FEBRUARY 2017

Hawke's Day Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

TEMPERATURES
RAINFALL
RIVER FLOW
GROUNDWATER & SOIL
RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY
MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL | Environmental Science

HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

February 2017

Much like the hit and giggle that is T20 cricket, the rain on cricket day hit us out of the park but was just a tease. Come a seriously show case event like the Art Deco weekend, it seriously rained. The pattern of relentless westerlies fell away and we ended up with roughly double the average February rainfall. Soils said “thanks a bundle” as moisture levels leapt spectacularly, rivers recovered to near normal flows, while groundwater ended the month still mostly below normal levels. Our temperature pattern changed too – we went from enviously hot days and average nights to average days and unwelcome hot nights. Also unwelcome was a wash of the contaminant variety during the mid-month deluge, which played havoc with February’s water quality results.

Kathleen Kozyniak
Principal Scientist Climate and Air

The short summary

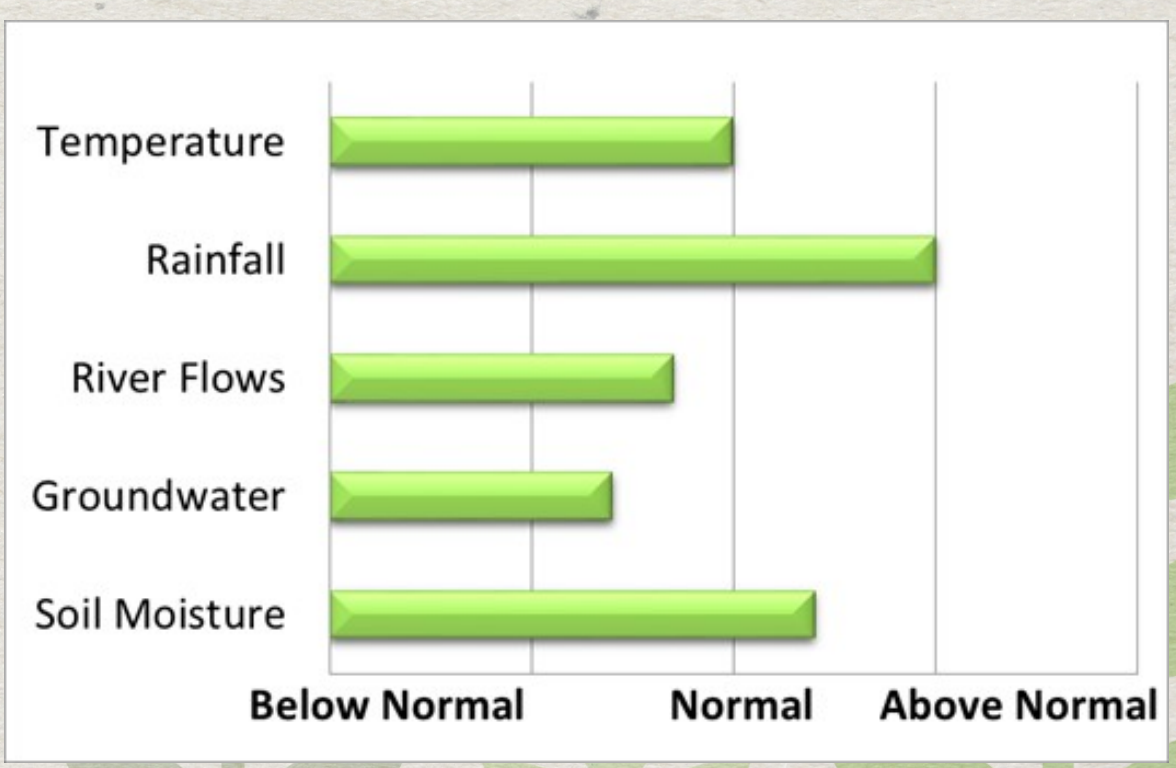
We traded the wind for the rain!

This is a summary of the regions rainfall, river flows, ground water, air quality and soil moisture levels. Data and images provided by HBRC.

