

AUGUST 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
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August 2016

Winter is apparently over having only just arrived. July is our coldest month typically but August took up the mantle this year and in the process scuppered a stellar, seven month run of warmer than average temperatures. Another shock was the rain – we were flush with it after a reasonably dry stretch since February. The Heretaunga Plains and northwards up the coast cashed in big time and recorded more than double the average August totals. River levels rebounded after months of being defiantly below normal and soil moisture levels hover near to above average. The turn in fortunes doesn't stop there. Air quality ended on a high note after a wobbly June and July. Having had half my bedding go AWOL from my washing line and injuring myself lunging over fences to retrieve it, I can safely say a bothersome wind played its part.

P.S. Apologies there is no groundwater report this month. Our groundwater team has been focused on recent events in Havelock North.

Kathleen Kozyniak
Principal Scientist Climate and Air



SUMMARY – AUGUST 2016

The short summary

A shock to the system – cold and wet

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

September to November Forecast

Temperature – above average

Rainfall – near or above normal

River flows – near or above normal

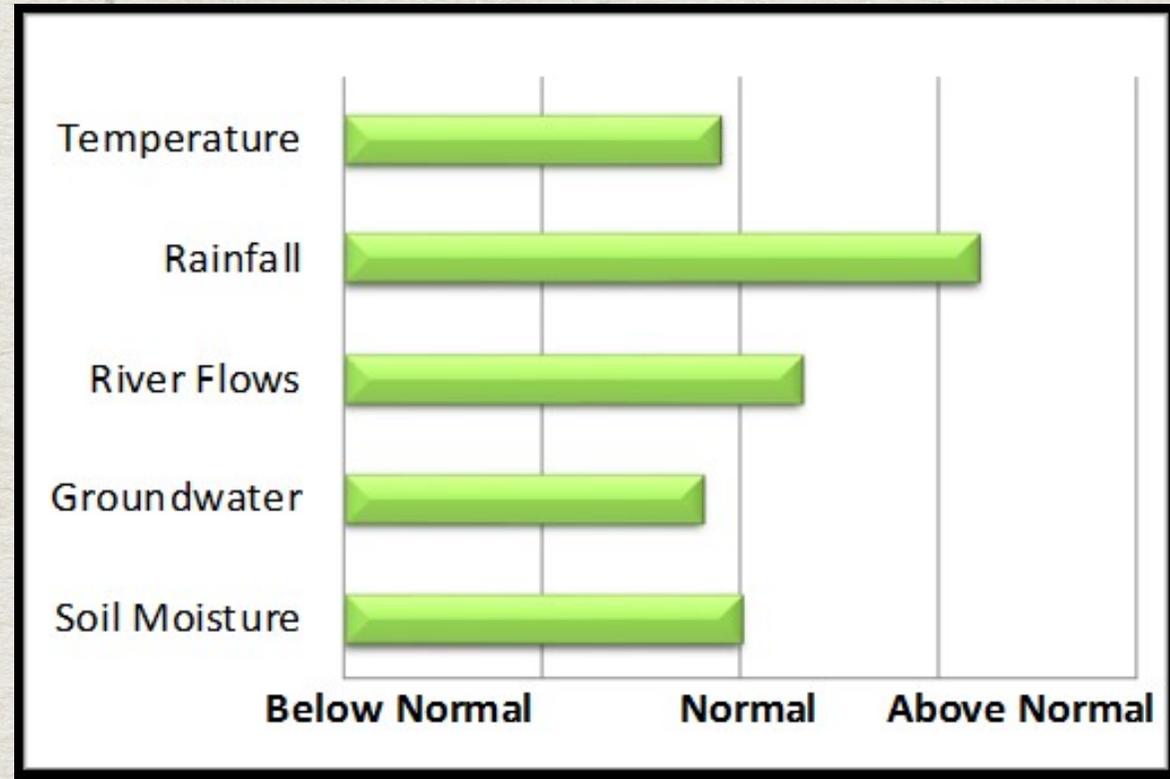
Soil moisture – near or above normal

(source : NIWA)

For more information

www.hbrc.govt.nz

P: 06 835 9200



TEMPERATURES

Colder than usual - the run of balmy weather ends.

Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: -0.6°C

Minimum Temperature: -0.3°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 12°C

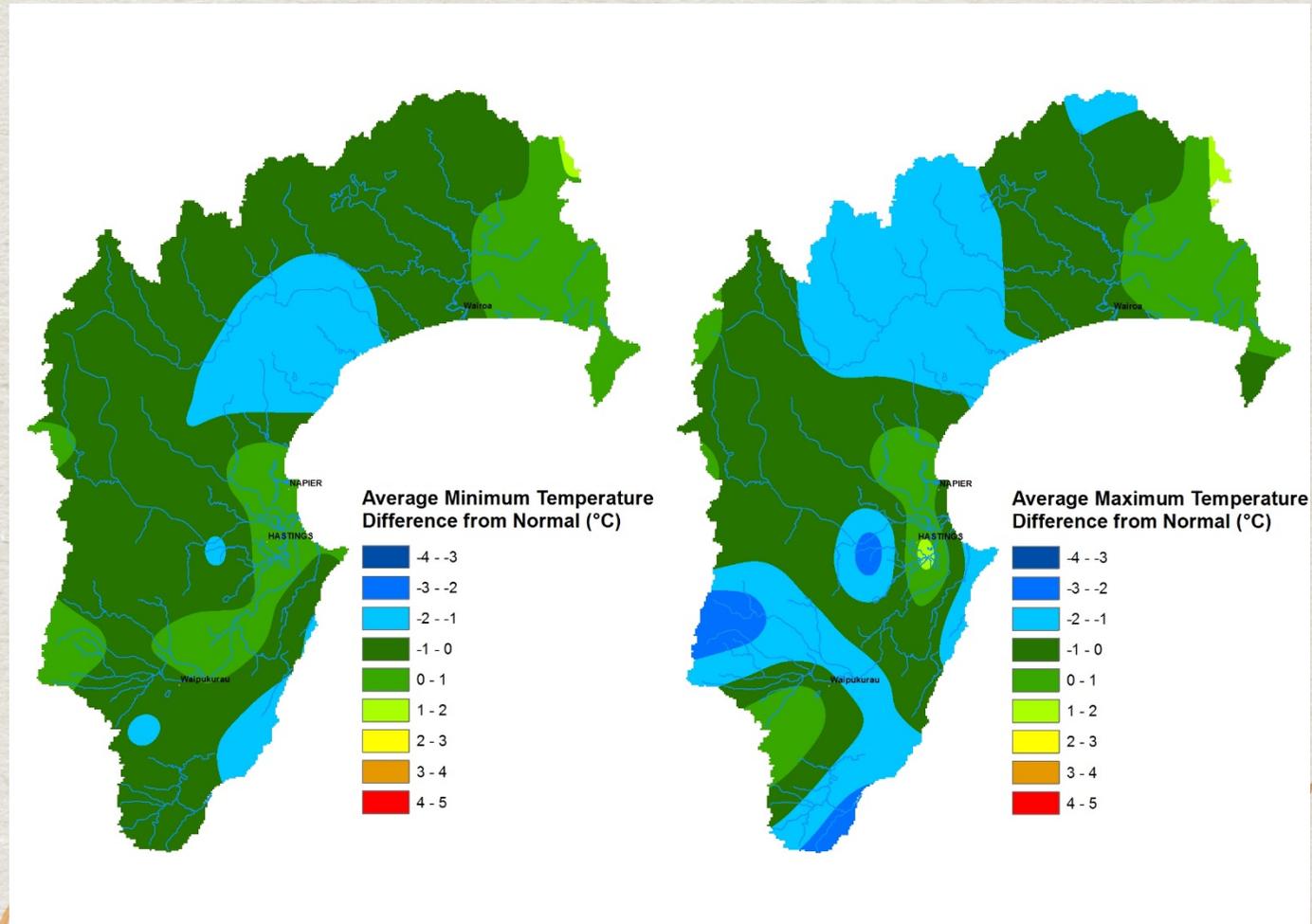
Mean Daily Minimum: 4°C

Highest Daily: 22°C

Location: Napier EWS (Nelson Park)

