JULY 2017

Hawke's Day Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

TEMPERATURES
RAINFALL
RIVER FLOW
GROUNDWATER & SOIL
AIR QUALITY
MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL | Environmental Science

HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

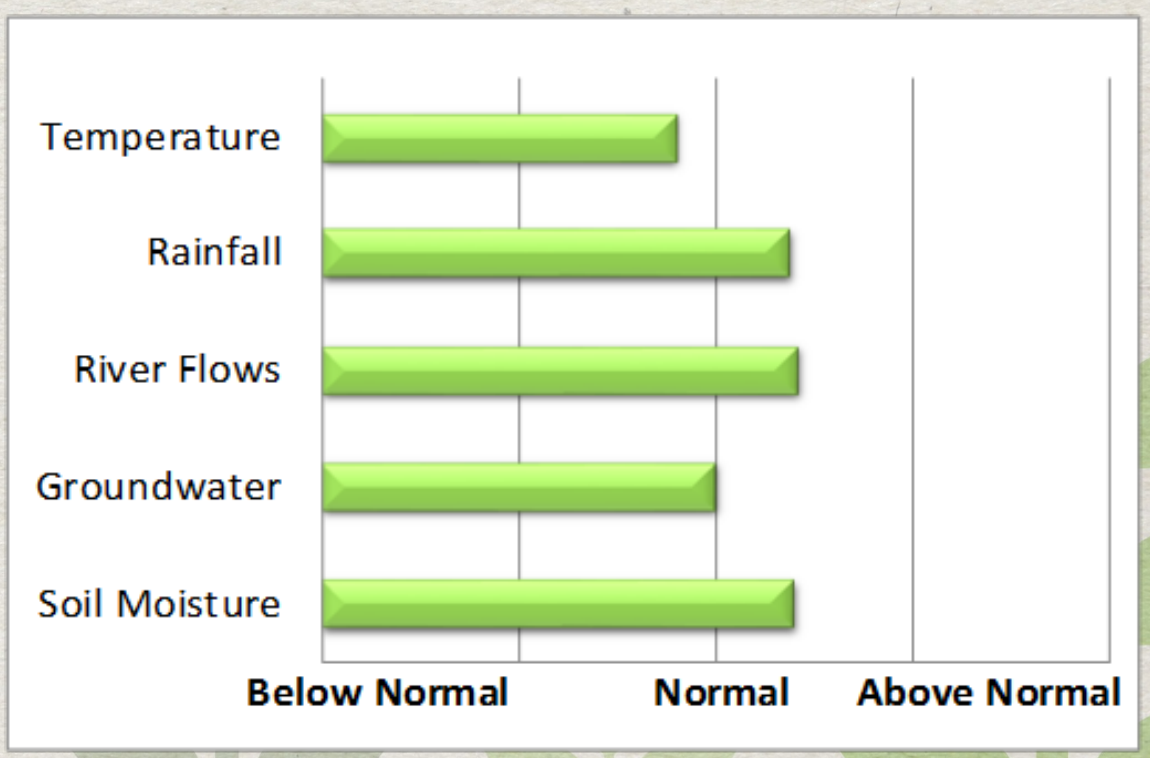
JULY 2017

July is a winner (not) at the best times, being the coldest and wettest month of the year typically. So when it's even colder and wetter than average, you know you've had a real treat. Northern parts of the region continued the wet theme they've had for much of the year whereas the rest of us trundled through July around normal. River flows ended the month well up, as did soil moisture and groundwater levels. June and July 2016 were particularly warm so average temperatures this year were always going to feel bleak, only to be compounded by the feebleness dished up. Sadly, the shine of June's star performer, i.e. air quality, dimmed somewhat in July with our first exceedance in Hastings for the year. That'll teach me for being such a braggart!

Kathleen Kozyniak
Principal Scientist Climate & Air

The short summary – truly wintry, cold and kind of 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.



