

OCTOBER 2015

Hawke's Bay Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

TEMPERATURES
RAINFALL
RIVER FLOW
GROUNDWATER & SOIL

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October worked hard to distance itself from September and tried to establish a polar opposites theme... starting with rainfall, which fell close to half measures compared to the double dosing of the month before.

Most river levels finished October lying near or below normal after sitting well above normal at the end of last month.

Flipping that on its head, groundwater levels, which tend to drag the chain, have responded to September's rain and present a much rosier picture than in our last report.

Even temperatures played the game and toyed with both ends of the spectrum, and I have to say it taxed my brain. We had above normal daytime temperatures and below normal at night, resulting in a broader daily temperature range than usual. There's only one bar for temperature on our report's summary bar chart and it wanted to swing both ways. "If in doubt, cop out" has always been my strategy so you'll see I opted for the equivalent of fence-sitting.

Kathleen Kozyniak
Senior Scientist Climate & Air



SUMMARY

Overall October was dry and having a dabble each way temperature-wise.

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

Data and images provided by HBRC.

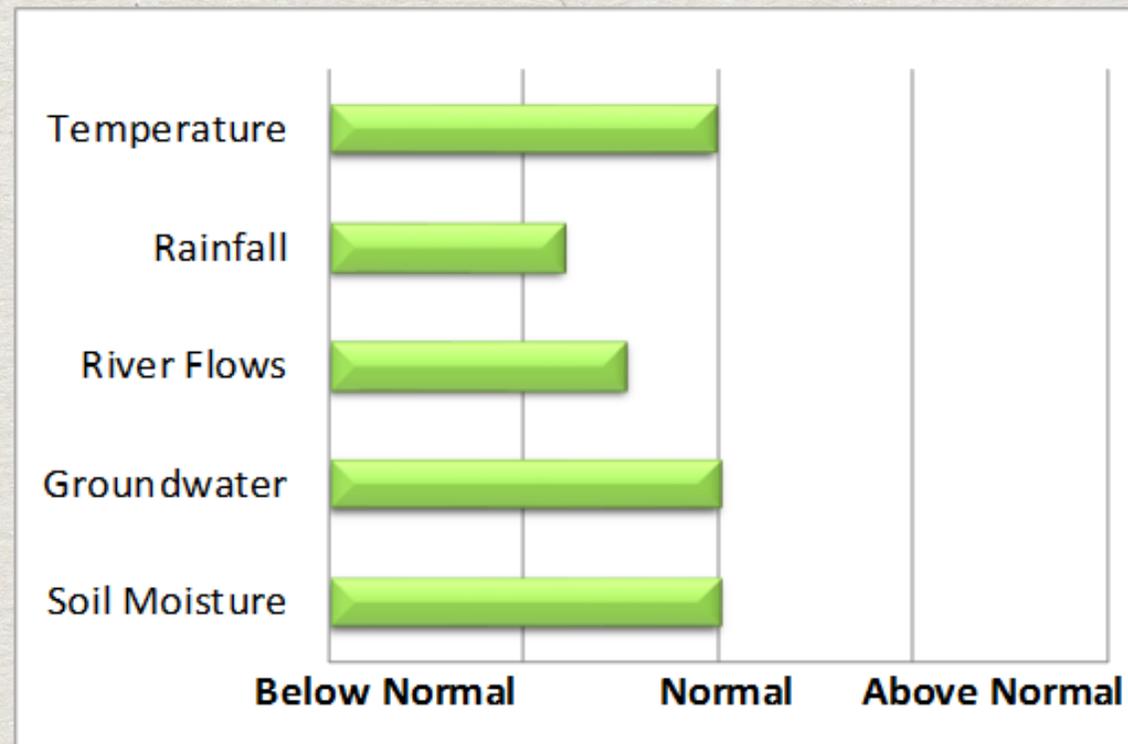
November to January Forecast:

Temperature	Average
Rain	Below normal
River flows	Near or below normal
Soil moisture	Below normal

For more information

www.hbrc.govt.nz

P: 06 835 9200



TEMPERATURES

Confused – both warmer and colder than usual!

