APRIL 2016

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

April 2016

There's only so many different ways you can say dry and warm and I'm fast running out of them.

It's now the third consecutive month that we still find ourselves in not much more than a thong, watering the garden like there's no tomorrow.

We averaged less than half of the normal April rainfall across the region and the southern coastal area had less than half that again.

Rivers flows are all below normal, groundwater levels are near to below normal and soil moisture, particularly in the south of the region, is on a steady downward trajectory.

Daytime temperatures were again hotter than usual, leaving some spending their evenings admiring their perfectly stacked wood pile rather than a captivating flame.

Which is great because we're kicking off our air quality reporting and it's always a pleasure to report it's all good… so far.

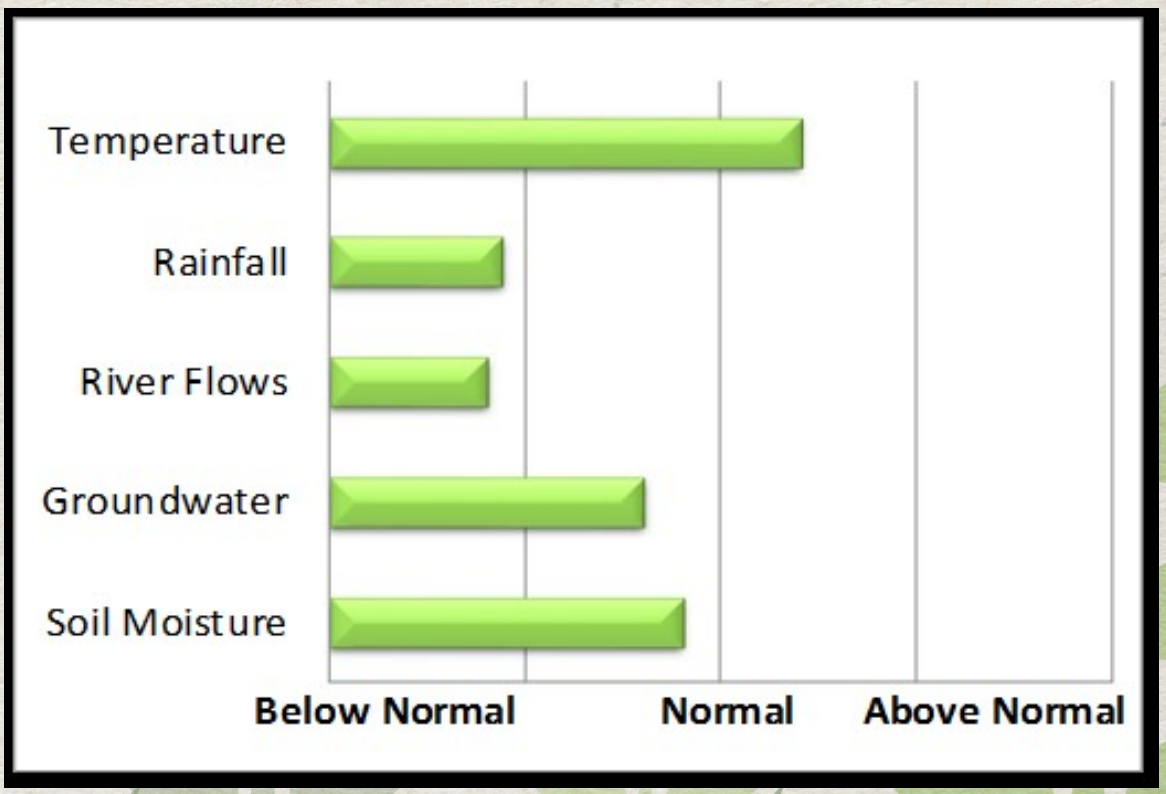
Kathleen Kozyniak
Senior Scientist Climate & Air

SUMMARY – April 2016

The short summary – dry and warm… again. That's the third month in a row.

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

Data and images provided by HBRC.



May to July 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

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TEMPERATURES

Average nights and balmy daytime temperatures.

