Cooper’s Wells Details

Cooper’s Wells provide most of the daily water requirements for Gore. It is one of two well sites, the other being the Jacobstown Wells. The Cooper’s and Jacobstown well-fields are separated by the Mataura River and located in the river’s flood plain.

Statistics
Cooper’s Wells are
- four wells on the true left bank of the Mataura River – two in production, two retired from use,
- located about 5km north-east of Gore, between Whiterig and Knapdale,
- surrounded by a dairy farm, and
- positioned in a backfilled dredge pond, a relic from gold mining days.

The wells are 6.4m and 8.5m deep and on average provide 2,850 cubic metres of water a day. The Council has consent to take up to 5,000 cubic metres/day. Water goes to the Wentworth Street treatment plant then is supplied to East Gore and lower lying land in central and West Gore.

During emergencies or dry periods, water from the Mataura River can be pumped to the abandoned wells to artificially recharge the aquifer.

Where does the water come from?
Cooper’s Wells is at the southern end of the Knapdale Groundwater Zone. The zone covers 7870ha and has been classified by Environment Southland as a lowland aquifer.

The Knapdale aquifer is characterised as being shallow, porous and unconfined. It is recharged by rainfall infiltration, surface water and seepage from the Mataura River and nearby streams, particularly Gold Creek.

The permeability of the area around the wells was enhanced during construction in 1978 to increase groundwater yields. Consequently, there is increased potential for the leaching of contaminants into the well drawdown zone.

For more information go to www.goredc.govt.nz/cooperswells