August to October Forecast

Temperature	Above average
Rain	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

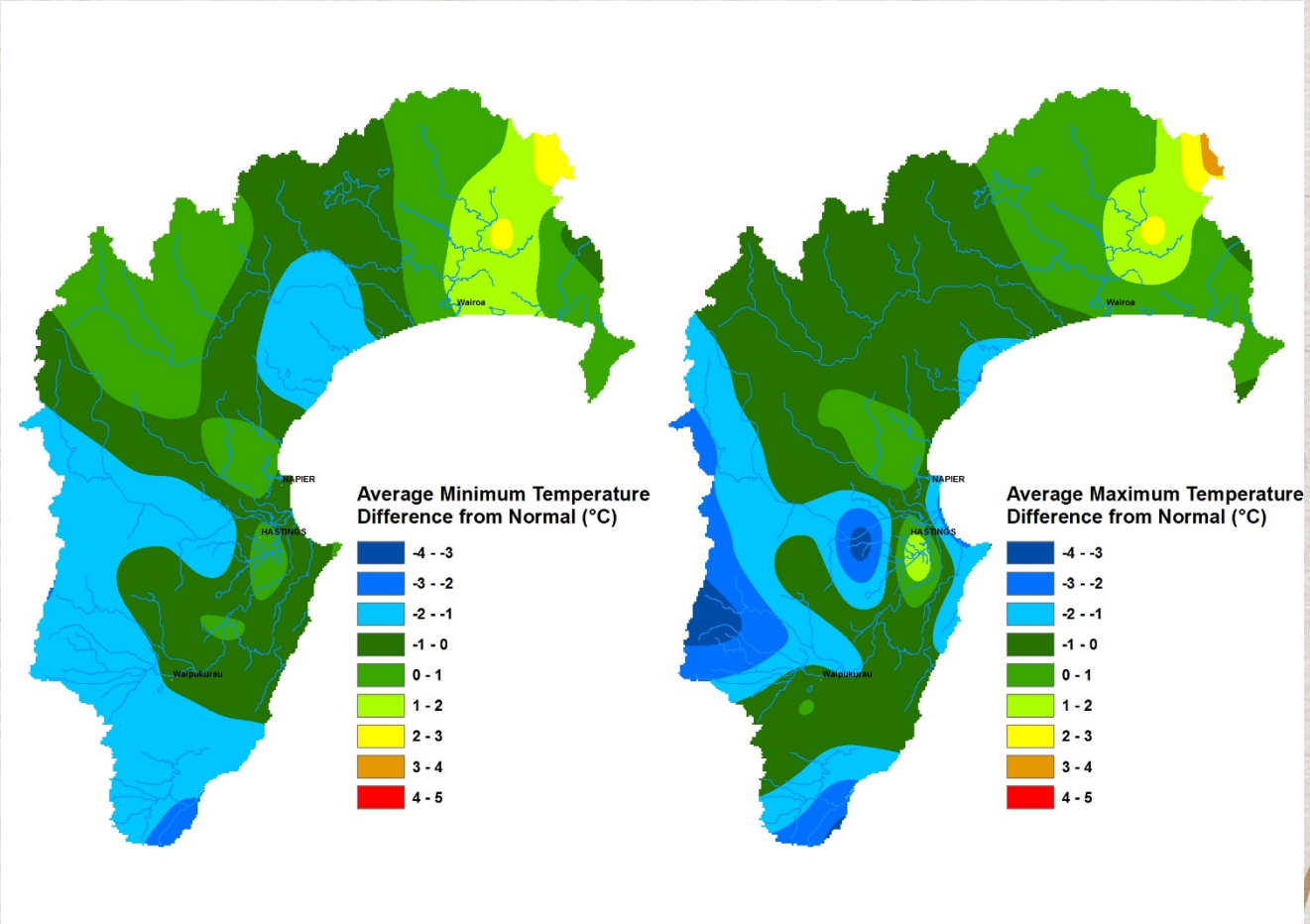
Brrrr! Below normal.

Mean Difference from Normal
Maximum Temperature: -0.6°C
Minimum Temperature: -0.4°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 11°C
Mean Daily Minimum: 4°C