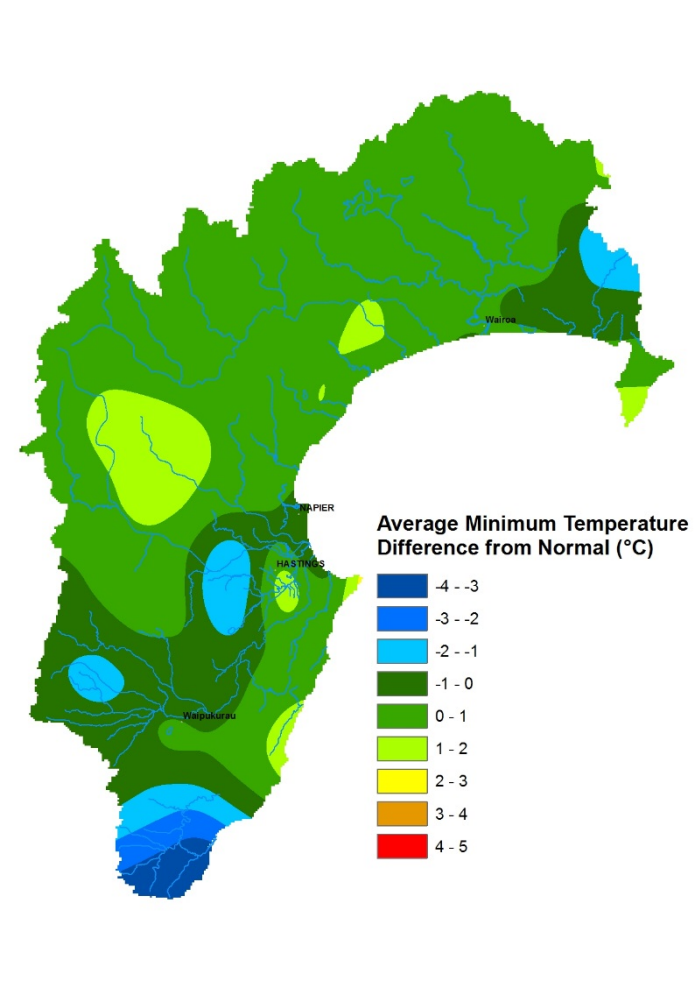
Mean Difference from Normal

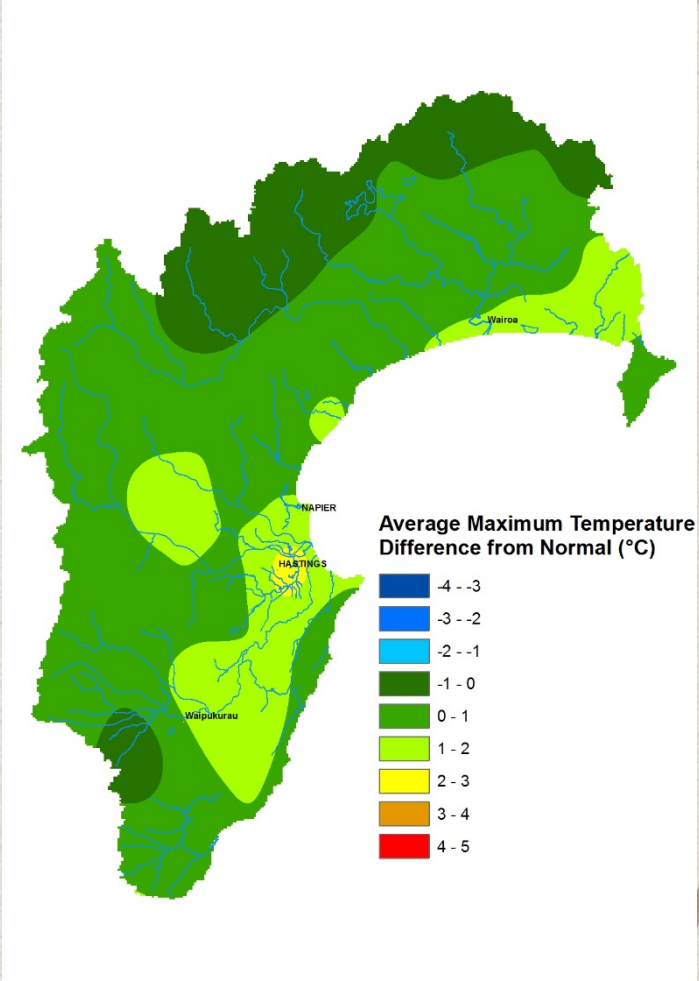
Maximum Temperature: 1.0°C
Minimum Temperature: 0.3°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 19°C
Mean Daily Minimum: 9°C

