

July 2018

Hawke's Bay Trends

TEMPERATURES
RAINFALL
RIVER FLOW
GROUNDWATER & SOIL
LONGER FORECAST
AIR QUALITY

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

July 2018

For those who abstained in “dry July”, you weren’t alone. Rainfall went out in sympathy with you. The area around Wairoa had only 20% of its July average while all other areas, apart from the main ranges, didn’t top 50%. River flows faltered but soil moisture held ground at levels typical for the time of year. Groundwater levels were mixed and could be more encouraging in places when looking at the forecasts ahead. Daytime temperatures debunked my mum’s deluded theory that it’s the “coldest winter ever” but, in her defence, some parts of the region had frosts galore. Local folk at Ongaonga breakfasted in below zero temperatures more often than not. We suffered two air quality exceedances in Hastings, which saddened the heart, but both times by a paltry $2\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Agonisingly close...

Kathleen Kozyniak
Principal Scientist Climate and Air



The short summary

Really dry and deceptively warm

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 November

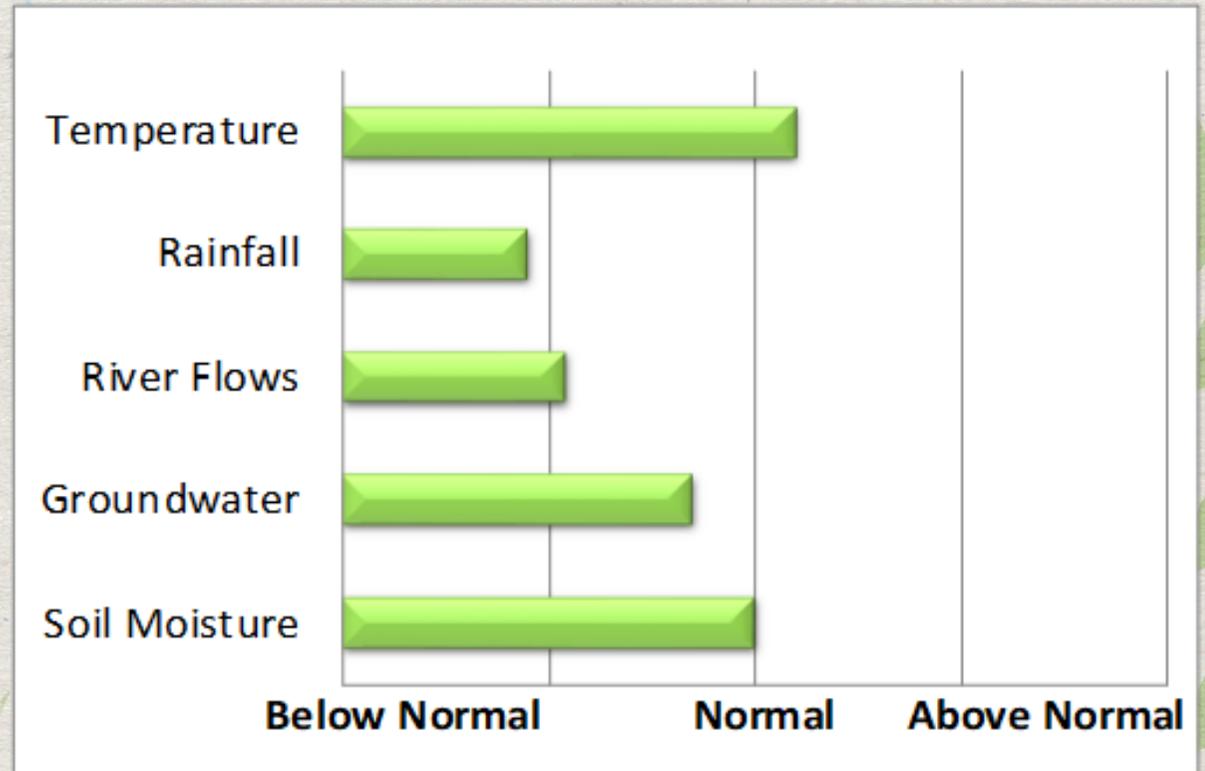
Temperature *Near average*
Rain *Near or below normal*
River flows *Near or below normal*
Soil moisture *Near or below normal*

(source : NIWA)

