

JULY 2016

# Hawke's Bay Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

TEMPERATURES

RAINFALL

RIVER FLOW

GROUNDWATER & SOIL

AIR QUALITY

MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

**HAWKE'S BAY** | Environmental Science  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

**HAWKE'S BAY**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

## July 2016

Our pattern of dry and warm weather had some wobbles in July. The region's rainfall was near normal for the month overall but there were definite winners and losers. The winners were our main ranges, especially the Ruahines. The losers were northern Hawke's Bay and the south coast - the latter hasn't approached typical monthly totals for a solid six months. Most river flows remain stubbornly below normal but a few rebel catchments broke ranks to move into positive territory. No fillip yet for our groundwater levels and soil moisture mostly lags below normal due to a relatively warm, drying wind that blew like the clappers for most of the month. With power to straighten perms and fuel the in-flight sick bag industry, city dwellers can be thankful the wind did kick in otherwise the only thing resembling clappers was the alarming rate we were clocking up bad air quality days in Hastings.

**Kathleen Kozyniak**  
**Senior Scientist Climate & Air**



**The short summary** – Chinks appearing in our warm, dry pattern

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

**August to October Forecast**

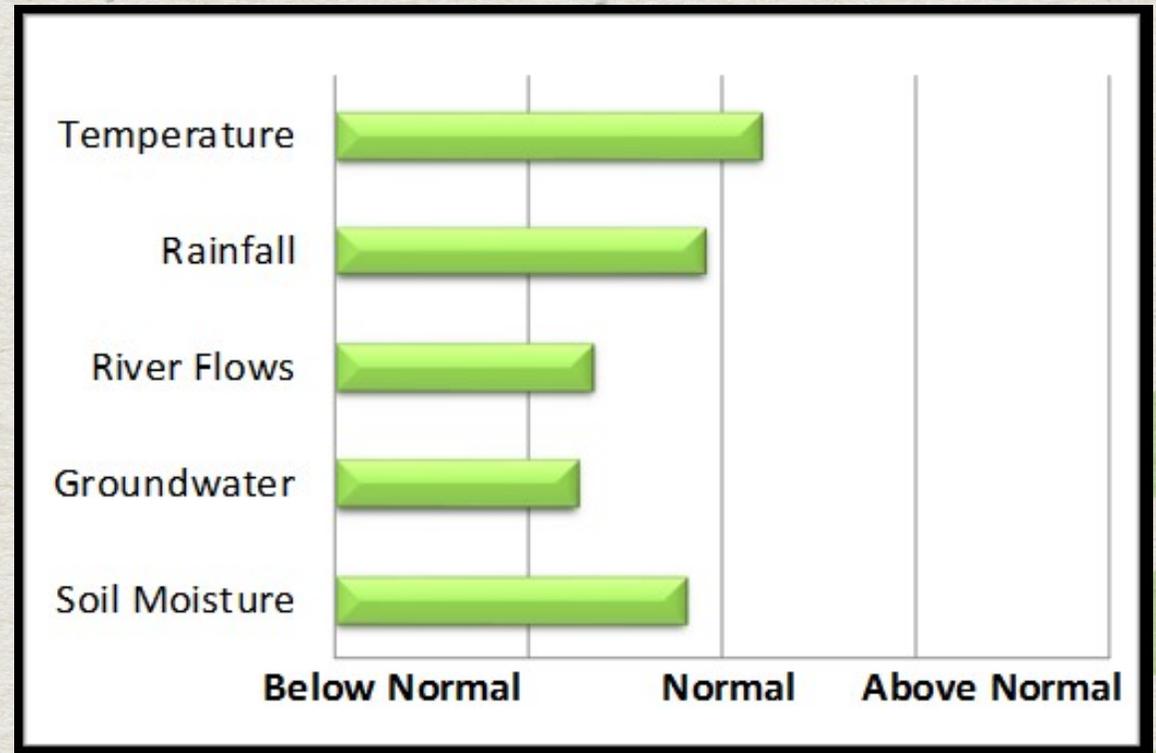
Temperature	Above average
Rain	Near normal
River flows	Near or below normal
Soil moisture	Near or below normal

(source : NIWA)

For more information

[www.hbrc.govt.nz](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz)

P: 06 835 9200



# TEMPERATURES

Only just sneaking into warm territory.

## Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 0.9°C

Minimum Temperature: 0.2°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 13°C

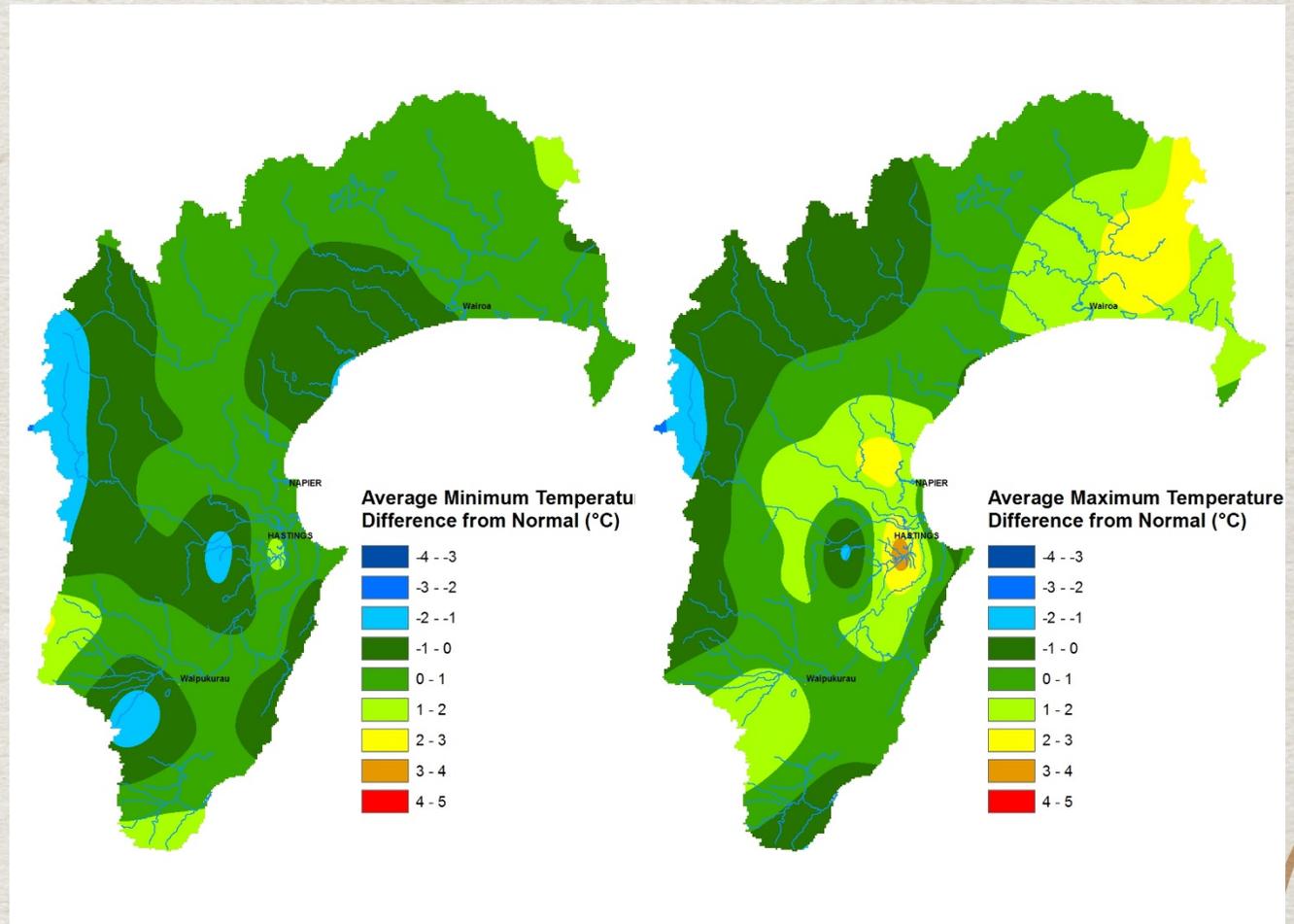
Mean Daily Minimum: 4°C

Highest Daily: 21.9°C

Location: Napier Aero AWS

Lowest Daily: -7.9°C

Location: Taharua