March to May Forecast

Temperature	Near or above average
Rain	Near or below normal
River flows	Near or below normal
Soil moisture	Near or below normal

(source : NIWA)



For more information

www.hbrc.govt.nz

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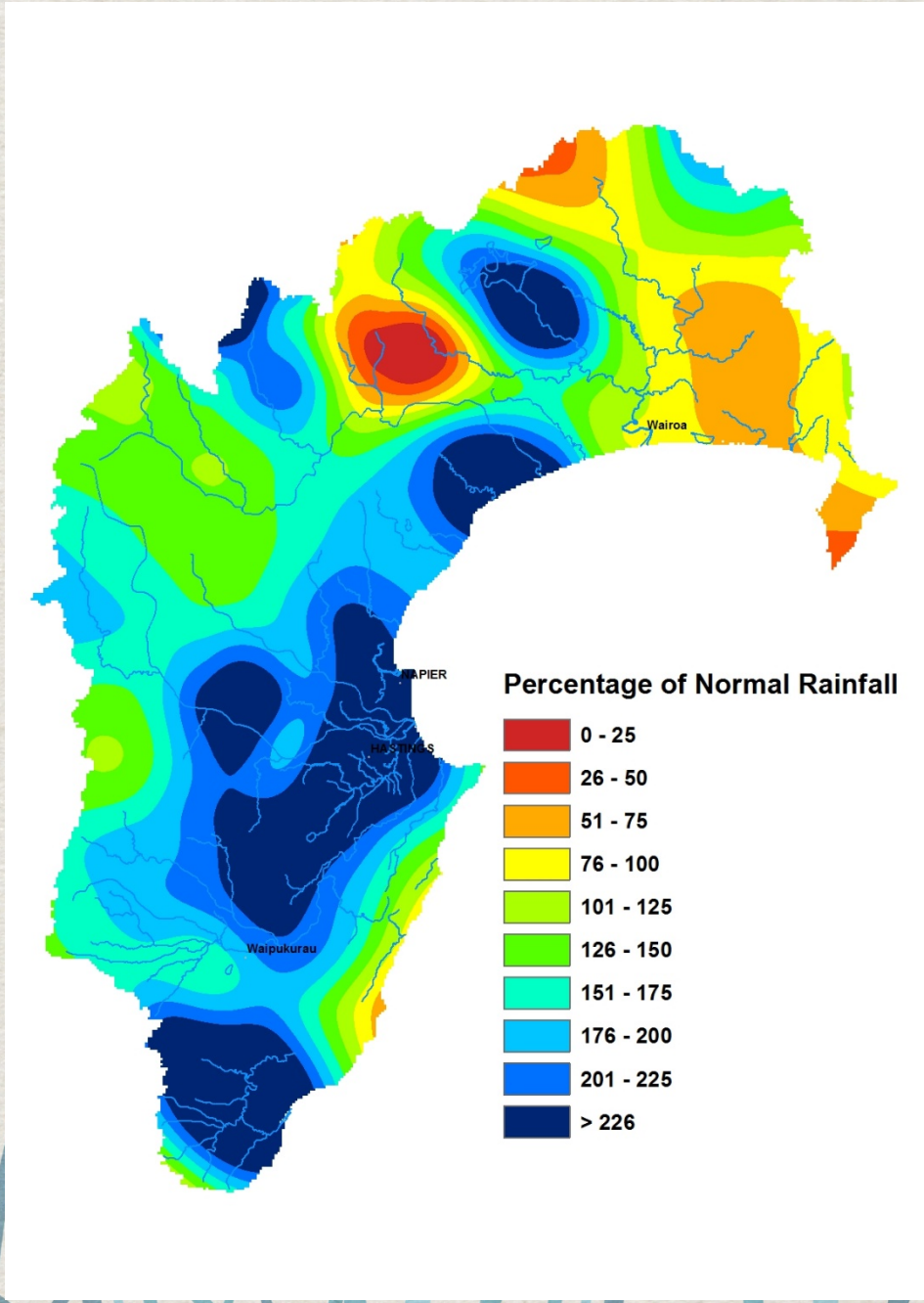
RAINFALL

Much needed above normal.