Mean difference from normal

Maximum Temperature: 1°C

Minimum Temperature: -0.8°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 18°C

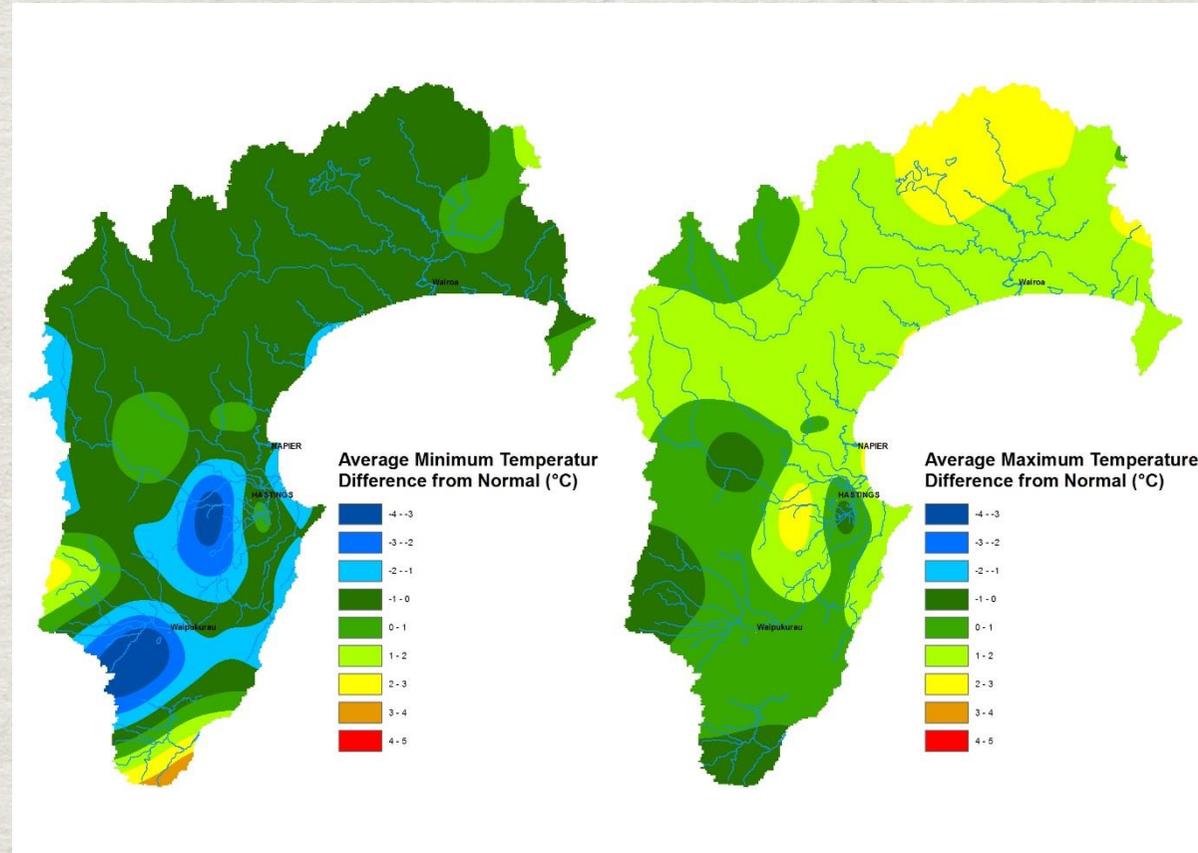
Mean Daily Minimum: 7°C

Highest Daily: 30.6°C

Location: Wairoa North Clyde

Lowest Daily: -3.2°C

Location: Taharua



October 2015

Rain at reasonably regular intervals, and particularly in late October, has maintained pasture growth and aided summer fodder crop establishment. The improved pasture growth rates over the last six weeks puts farmers in a good position going into summer. Where pasture covers allow, farmers are cutting silage and making hay ahead of the expected dry *El Niño* summer period. Some silage is being made on the milking platform on dairy farms, which is somewhat unusual.

Dairy production is similar to last year despite fewer cows and less bought-in feed. After a slow start, early season lambs are now catching up. Falling beef prices have taken some of the gloss off the cattle enterprise.

Warmer, sunny weather throughout much of October created ideal conditions for flowering and fruit set of pipfruit, setting the region up for good crops. The season for wine grapes is running later than normal – grape growers will be hoping for warm dry breezy conditions when flowering commences towards the end of November.

Fruit and grape growers will be happy with the absence of damaging frosts so far this spring.