Highest Daily: 19.2°C
Location: Wairoa North Clyde EWS

Lowest Daily: -6.9°C
Location: Taharua



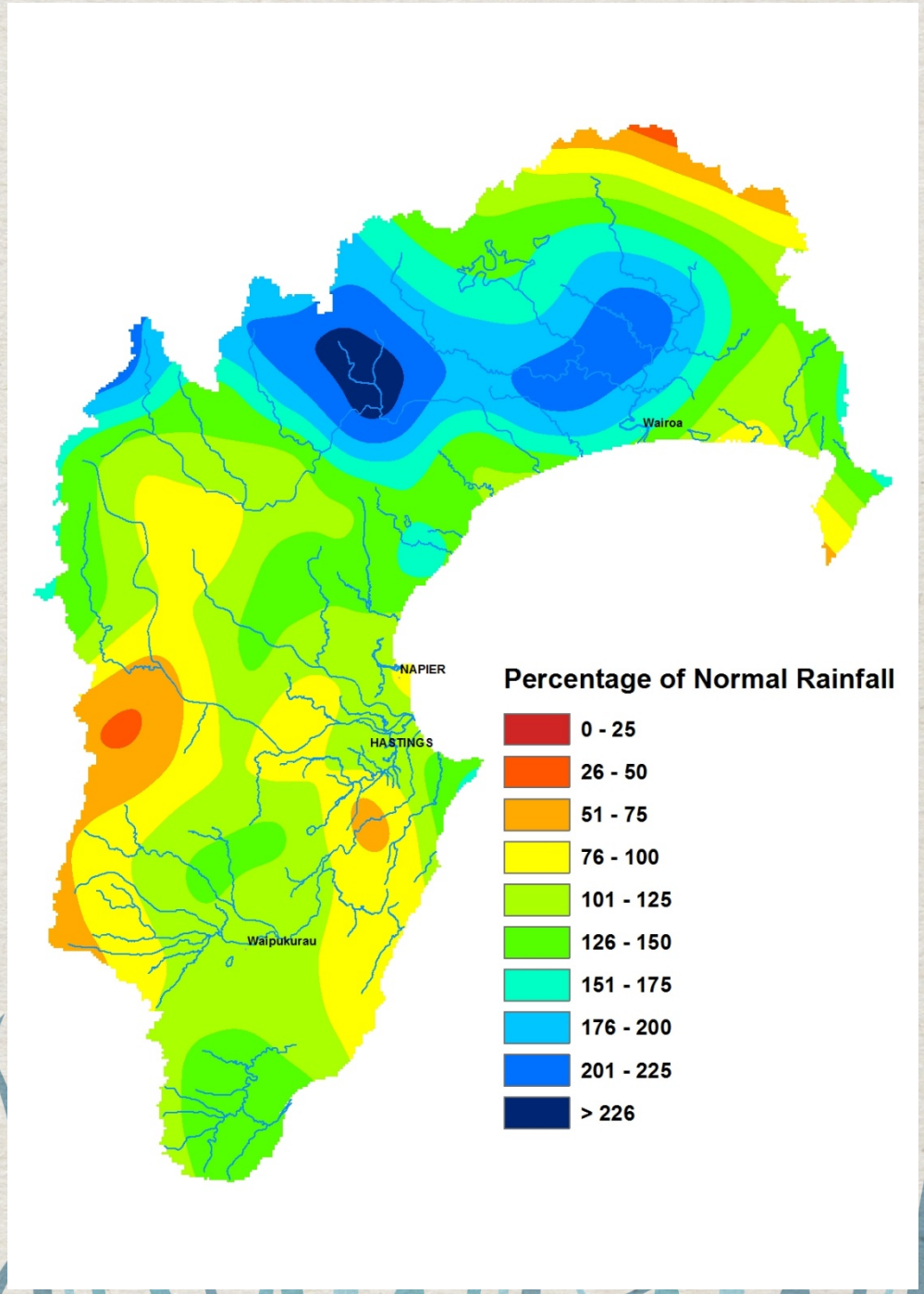
RAINFALL

Borderline above normal

Percentage of normal July rainfall
(30 year average)

For areas in the region:

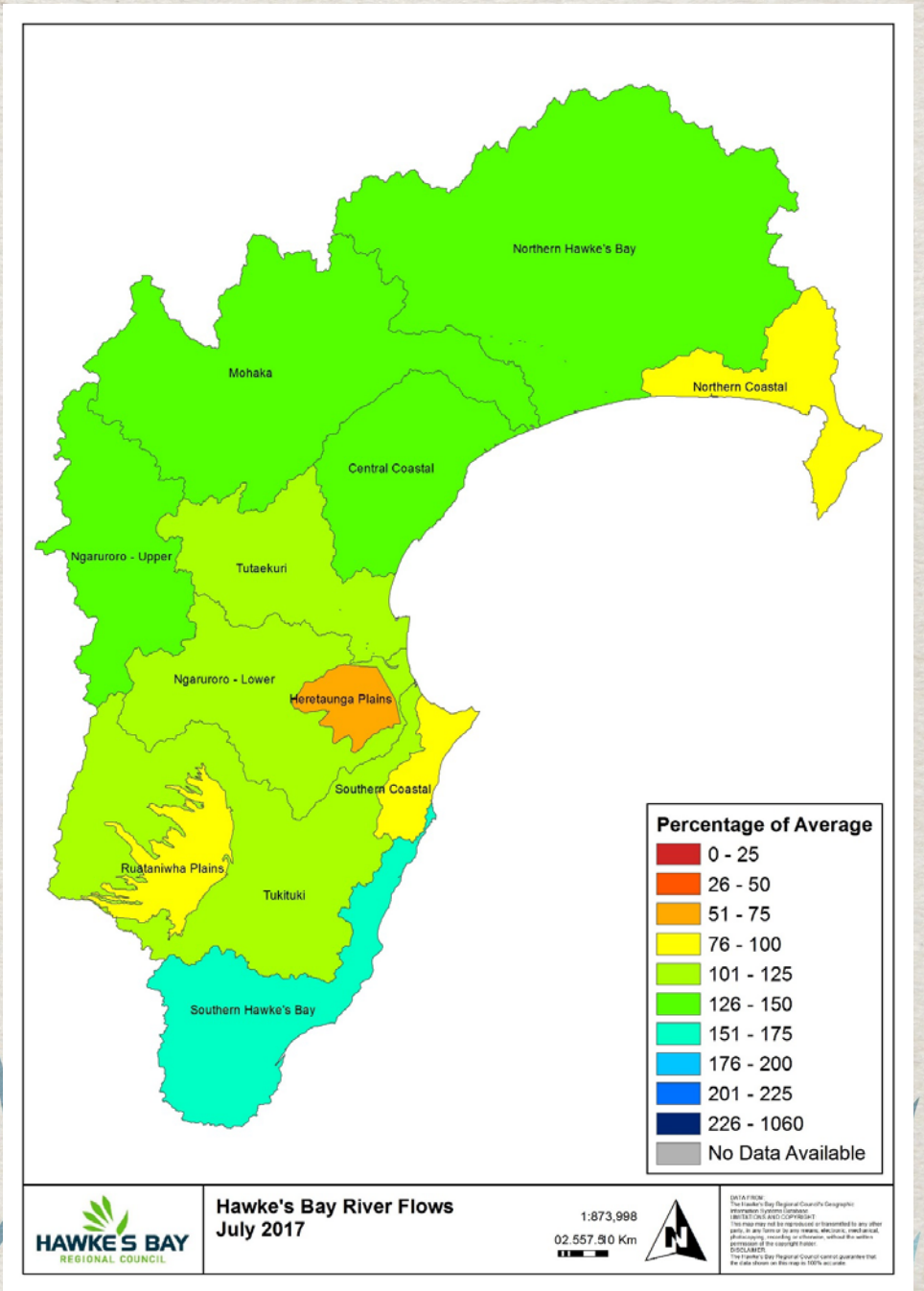
Waikaremoana	155%
Northern HB	169%
Tangoio	142%
Kaweka	91%
Ruahine	71%
Heretaunga Plains	100%
Ruataniwha Plains	108%
Southern HB	115%
Hawke's Bay Region	**119%**



RIVER FLOW

Percentage of average July flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coastal	100%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	131%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	137%
Northern HB – Waiau River	183%
Mohaka	141%
Central Coastal	142%
Tūtaekuri	115%
Heretaunga Plains	73%
Ngaruroro - Upper	132%
Ngaruroro - Lower	114%
Southern Coastal	85%
Ruataniwha Plains	100%
Tukituki	102%
Southern HB	152%
Hawke's Bay Region	**122%**