# RAINFALL

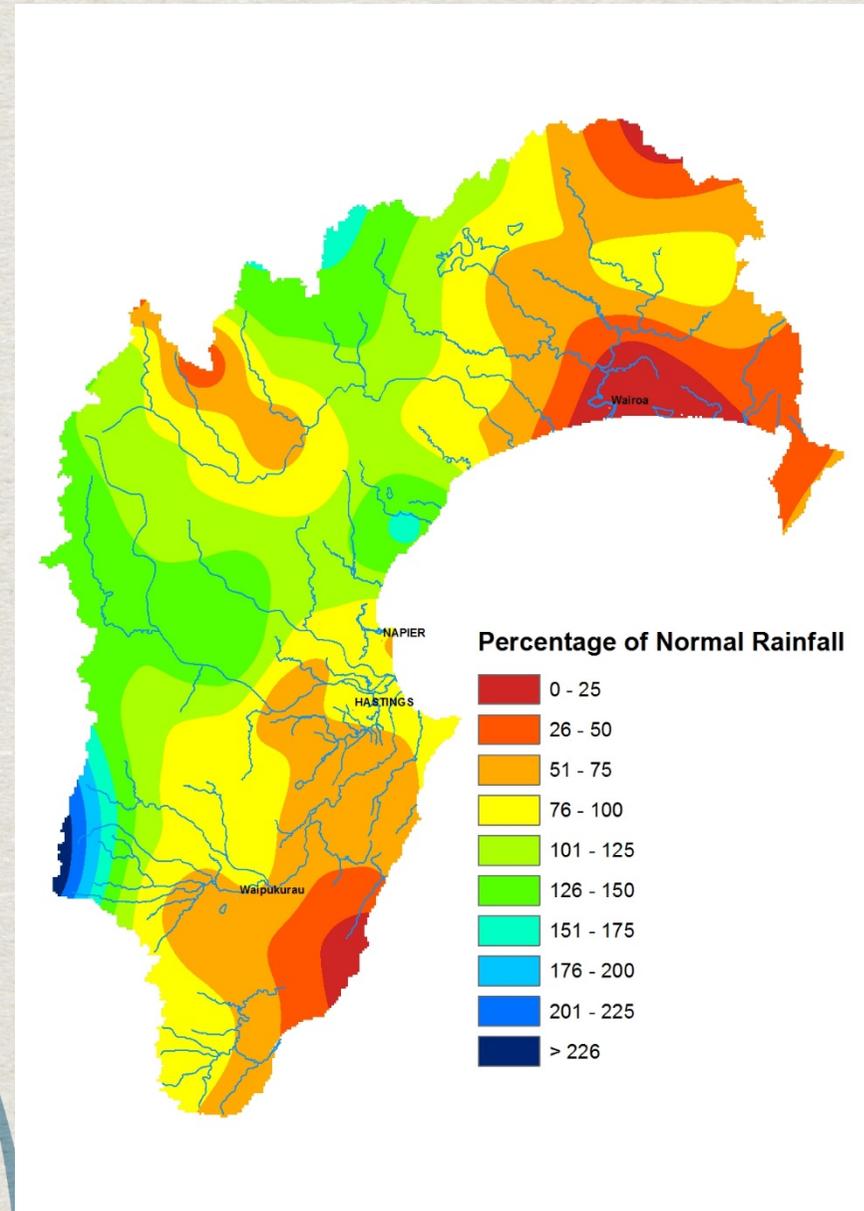
## Near normal overall but some dry pockets

Percentage of normal July rainfall  
(30 year average)

### For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	82%
Northern HB	48%
Tangoio	116%
Kaweka	124%
Ruahine	142%
Heretaunga Plains	80%
Ruataniwha Plains	79%
Southern HB	65%