RAINFALL

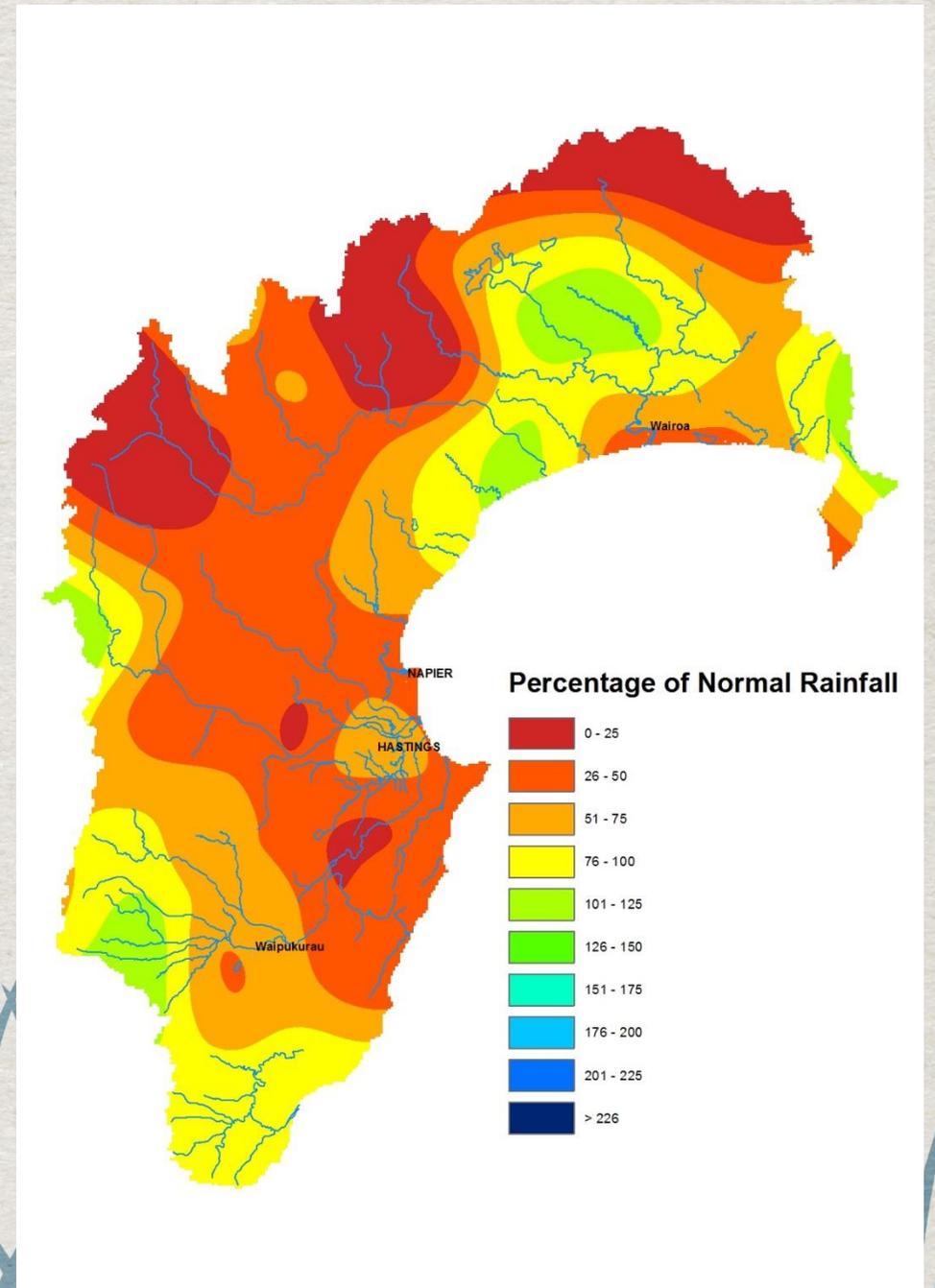
Below normal throughout the region

Percentage of normal October rainfall
(30 year average)

For areas in the region:

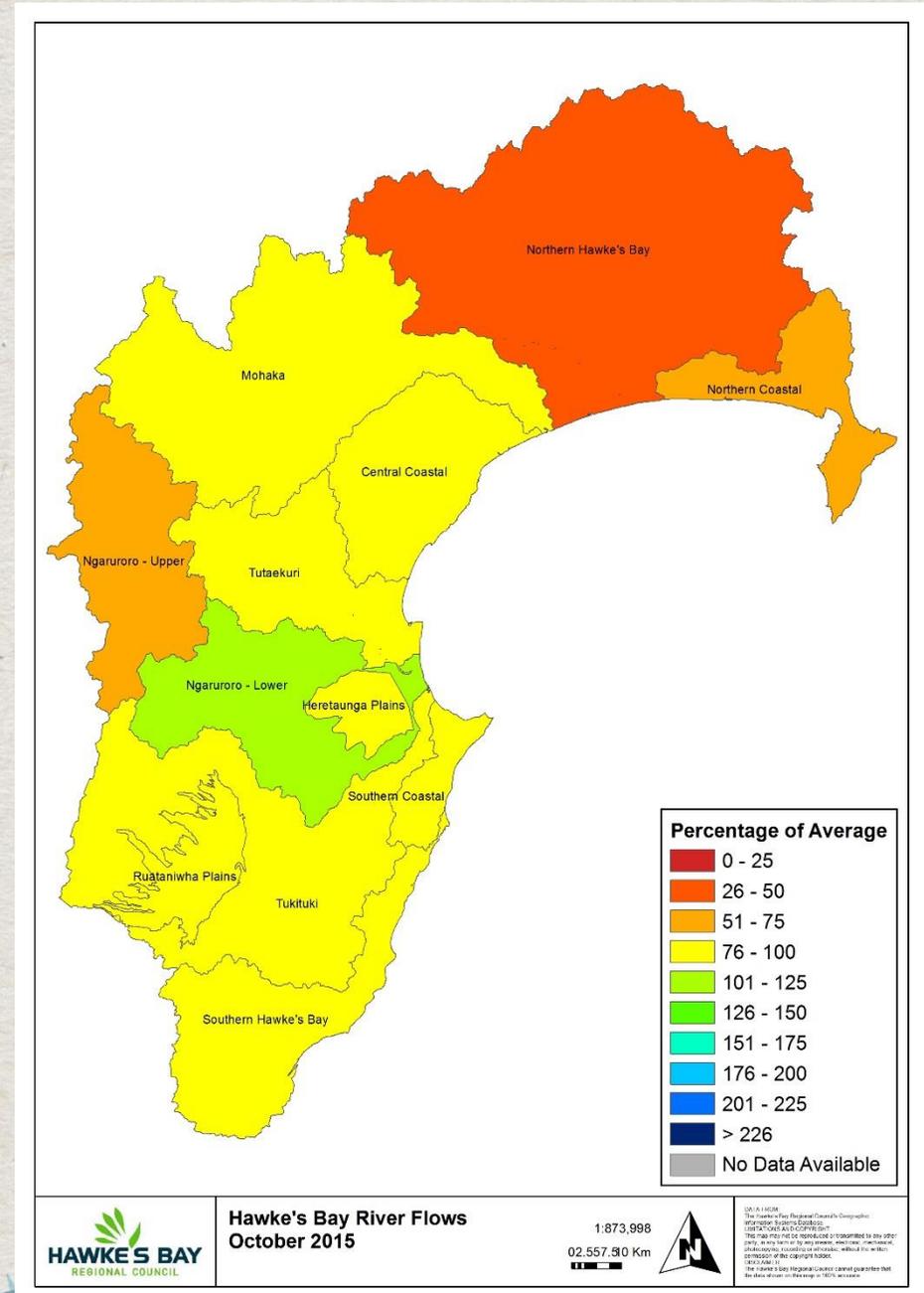
Waikaremoana	55%
Northern HB	88%
Tangoio	52%
Kaweka	57%
Ruahine	76%
Heretaunga Plains	38%
Ruataniwha Plains	66%
Southern HB	67%

Hawke's Bay Region 62%



Percentage of average October flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coastal	55%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	37%
Northern HB – Waiau River	43%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	45%
Mohaka	88%
Central Coastal	95%
Tūtaekuri	77%
Heretaunga Plains	81%
Ngaruroro - Upper	72%
Ngaruroro - Lower	106%
Southern Coastal	91%
Ruataniwha Plains	82%
Tukituki	80%
Southern HB	80%
Hawke's Bay Region	75%



Groundwater Levels

Heretaunga Basin

Mostly normal water levels

Ruataniwha Basin

A mix of above normal, normal, below normal and lowest ever water levels

Secondary Basins

A mix of highest ever, above normal, normal, below normal and lowest ever water levels.

Soil Moisture

Near normal