Highest Daily: 28.6°C
Location: Bridge Pa

Lowest Daily: -1.5°C
Location: Taharua





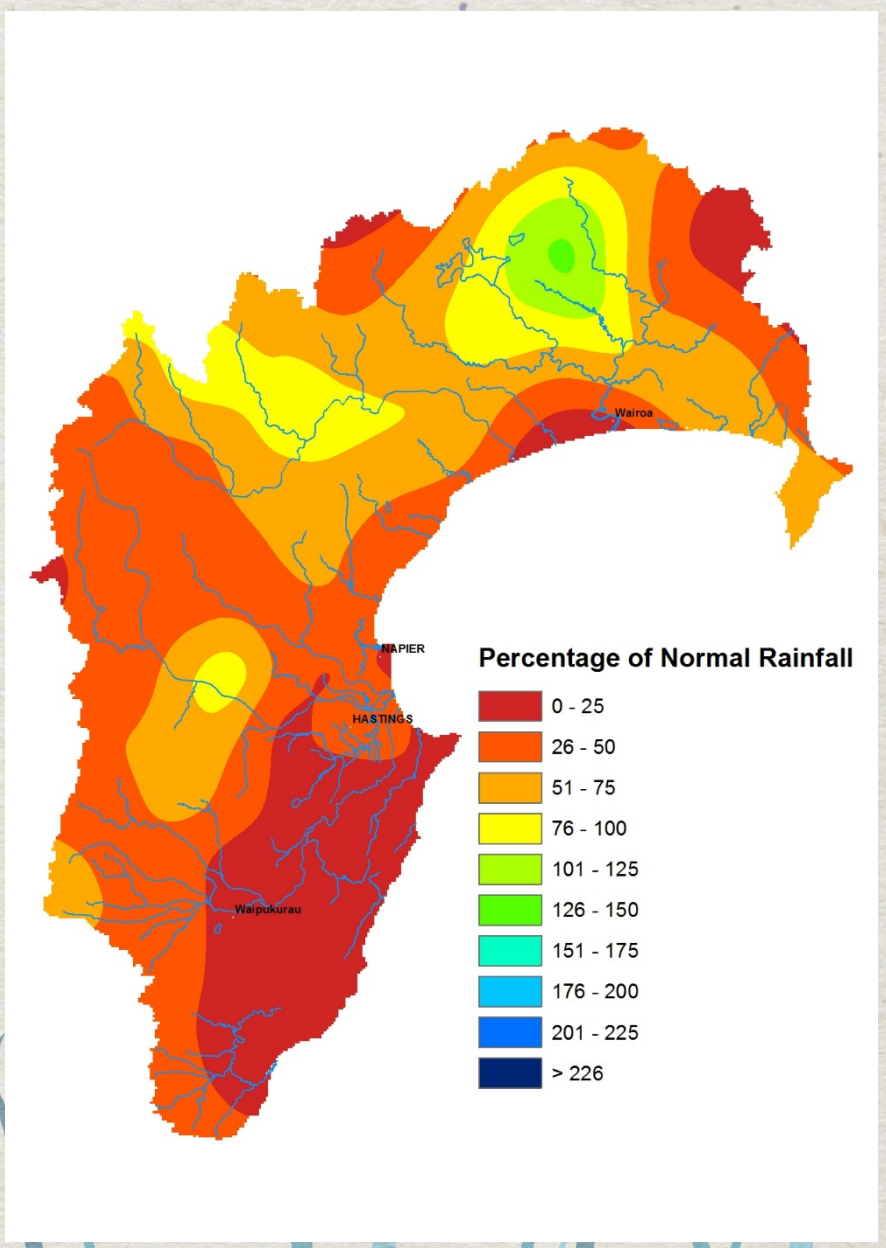
RAINFALL

Below normal, increasingly so as you head south

Percentage of normal April rainfall
(30 year average)

For areas in the region:

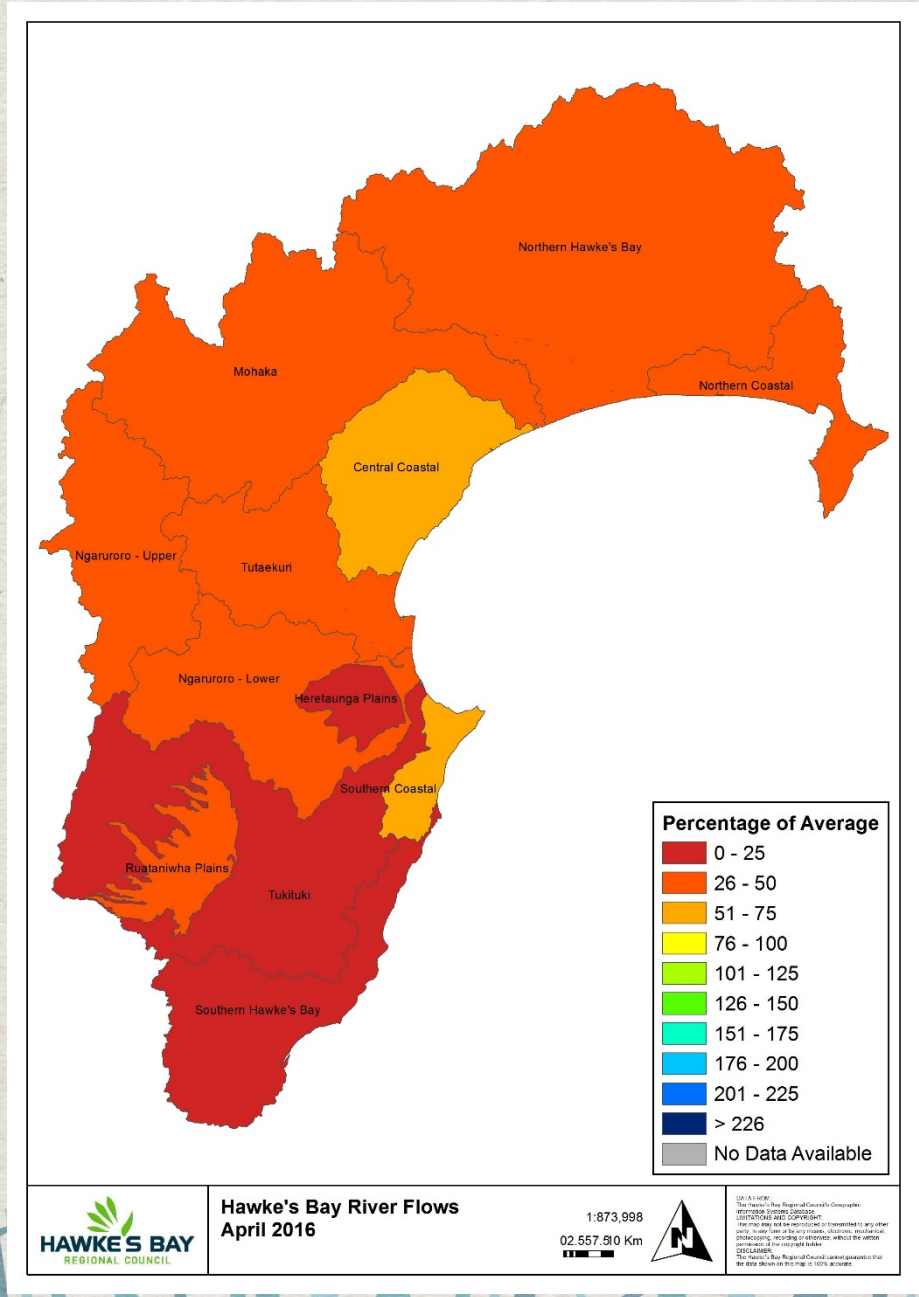
Waikaremoana	82%
Northern HB	58%
Tangoio	55%
Kaweka	32%
Ruahine	45%
Heretaunga Plains	33%
Ruataniwha Plains	28%
Southern HB	20%
Hawke's Bay Region	**44%**



RIVER FLOW

Percentage of average April flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coastal	41%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	40%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	39%
Northern HB – Waiau River	60%
Mohaka	40%
Central Coastal	63%
Tūtaekuri	33%
Heretaunga Plains	19%
Ngaruroro - Upper	45%
Ngaruroro - Lower	26%
Southern Coastal	58%
Ruataniwha Plains	27%
Tukituki	23%
Southern HB	0%
Hawke’s Bay Region	37%