**Hawke's Bay Region**      **95%**





# GROUNDWATER & SOIL

## Groundwater Levels

### *Heretaunga Basin*

Mostly lowest ever and below normal water levels

### *Ruataniwha Basin*

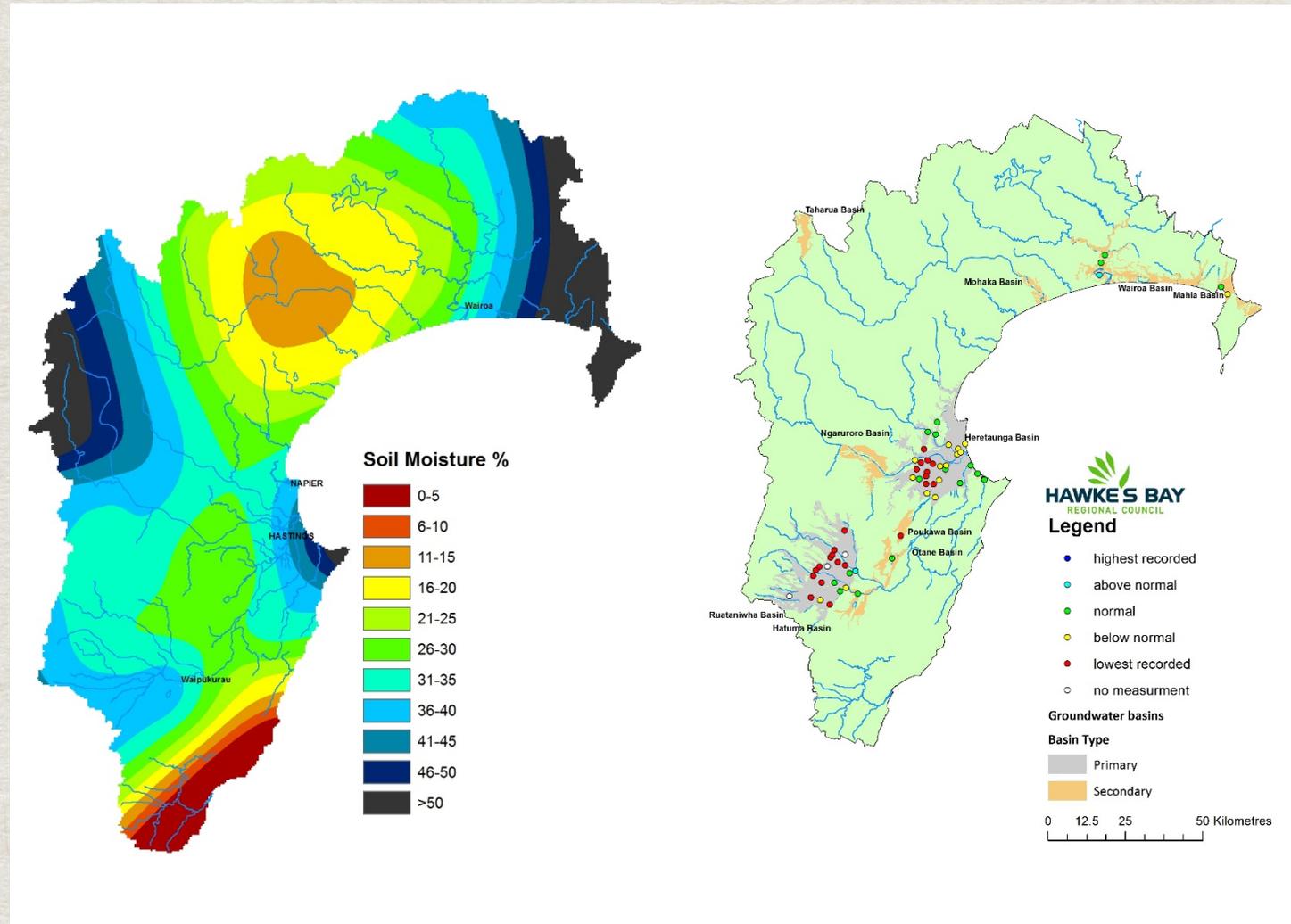
Mostly lowest ever water levels

### *Secondary Basins*

A mix of water level conditions with normal conditions in Northern Hawke's

### *Soil Moisture*

Near to below normal



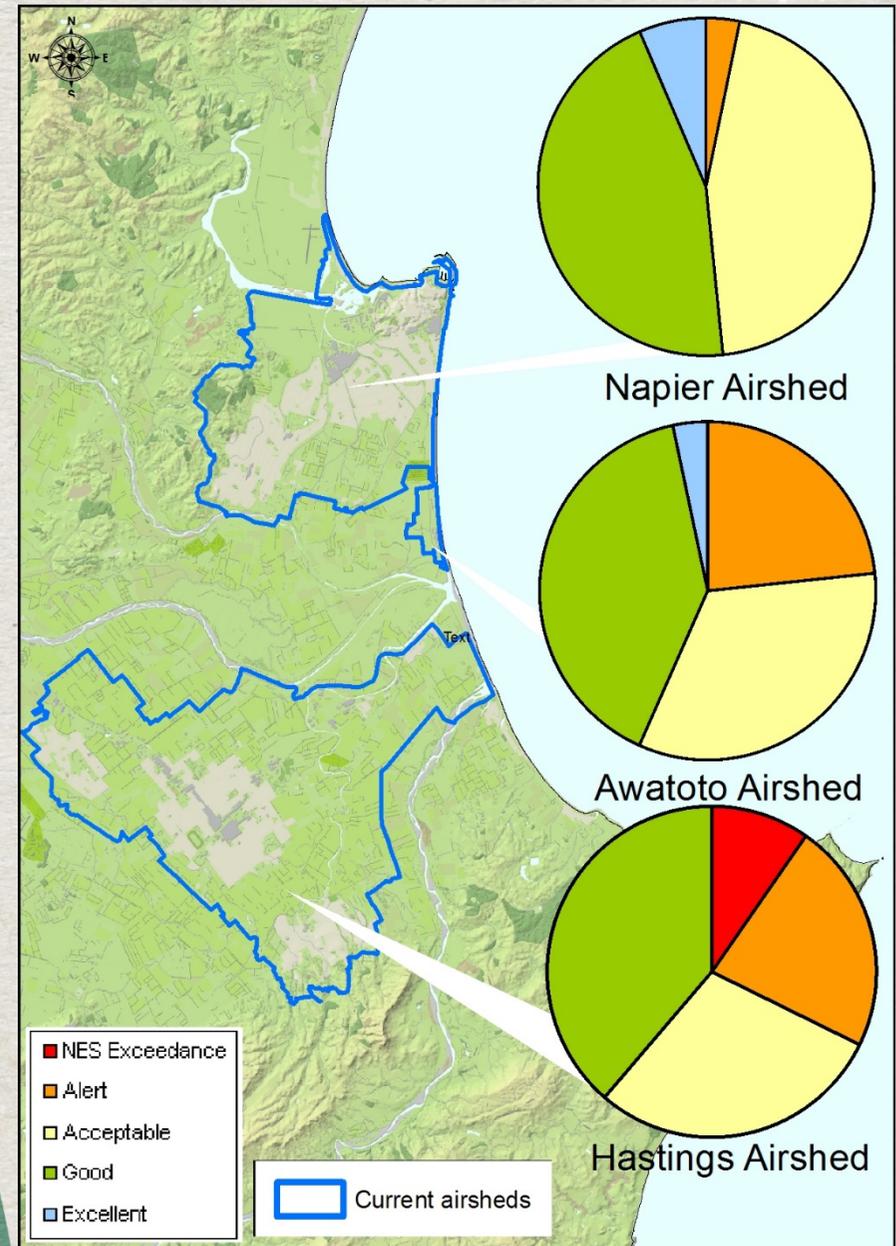
**July 2016** – Not looking flash until the winds came

## **PM<sub>10</sub> exceedances:**

The National Environmental Standard (NES) for particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) of 50 micrograms per cubic metre (24 hour average) was exceeded on three occasions in the Hastings airshed and was not exceeded in the Napier and Awatoto airsheds in July 2016.

*The monitoring sites are located at:*

- Marewa Park in the Napier airshed.
- St Johns College in the Hastings airshed.
- Waitangi Road in the Awatoto airshed.



## JULY 2016

The situation for farmers in the north and west of the region continues to be favourable. However, the area south of Hastings and east of State Highway 2 has endured a very lengthy period with inadequate rain. Although farms in these areas are more lightly stocked than usual, pasture covers remain very low.

Rain in late June and early July soaked in and, with above average temperatures, pasture growth has been reasonable and feed utilisation has been good. However, the lack of further rain combined with wind means soils generally are drier than usual. Dams and creeks in the south-eastern half of the region are very low for this time of year. Farmers are concerned about whether soil moisture levels will be replenished before spring.

Many farmers have been feeding out supplements for a long time. Providing sufficient pasture for lambing ewes is challenging for some. Concerns about the impact of facial eczema at lambing remain.

Milking is just commencing on dairy farms and cows are in good condition, with most farms having slightly fewer cows this year. Dairy farmers are encouraged by the signals for a lift in payout this year.