Percentage of normal February rainfall (30 year average)

For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	158%
Northern HB	121%
Tangoio	180%
Kaweka	153%
Ruahine	155%
Heretaunga Plains	265%
Ruataniwha Plains	201%
Southern HB	215%
Hawke's Bay Region	**181%**



TEMPERATURES

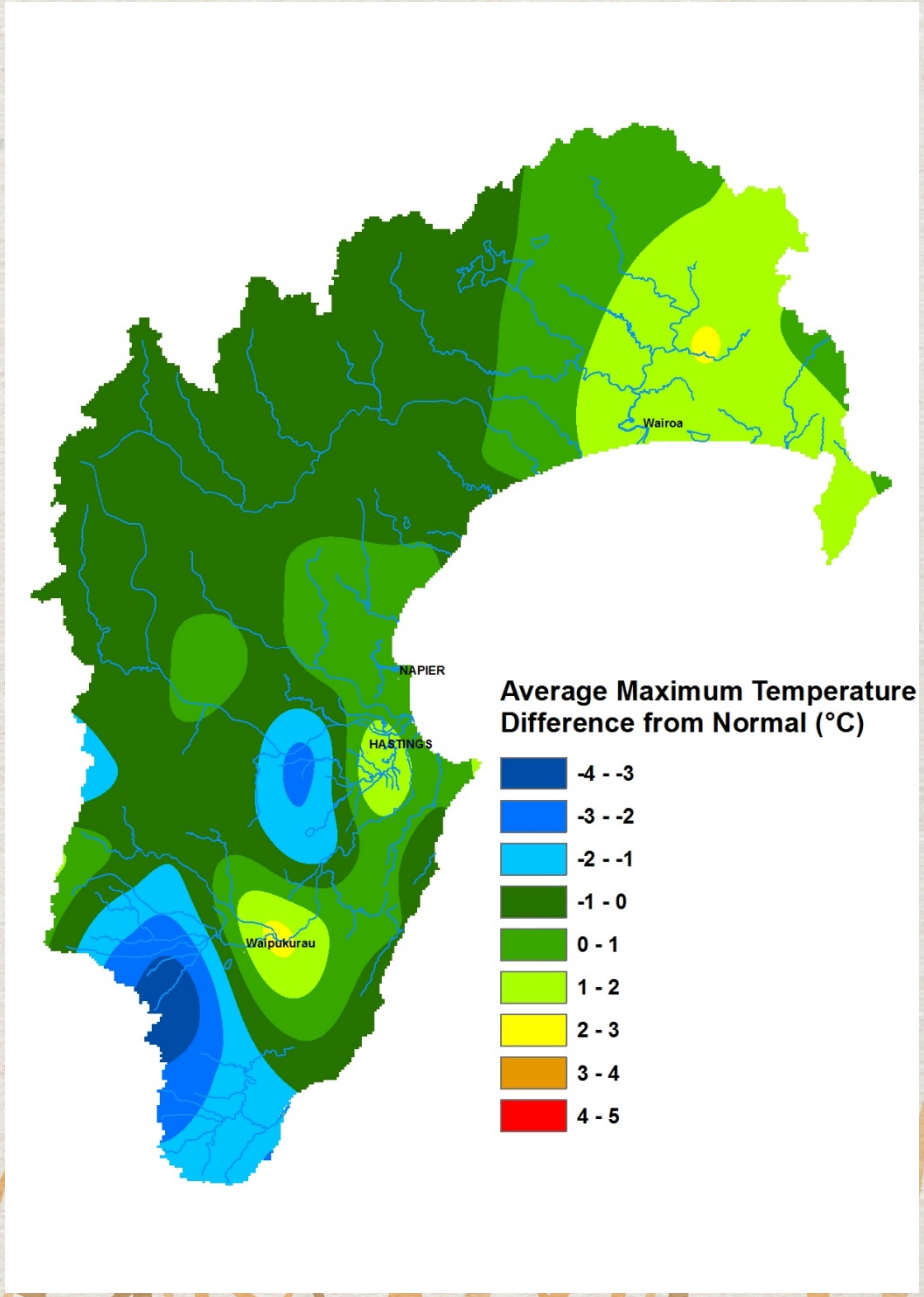
Temperature – Average days and hard to sleep nights

<u>Mean Difference from Normal</u>
Maximum Temperature: 0.3°C
Minimum Temperature: 1.2°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 22°C
Mean Daily Minimum: 13°C