Lowest Daily: -4.6°C

Location: Taharua



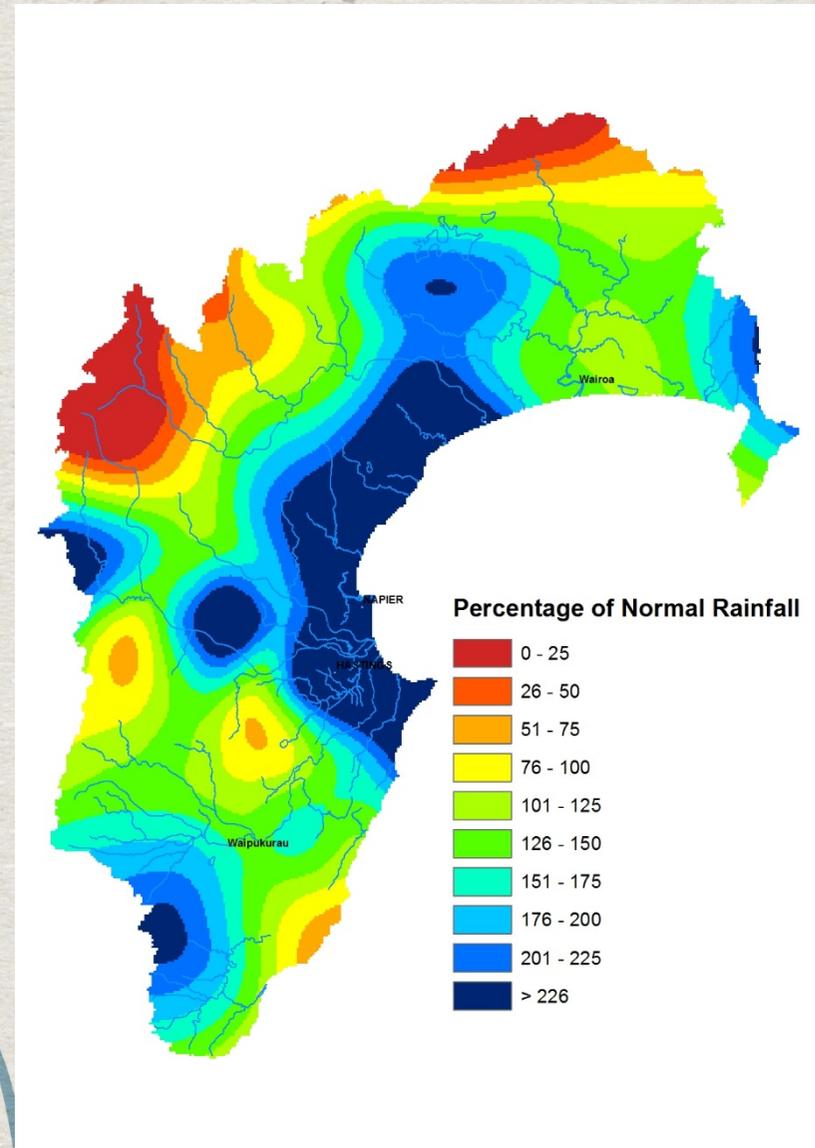
RAINFALL

Not what we're used to, rather wet.

Percentage of normal August rainfall
(30 year average)

For areas in the region:

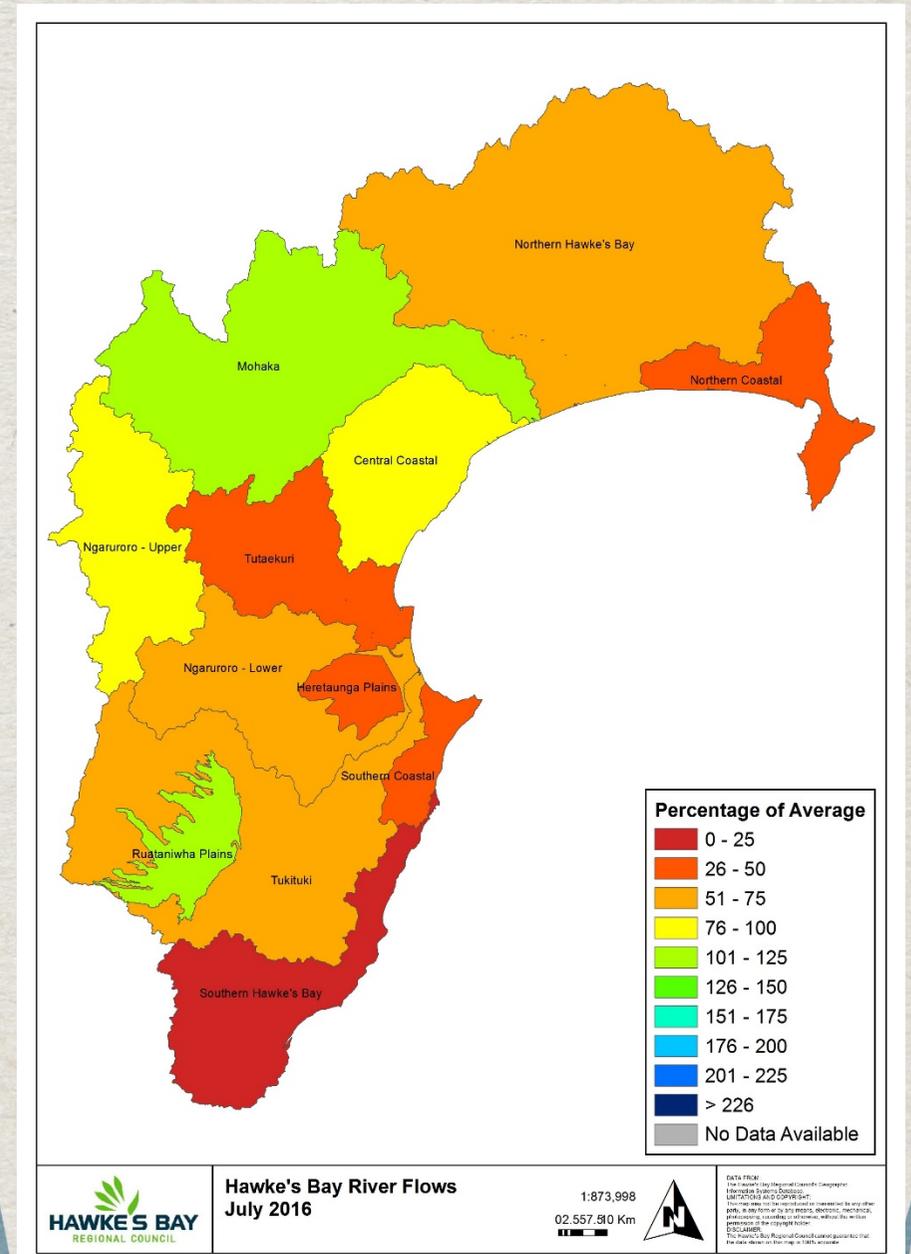
Waikaremoana	142%
Northern HB	170%
Tangoio	216%
Kaweka	124%
Ruahine	106%
Heretaunga Plains	224%
Ruataniwha Plains	149%
Southern HB	177%
Hawke's Bay Region	164%



