



Hawke's Bay Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

February 2021



HAWKES BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI

February 2021

Any talk about our evolving environmental conditions seems to pale against the immediacy of strong earthquakes and tsunamis that have the region rattled. But if you want a distraction - we've ticked off summer already would you believe and although February was great for some it was a disappointment for others. We had good rain north of Napier but only about half of the February average to the south, including in the Kaweka and Ruahine ranges where some of the headwaters of our rivers lie.

February river flows were below average, even in the north. Soil moisture was okay in the north but proceeded to head south in the south, while groundwater levels managed to stay mostly near normal, which is a relief. The best news is that our relatively warm days and not too ugly nights made for a good sleep and bundles of energy to hit our waterways for a swim. The waterways were in exceptional condition our water quality team reports and I'm jealously guessing they had a whale of a time checking them out.

Kathleen Kozyniak
Principal Scientist - Climate and Air

SUMMARY February 2021

Good rain for the north, little in the south and temperatures were nice.

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

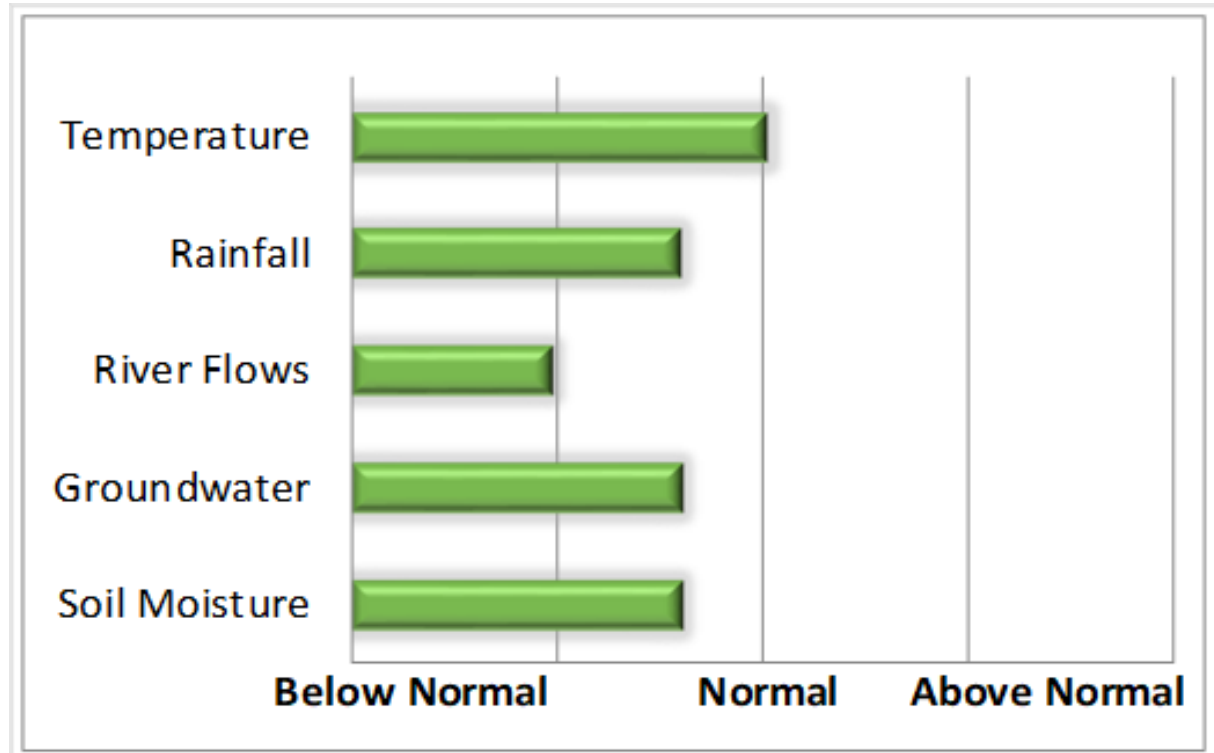
Temperature Near average
Rain Near normal
River flows Near or below normal
Soil moisture Near normal

