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### **Area needs better water supply: Councillor**

The current problem with the Lumsden-Balfour water supply highlights the need for an alternative water supply for the area, Southland District Council Five Rivers ward councillor John Douglas said.

Residents in Lumsden and Balfour and consumers on the rural water supply in that area have to boil water until further notice because of contaminants in the reservoirs after the heavy rain at the weekend.

“The water quality is below acceptable standard and Council is working to fix the problem, but we need a better water supply for the health of our community and for future generations,” Cr Douglas said.

“This is just a good example of the need to ensure long-term high water quality for the Lumsden and Balfour residents,” he said.

Council has located a better source – a deepwater bore at Castlerock which has excellent quantities of water which is of excellent quality, and has a water consent application in with Environment Southland at present, he said.

“We await their response with great interest.”

The proposed National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management recognises the importance of a high standard of water for community health and wellbeing and that takes priority over other water usage, he said.

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