GROUNDWATER & SOIL

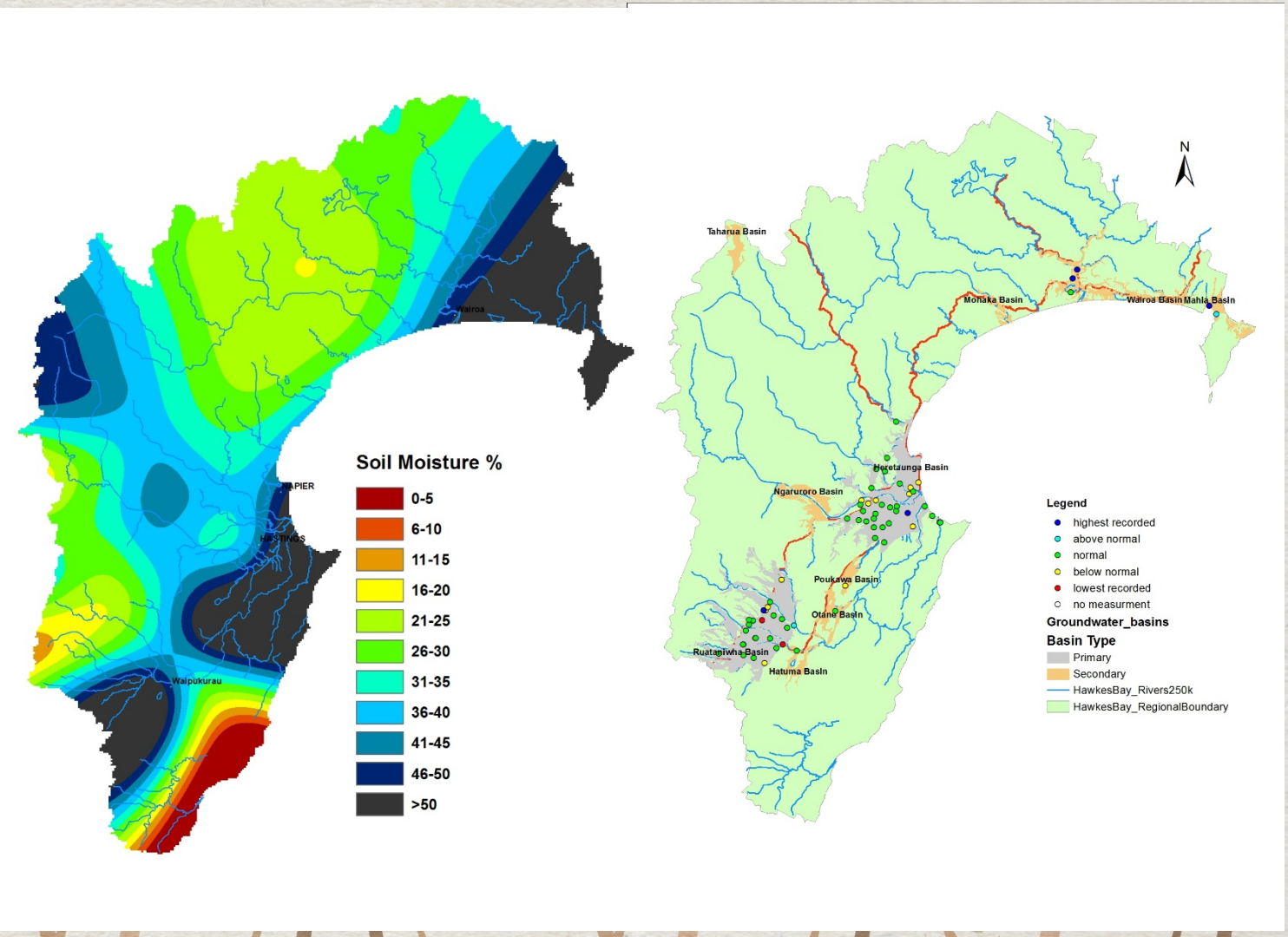
Groundwater Levels

Heretaunga Basin
Mainly normal water levels

Ruataniwha Basin
Mainly normal water levels

Secondary Basins
Above normal water levels

Soil Moisture
Above normal

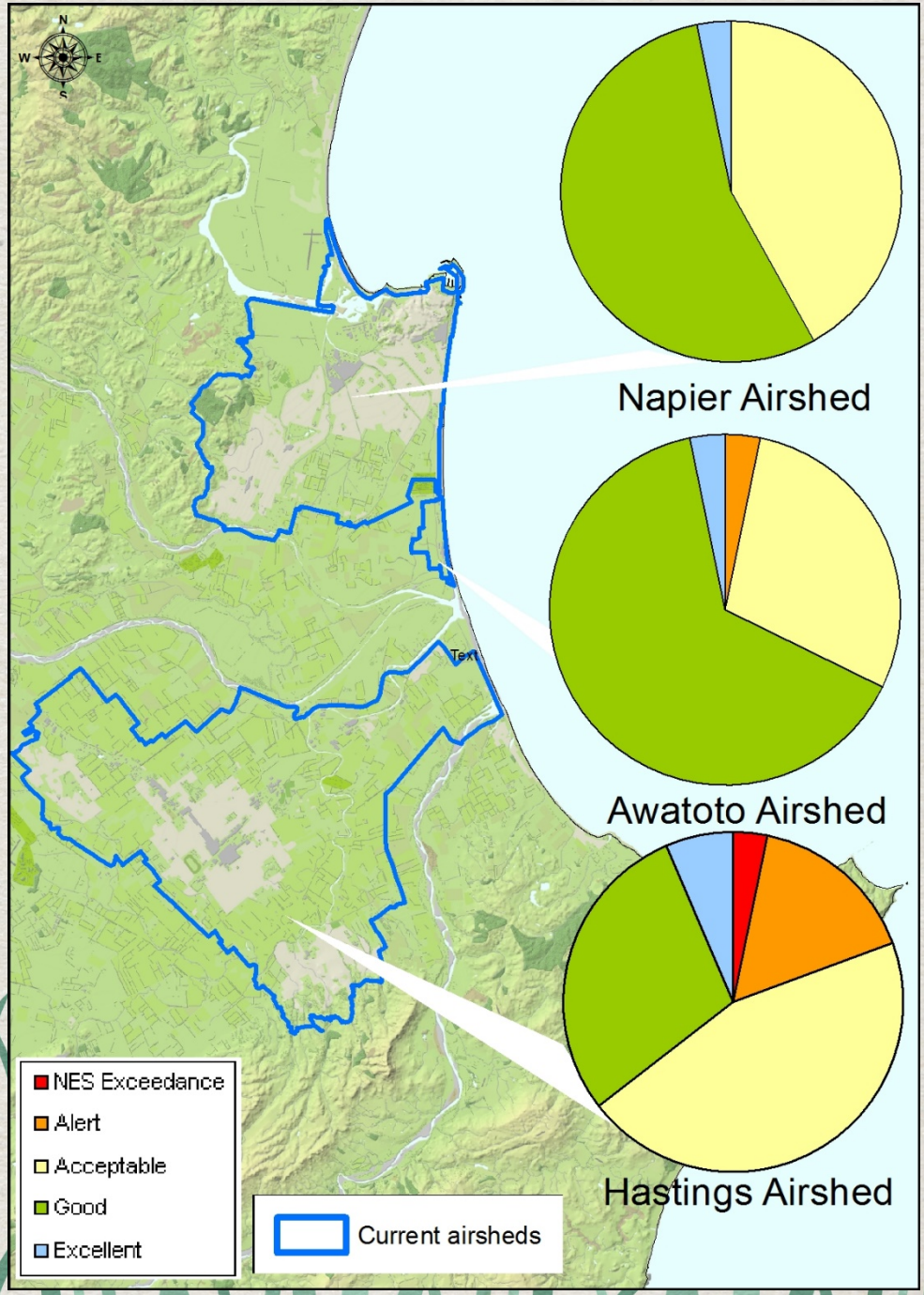


July 2017

Could have been worse, could have been better.

PM_{10} exceedances:
The National Environmental Standard (NES) for particulate matter (PM_{10}) of 50 micrograms per cubic metre (24 hour average) was exceeded on one occasion in the Hastings airshed and not exceeded in the Awatoto and Napier airsheds in July 2017.

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 OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

MPI comment for July 2017

Soils throughout the region remain saturated with soil temperatures colder than normal for the time of year.

The muddy conditions have made seasonal tasks difficult such as stock work on farms, and pruning, maintenance work and new plantings on orchards and vineyards. Farmers and growers are hoping for some dry spells in August to allow the excess moisture to drain away as spring approaches.

Winter chill accumulation has been good and is ahead of recent years, so there is potential for fruit crops to be earlier than last season in particular.

The mid-July storm, with snow to low levels in Central Hawke's Bay and heavy rain and slips in coastal and northern Hawke's Bay, arrived early enough not to cause significant lamb losses.

Although most farms went into winter with very good pasture covers, even those with lower stock numbers than in past years report that there is very little spare feed around now. Conditions haven't been overly cold but a lot of feed has been trampled in the wet, meaning less available for stock to eat. Stock growth rates on sheep and beef farms have been somewhat constrained by the winter conditions, especially in lower-lying areas. Pasture covers will improve as soils dry out. Stock condition is generally good and feed levels are adequate to maintain this.

Better fed stock and good overall scanning results have sheep farmers hoping for good lamb numbers. The outlook for lamb and beef prices is good and should help mitigate disappointing wool prices.

Dairy farmers were pleased with the recent increase in Fonterra's forecast milk price to $6.75 per kilogram of milksolids. Calving is in full swing and milk production has got off to a good start. There is strong demand for calves for rearing.