



## Media Release

10 December 2009

### **Fixing Alexandra Water a Top Priority**

The overwhelming message to Council from its recent Resident Opinion Survey was to make fixing Alexandra's water quality a top priority.

According to the survey most respondents listed the lime content in the water as their chief concern. While it is understood the drinking water is safe, from a health viewpoint, users are unhappy with the hardness.

Vincent Community Board Chairperson, Clair Higginson said "The Board and its Working Group has initiated a range of studies to understand the problems with the current supply and alternative sources, and now has a good understanding of the available water in the area. We also have received very good suggestions about better sources of water, unfortunately the sheer quantity of water required, means that these limited resources of water would not be sufficient for the town supply.

Unfortunately, there appears to be no cheap simple source available to provide an adequate quantity of clean softer water for Alexandra. However we have identified a range of options and the most promising of those are likely to be riverbank sites taking a mixture of softer river water, and harder, but naturally filtered groundwater."

A number of sites have been identified for more detailed investigation, including a site close to the Alexandra Bridge, sites upstream of the current supply, and further analyses of the current borefield. Another option is to take soft water direct from the Clutha River, then filtering it to remove any sediment. We are also continuing our investigations into a joint supply with the proposed Manuherikia Irrigation Co-operative scheme sourced from Lake Dunstan.

No matter what option is chosen, the Manager of Assets and Contracts Murray Washington said, "The costs will be significant and funding must be set aside for this. Council has made provision in its LTCCP to complete the investigations over the next 2 years, and to upgrade the supply and treatment commencing in the 2012/13 financial year."

According to Mr Washington, "The investigation work is going well and the Vincent Community Board is making real progress towards a practical solution to the problems facing Alexandra's water supply."

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