RIVER FLOW

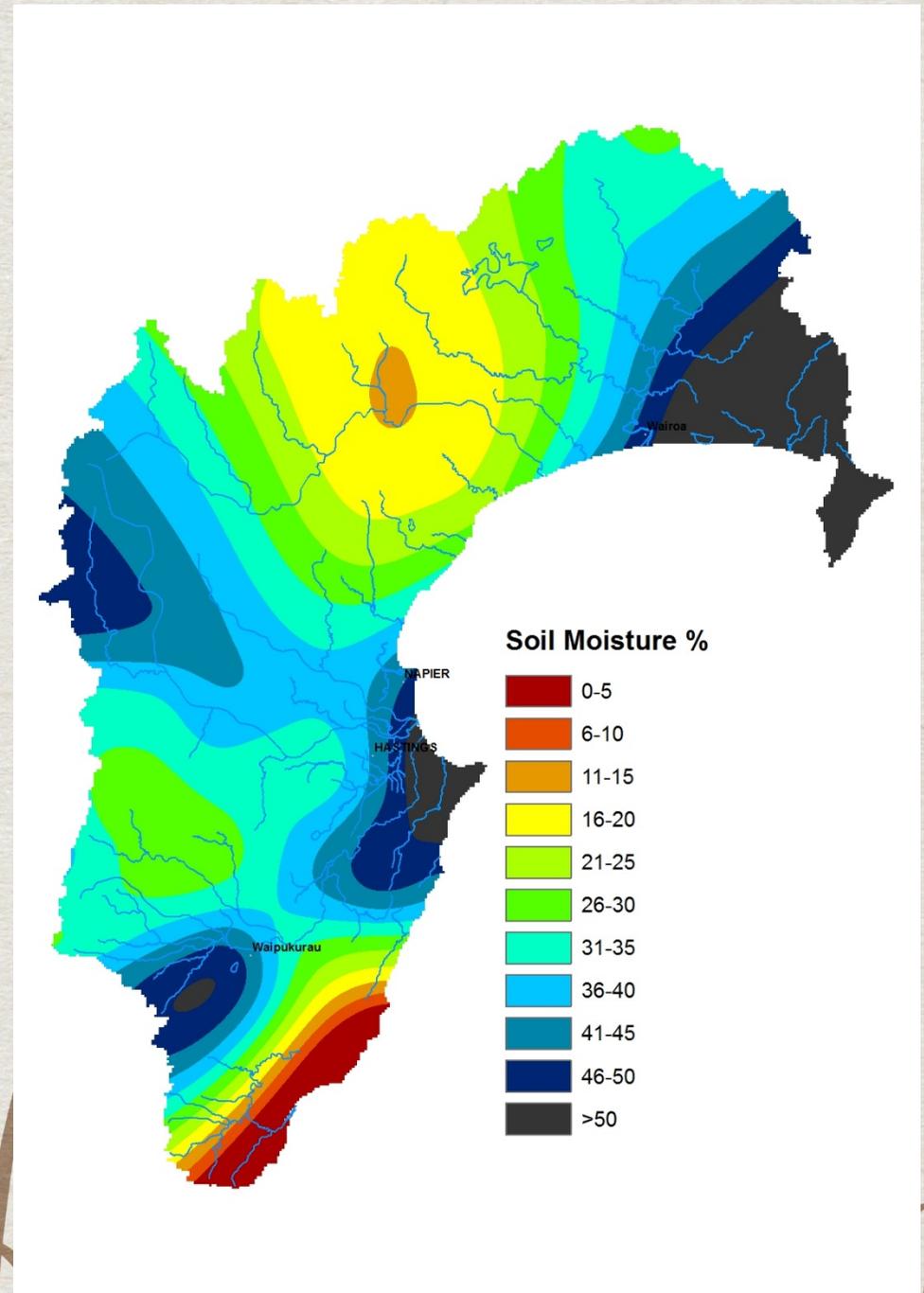
Percentage of average August flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coastal	72%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	81%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	100%
Northern HB – Waiau River	179%
Mohaka	158%
Central Coastal	195%
Tūtaekuri	147%
Heretaunga Plains	59%
Ngaruroro - Upper	117%
Ngaruroro - Lower	132%
Southern Coastal	97%
Ruataniwha Plains	165%
Tukituki	107%
Southern HB	86%
Hawke's Bay Region	121%