source : NIWA

For more information

www.hbrc.govt.nz

P: 06 835 9200



RAINFALL

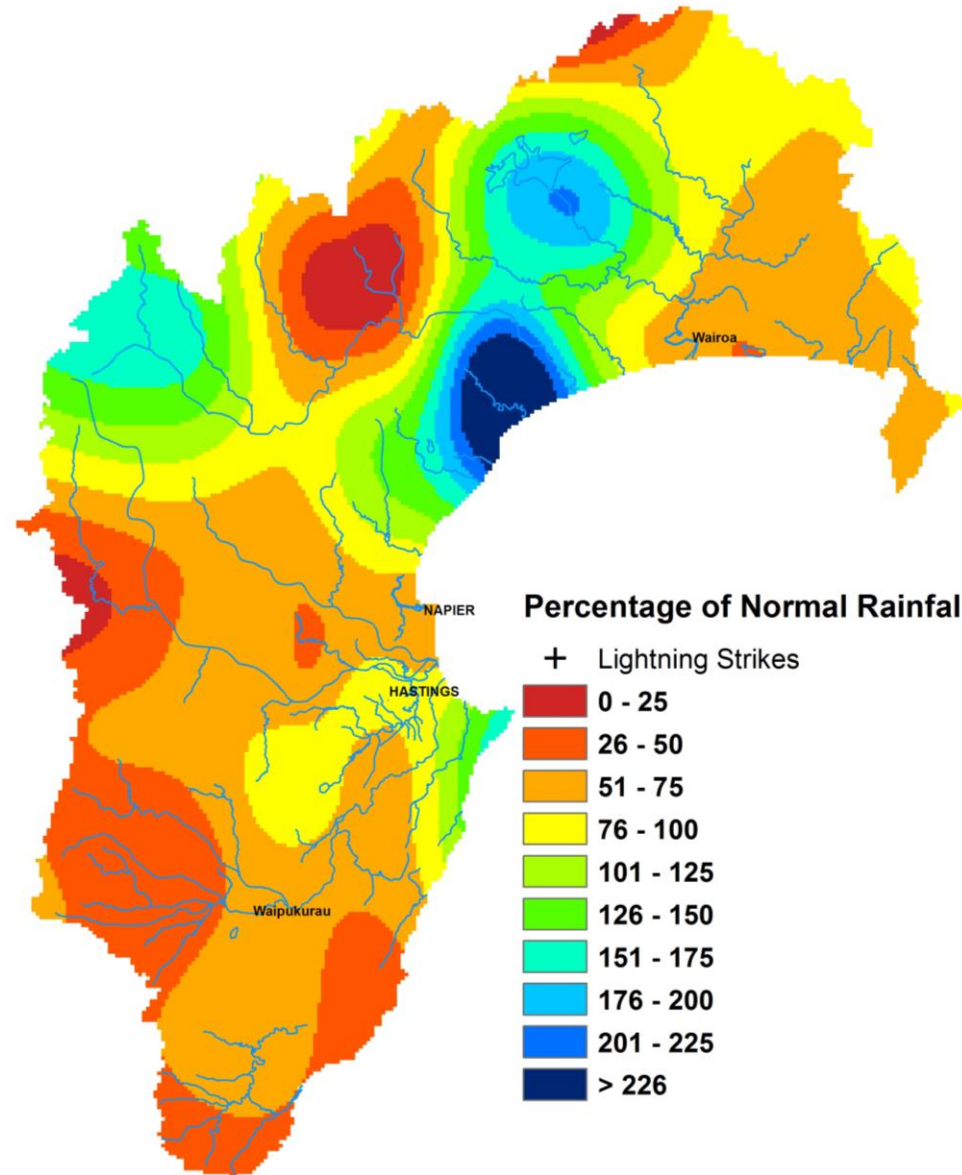
Below normal for southern areas, above normal to the north. No cloud to ground lightning strikes.

Lightning counts come from the Blitzortung.org lightning network to which HBRC contributes.

Percentage of normal February rainfall
(30 year average)

For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	127%
Northern HB	108%
Tangoio	97%
Kaweka	59%
Ruahine	46%
Heretaunga Plains	72%
Ruataniwha Plains	52%
Southern HB	67%
Hawke's Bay Region	79%



