 years. A temporary bore is set up in Oldham St but abandoned some years later.

1979 – Cooper’s Wells is established as the municipal supply with two wells. One failed and another was developed in 1982.

There have been four landowners since the wells were established. In the past the Council has sought a combination of formal and informal agreements to manage activities near the wells to protect water quality.

In 1979 there was agreement with then landowner Bruce Cooper to set aside 4.8ha where the use of chemicals was restricted and offal pits were not allowed.

There was a gentleman’s agreement with the Hoebergen Family, who took over the farm in 1994, regarding stock grazing near the wells.

The Sharp Trust took over the farm in 2009 and the Council again undertook discussions to protect the integrity of the water source. We have been unsuccessful in reaching an agreement to date.

Land use controls

- 1978 – at the request of the Gore Borough Council, the Southland County Council notified its intention to designate land for water supply.
- 1979 – the designation for Cooper’s Wells is confirmed.
- 1991 – the Gore District Council’s transitional plan includes the designated area for Cooper’s Wells.
- 1995 – the proposed Gore District Plan includes the 1979 designation and also rules to manage activities throughout the Gold Creek catchment.
- 2002 – the proposed Plan is withdrawn. There is no reference to the Cooper’s Wells designation in the amended version and the rules, proposed in 1995, are dropped.
- 2005 – the Gore District Plan becomes operative and the 1979 designation lapses.

FORMAL RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SITE WILL GIVE SURETY FOR THE FUTURE

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.GOREDC.GOV.T.NZ/COOPERSWELLS