SOIL MOISTURE

Soil Moisture
Near to above average



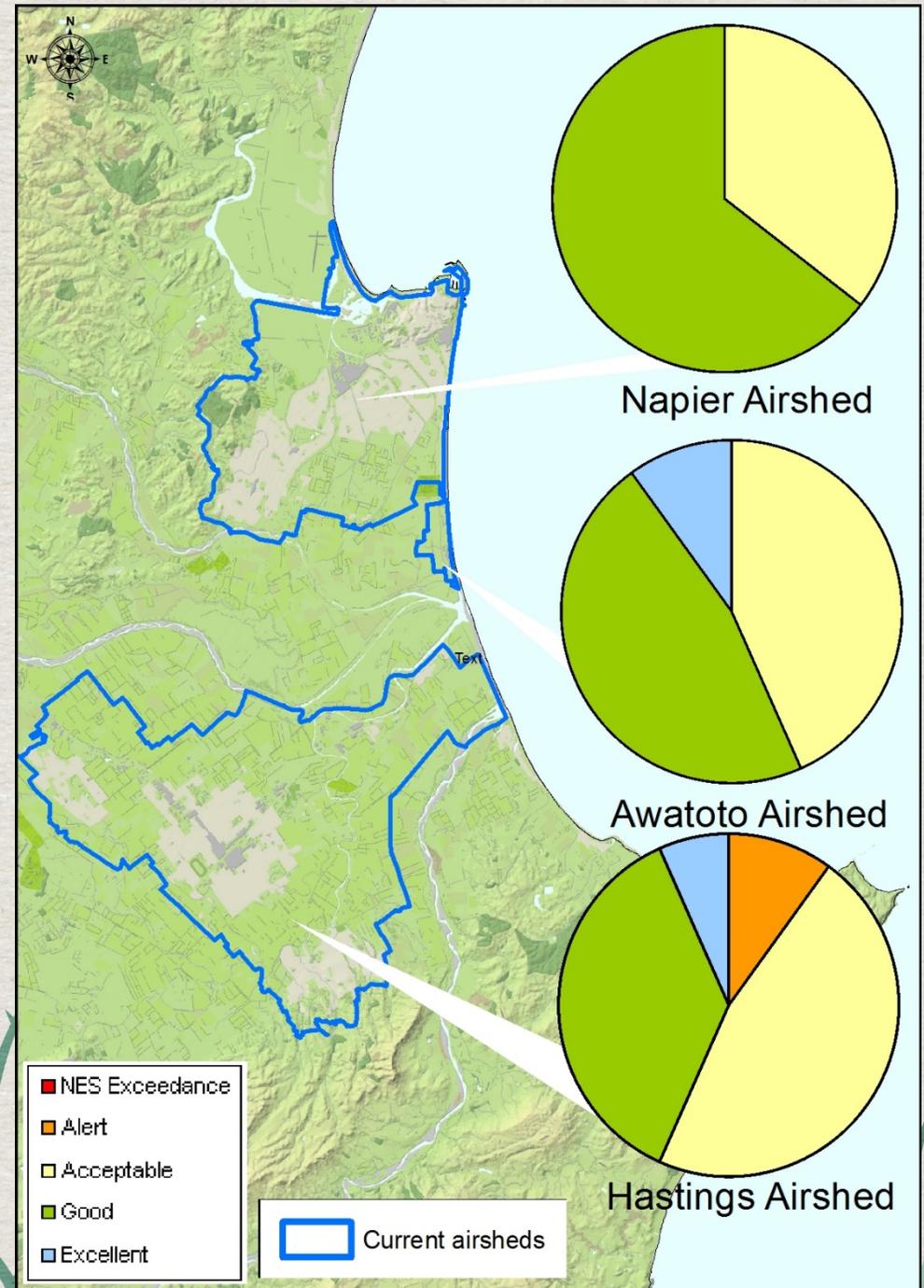
August 2016 – Good (pewh!)

PM₁₀ exceedances:

The National Environmental Standard (NES) for particulate matter (PM₁₀) of 50 micrograms per cubic metre (24 hour average) was not exceeded in the Napier, Hastings and Awatoto airsheds in August 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.



AUGUST 2016

Heavy rain and snow over 5 and 6 August caused significant issues for the region including some large losses of newborn lambs. Downed power lines disrupted milking for up to five days in the high country north of Napier. Heavy snow in the ranges near Puketitiri and the Maungaharuru Range isolated stock and on a few farms, hay was dropped to cattle by helicopter.

Despite the adverse impacts on some farms, the early August rain was welcomed by farmers and growers following a very dry autumn and early winter period. More rain is needed to replenish soil moisture levels heading into summer. Pasture covers on sheep and beef farms are low to adequate and growth is just keeping up with increasing demand from stock. A lot of nitrogen has been applied to kick start spring pasture growth.

On dairy farms, pasture covers are good following the early August rain. Calving has gone well and cows are in good condition. Winter crop areas are being re-sown into pasture and summer crops.

The dry conditions over autumn and much of winter meant little interruption to maintenance work, pruning and new and replacement plantings on orchards and vineyards.

Winter chill has been slow to accumulate with some colder weather in August making an important contribution. Indications so far are that the seasons for pipfruit, summerfruit and kiwifruit are running later than last year.