TEMPERATURES

Warm days, average nights

Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 0.5 °C

Minimum Temperature: -0.3 °C

Mean Daily Maximum: 23 °C

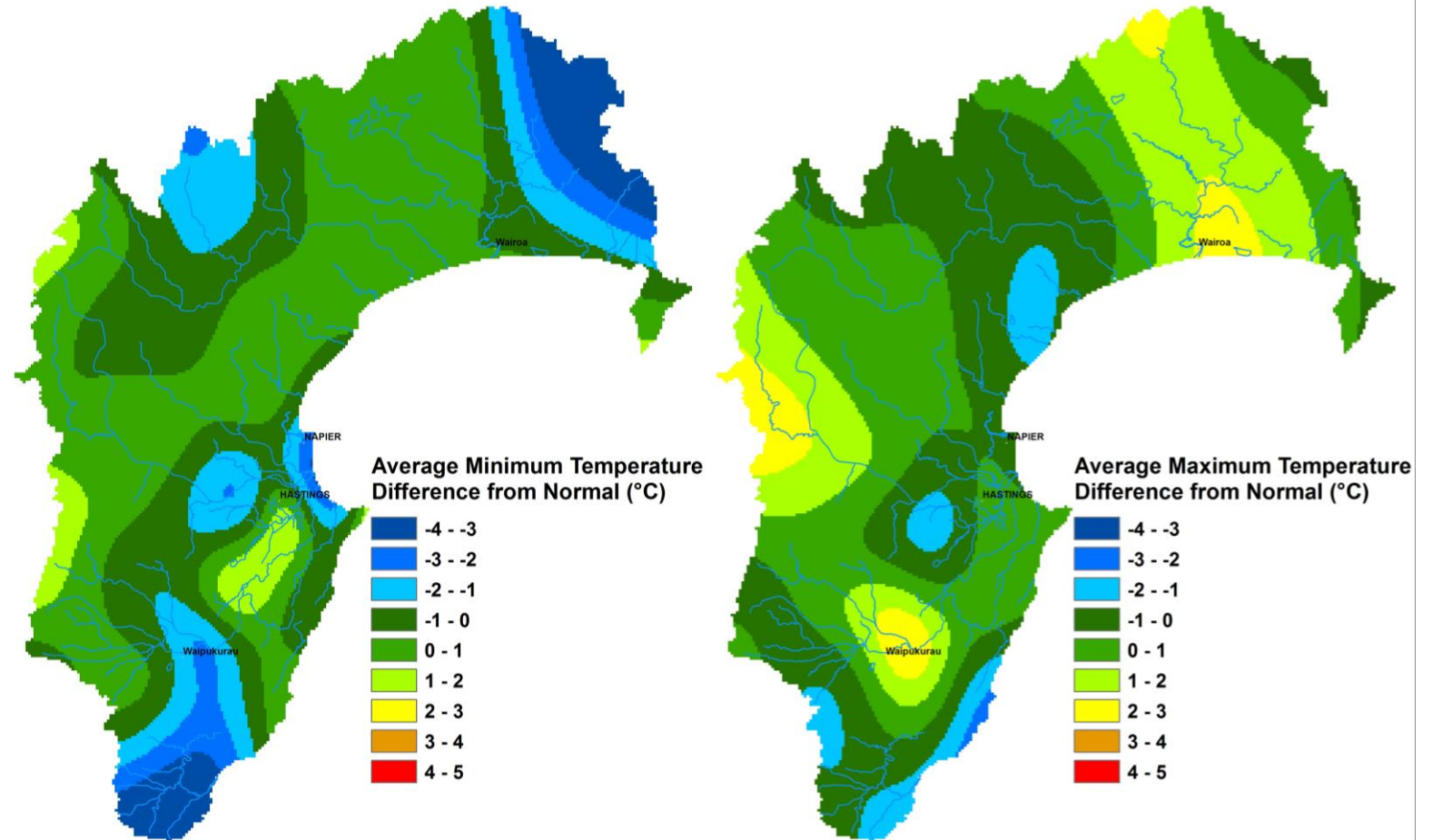
Mean Daily Minimum: 12°C

Highest Daily: 32.7 °C

Location: Wairoa North Clyde EWS

Lowest Daily: 3.5 °C

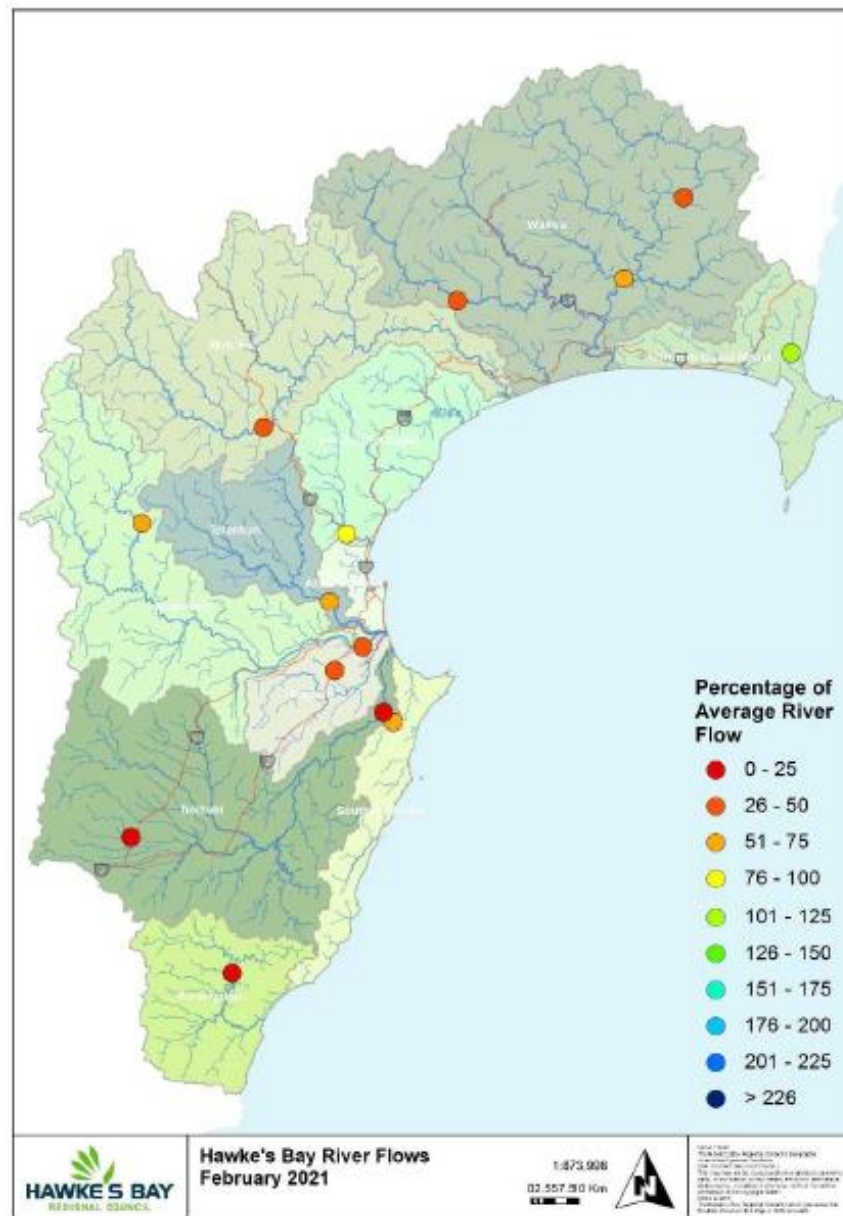
Location: Taharua



RIVER FLOW

Percentage of average February flows
for areas in the region:

Northern Coast – Mahia	115%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	49%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	55%
Northern HB – Waiau River	48%
Mohaka	49%
Esk-Central Coast	79%
Tūtaekuri	58%
Karamu	33%
Ngaruroro – Kuripapango	55%
Ngaruroro – Chesterhope	35%
Southern Coast	58%
Tukituki – Tukipo River	17%
Tukituki – Tukituki River	19%
Porangahau	0%
Hawke's Bay Region	48%



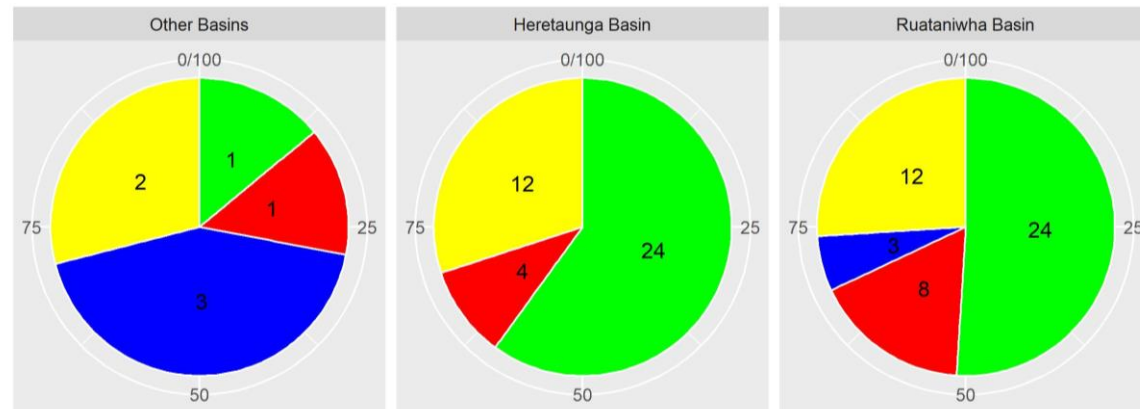
GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

Soil Moisture: Below normal for most but above normal in the north.