GROUNDWATER & SOIL

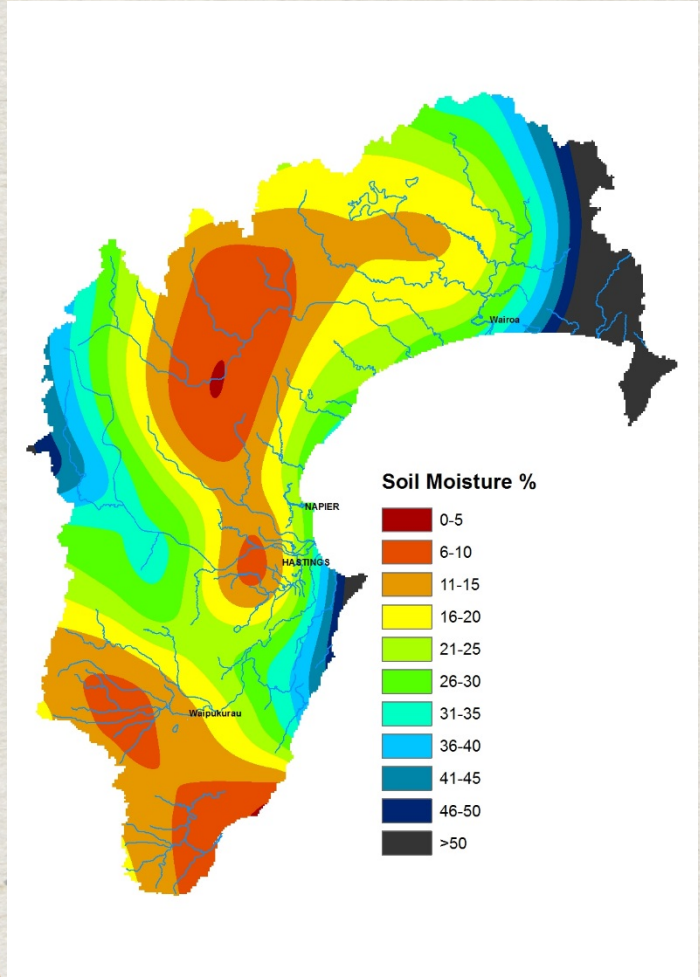
Groundwater Levels

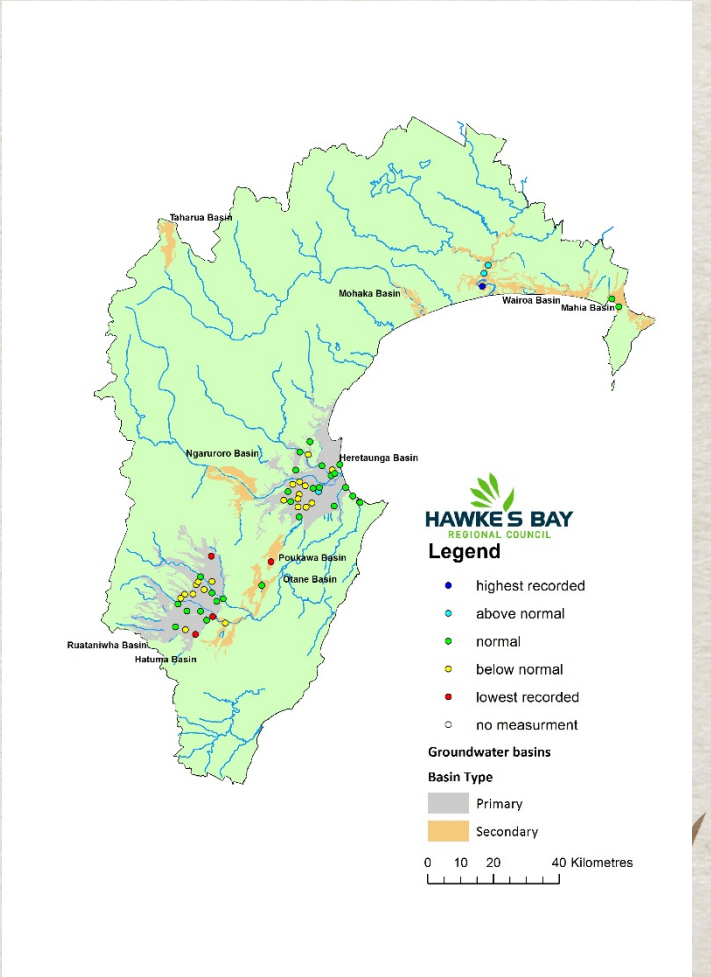
Heretaunga Basin
A mix of normal and below normal water levels.

Ruataniwha Basin
A mix of normal and below normal water levels.

Secondary Basins
Normal water levels in Northern Hawke's Bay.