Highest Daily: 35.5°C
Location: Wairoa North Clyde EWS

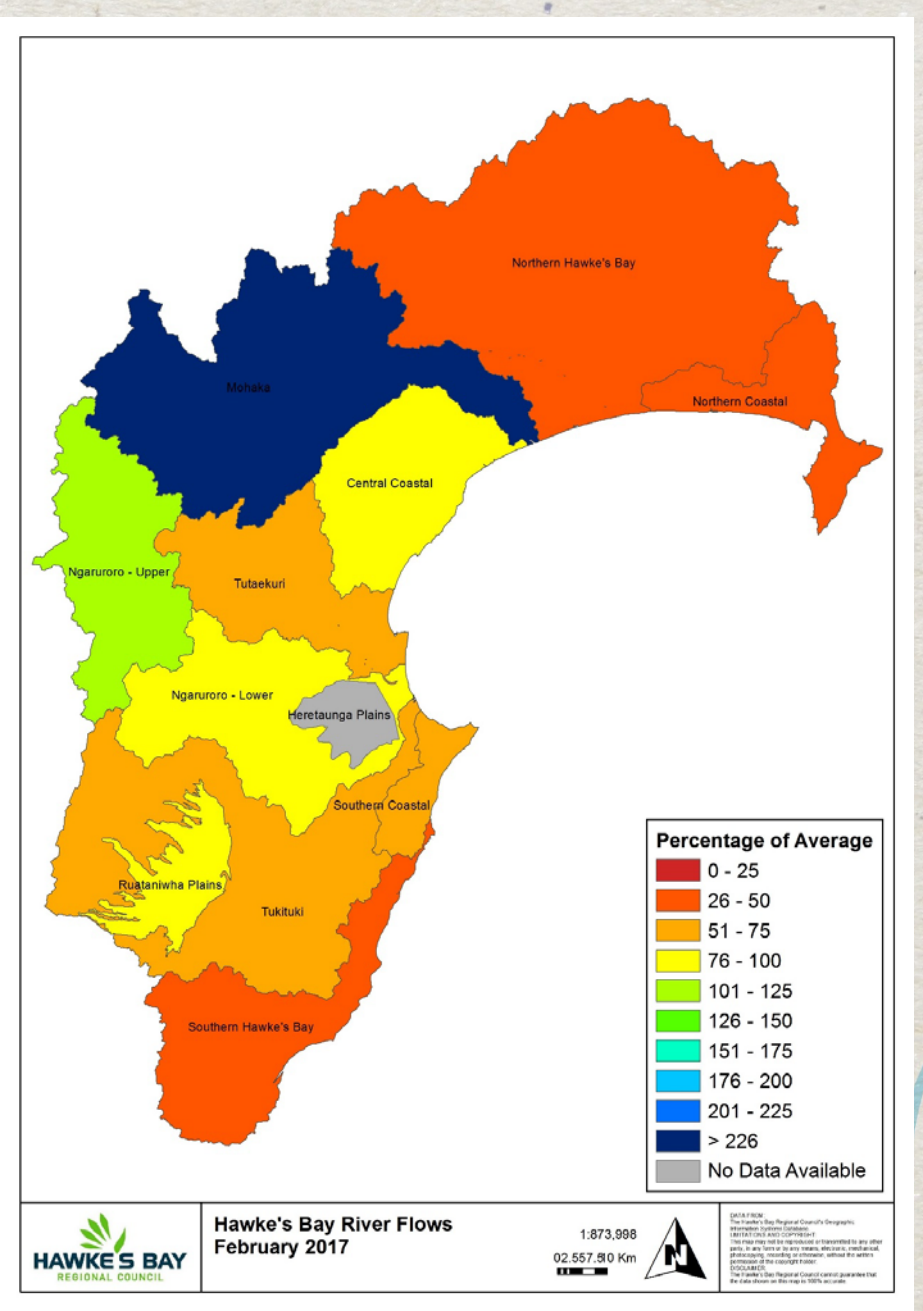
Lowest Daily: 2.5°C
Location: Taharua



RIVER FLOW

Percentage of average February flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coastal	30%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	41%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	24%
Northern HB – Waiau River	89%
Mohaka	230%
Central Coastal	84%
Tūtaekuri	69%
Heretaunga Plains	NA
Ngaruroro - Upper	103%
Ngaruroro - Lower	81%
Southern Coastal	72%
Ruataniwha Plains	77%
Tukituki	74%
Southern HB	30%
Hawke's Bay Region	**77%**



GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

Groundwater:

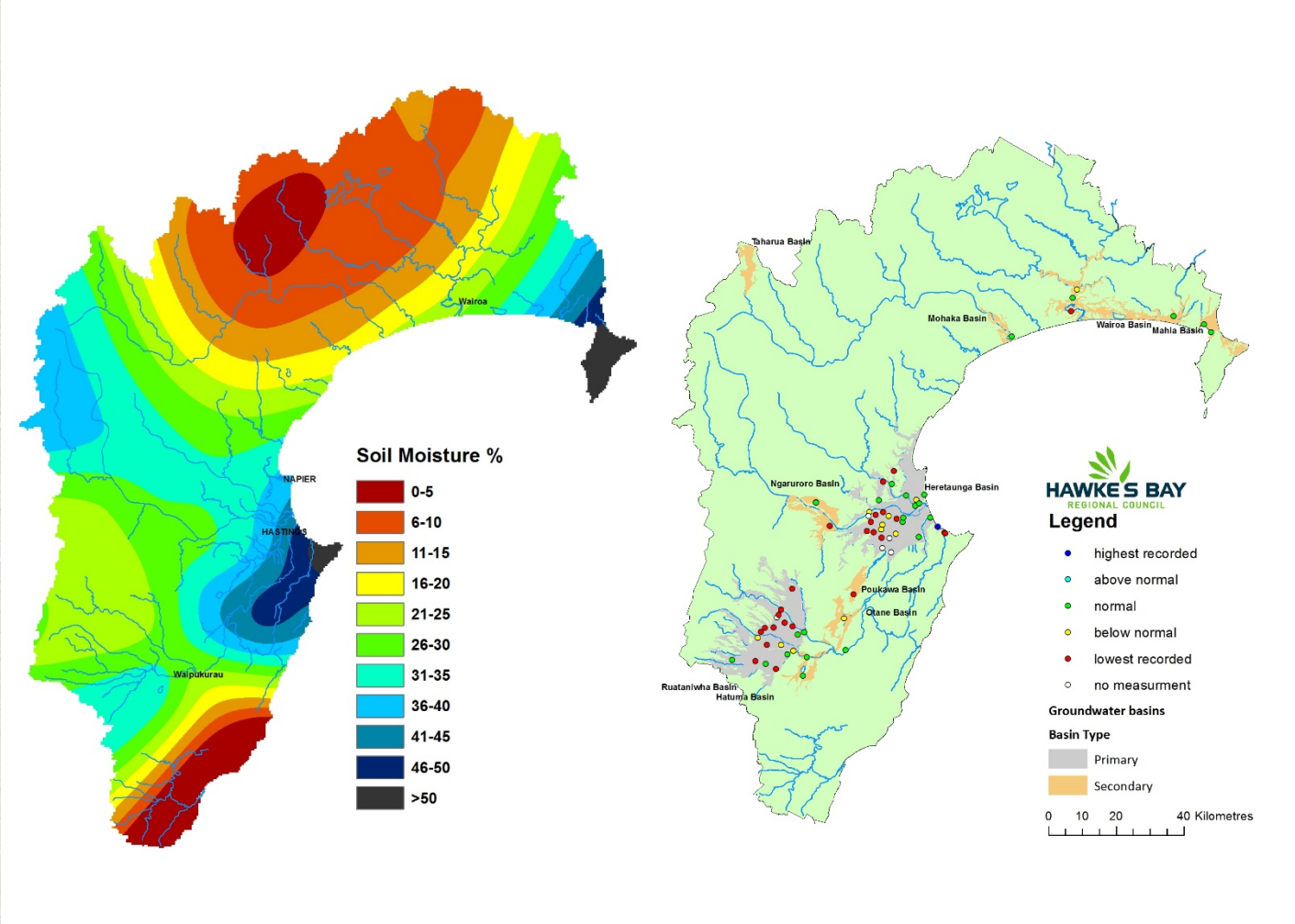
Heretaunga basin – A mix of conditions. Mostly below normal or record lows in western Heretaunga. Normal conditions toward the coast.

Ruataniwha basin – A mix of conditions. Mostly below normal or record lows in western Ruataniwha. Normal conditions toward the eastern basin boundary.

Secondary basin – A mix of water level conditions.