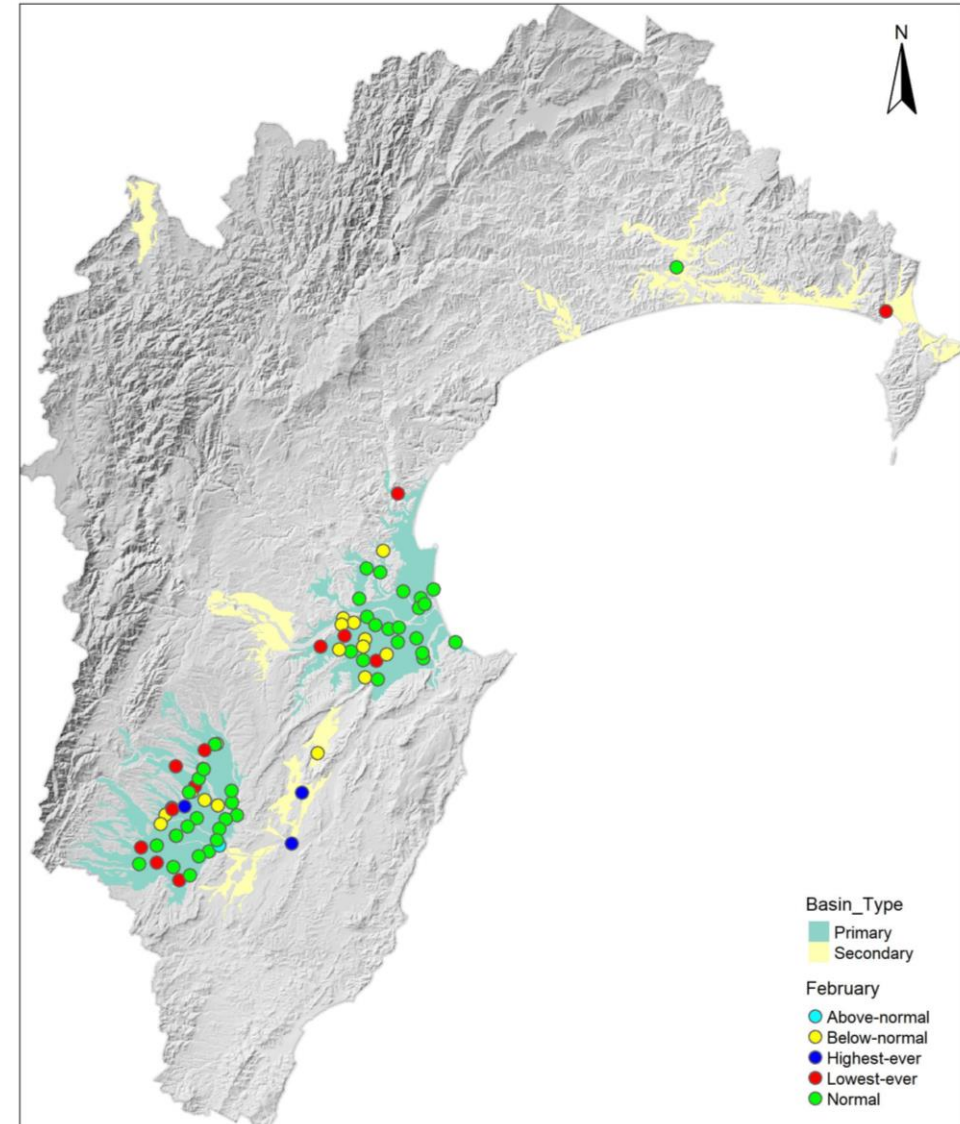
Current state of Groundwater levels:

This report compares groundwater levels in February with historic readings to evaluate current conditions. To assess these conditions, we have grouped groundwater levels at each well relative to their monthly percentiles.

Groundwater levels measuring between their monthly minimum and 25th percentile are considered below-normal, groundwater levels measuring between the 25th and 75th percentiles are classed as normal, and groundwater levels measuring between the 75th-maximum are considered above-normal. Wells with less than 5 years of record are excluded from the analysis.



■ Below-normal
 ■ Highest-ever
 ■ Lowest-ever
 ■ Normal



RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY

February was an outstanding month for swimmability in the Hawkes Bay Region, with only 2 exceedances in total.

The permanent swimming ban for Lake Tūtira has been lifted, results from our weekly monitoring at the lake are now available on LAWA.



LONGER FORECAST

The La Niña is apparently on the wane and neutral conditions have a good chance of establishing during autumn. For the time being the pattern of weather predicted by the seasonal forecast models remains the same. I think you know the drill now – higher than normal pressures to the south, low to the northwest and a general northeast flow.

Most models predict near normal rainfall for the region for autumn and those that show drier than normal conditions tend to weigh that to southern areas. Temperatures should be near or above normal.

Kathleen Kozyniak
Principal Scientist - Climate and Air