Soil Moisture
Near normal in the north and below normal in the south

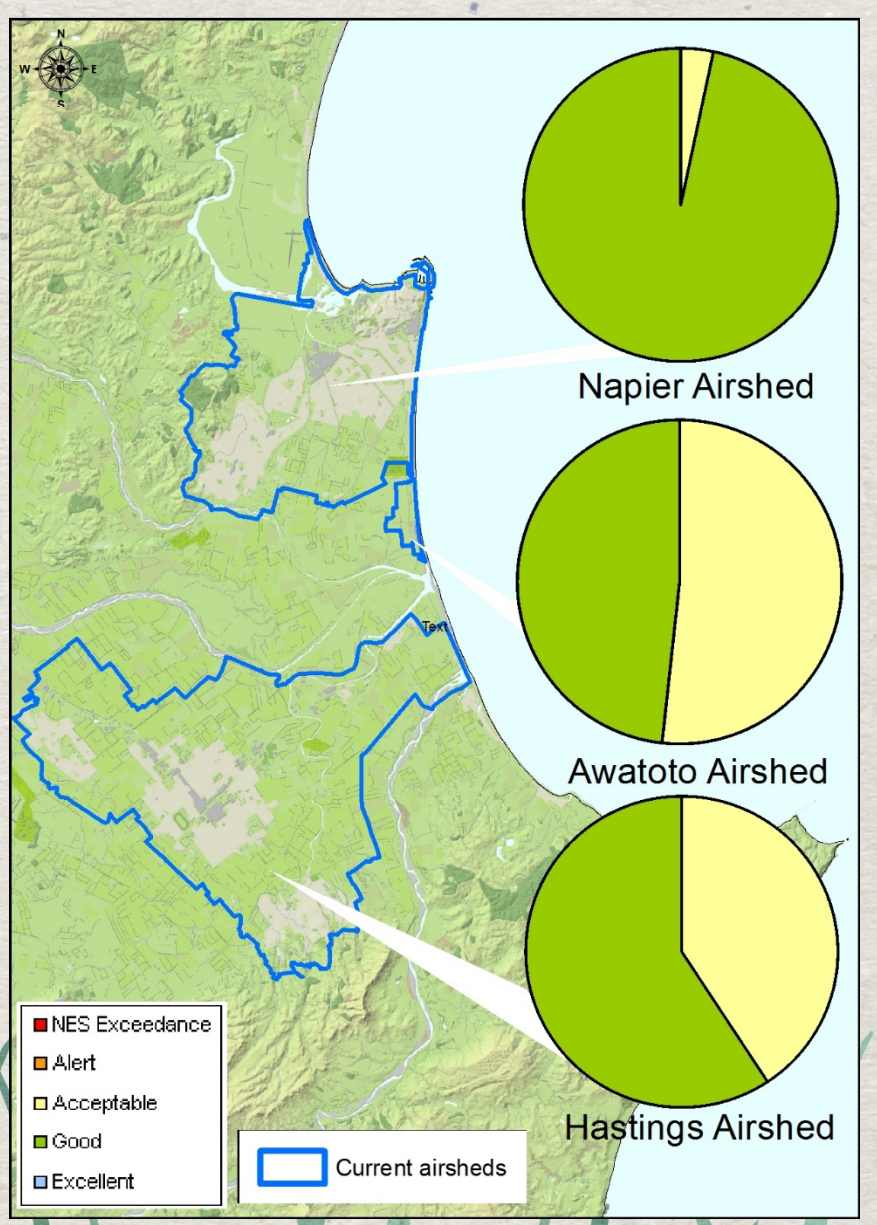




April 2016 - All good!

PM_{10} exceedances:
The National Environmental Standard (NES) for particulate matter (PM_{10}) of 50 micrograms per cubic metre (24 hour average) was not exceeded in the Hastings, Napier and Awatoto airsheds in April 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.



MINISTRY FOR
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

April 2016

Dry conditions spread north and pasture growth halted in eastern areas south of Napier during the second half of April. The current situation is concerning as pasture growth at this time of the year is important for building up pasture covers to carry farms through winter and early spring.

Despite reduced feed demand due to less dairy grazing and earlier than usual destocking, pasture covers are falling on many sheep and beef farms. These farmers are hoping decent rain arrives soon. Dairy farmers in the generally better off western areas of the region would also welcome rain.

The dry weather in April helped with the harvesting of apples and winegrapes and harvest is now nearing completion. Winemakers are indicating that the 2016 grape vintage in Hawke's Bay will be another good vintage for the region.

Growers are having to irrigate some orchards and vineyards following harvest to ensure good tree and vine health going into winter.