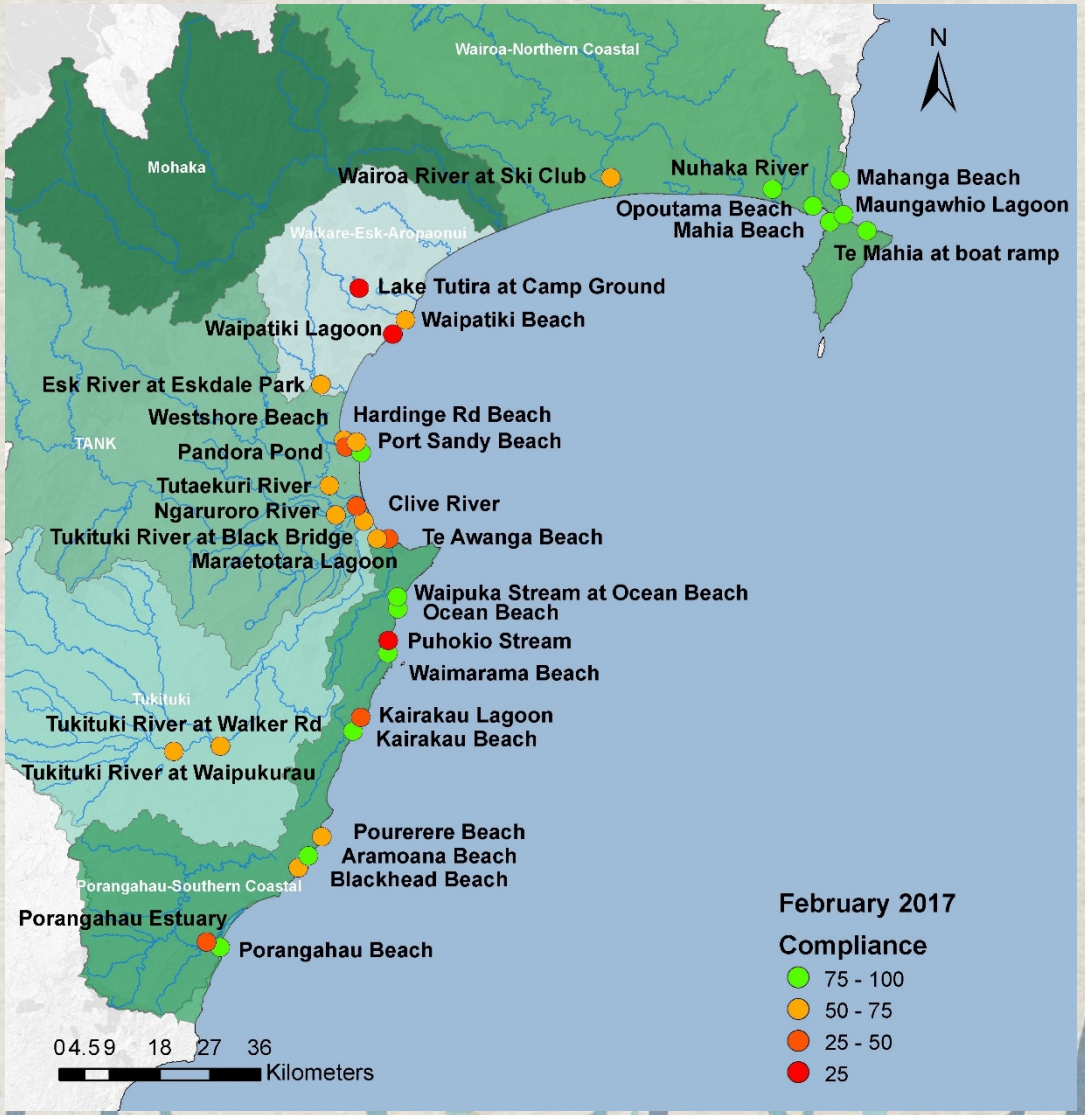
Soil Moisture

Above normal



RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY

The month of February had the highest exceedances for this season. This was caused by prolonged rainfall prior to the sampling day on the 20th February. The event allows contamination to enter the water ways via surface water runoff. Marine sites are not generally affected by rainfall, however during sustained rainfall bacteria can be present in the marine environment. This month 7 coastal sites exceeded guideline levels, Te Awanga Point and the Pandora Pond exceeded on 2 occasions.



MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

February 2017

Pastoral farmers welcomed the excellent rainfall in February and are looking ahead with more confidence after several months of hot, dry, windy conditions. The resulting good soil moisture levels, combined with warm temperatures and lack of wind, saw pasture production and feed crops respond quickly. Farmers have halted further destocking and drying-off of milking cows; they are focusing on lifting weights of remaining trading stock and of ewes over mating.

Autumn animal health issues such as facial eczema, intestinal parasites and flystrike are now a priority, requiring early intervention.

Follow-up rain remains important for securing good autumn production and feed levels over winter in the pastoral sector, but can lead to issues for wine grapes and horticulture crops near and at harvest.