For more information

www.hbrc.govt.nz

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RAINFALL

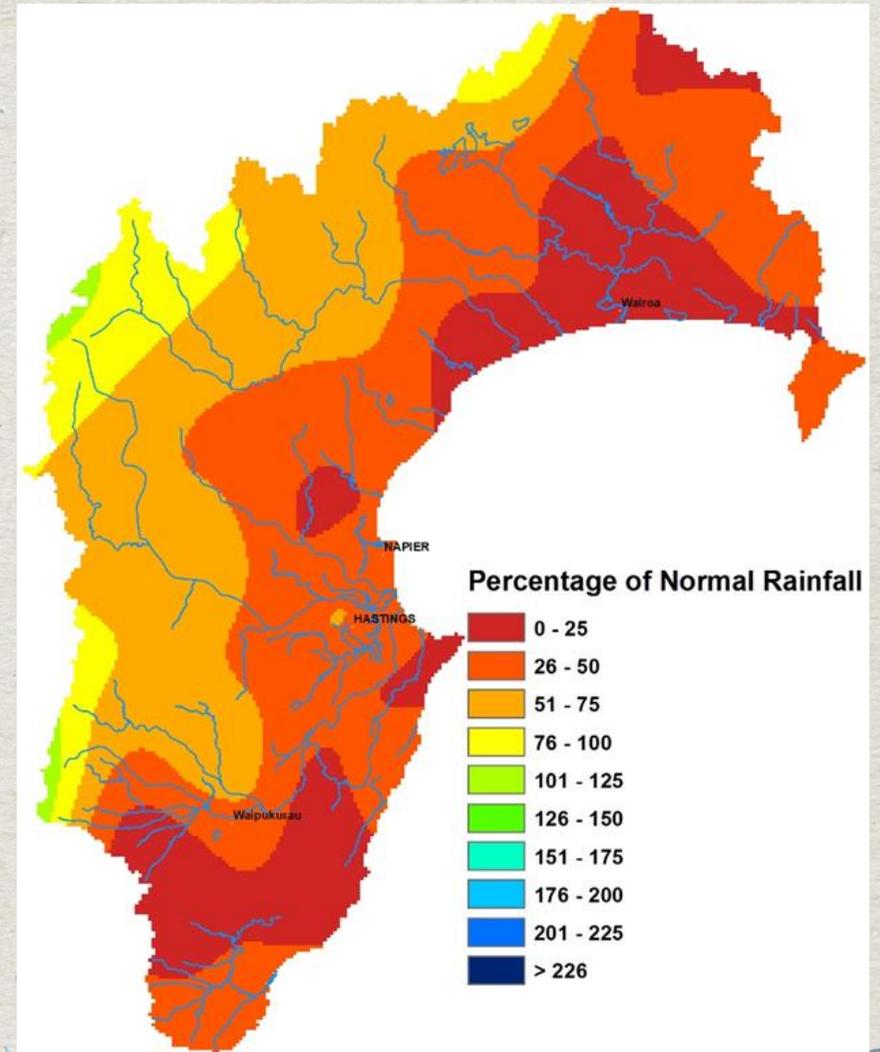
Rainfall – Half the average or less for most and no lightning strikes (cloud to ground) over land

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

Percentage of normal July rainfall
(30 year average)

For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	42%
Northern HB	20%
Tangoio	39%
Kaweka	61%
Ruahine	83%
Heretaunga Plains	41%
Ruataniwha Plains	41%
Southern HB	27%
Hawke's Bay Region	44%



TEMPERATURES

Warm days but plenty of overnight frosts

Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 1.0°C

Minimum Temperature: -0.2°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 13°C

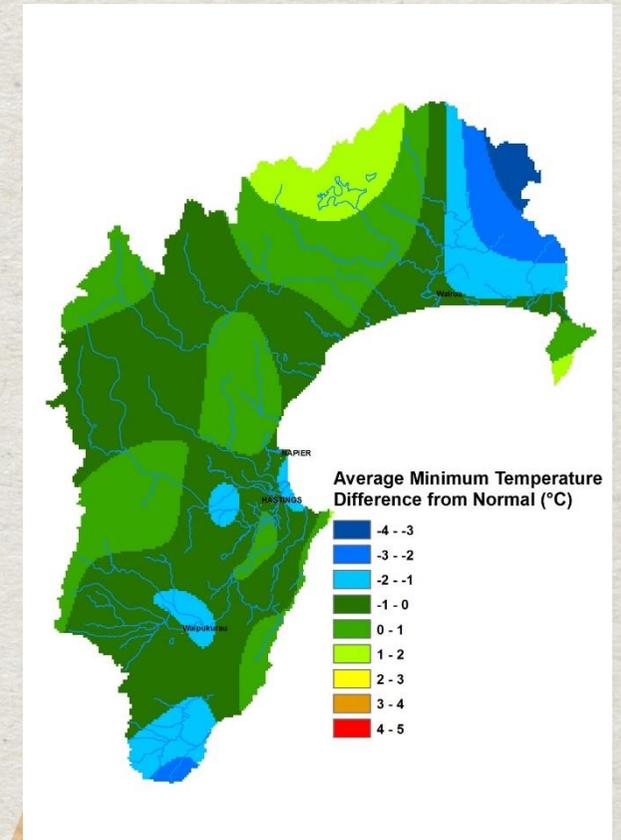
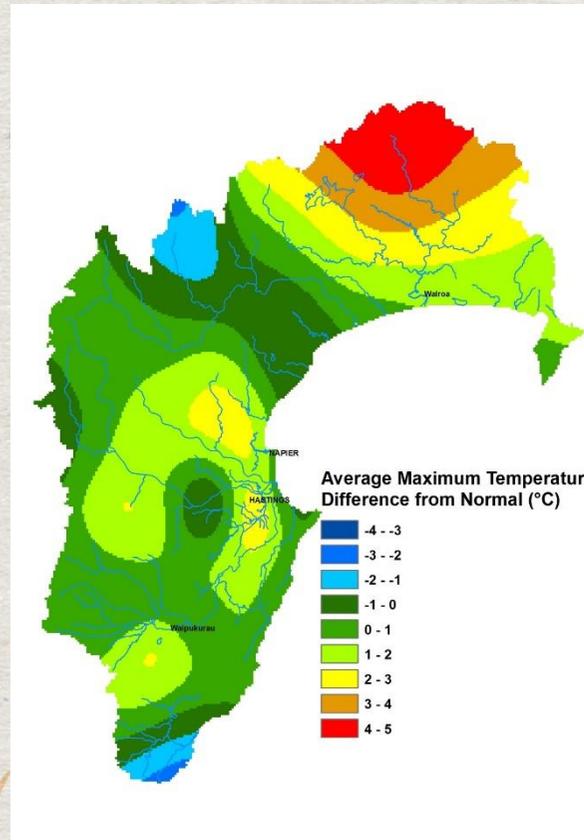
Mean Daily Minimum: 4°C

Highest Daily: 19.6°C

Location: Marewa Park

Lowest Daily: -4.7°C

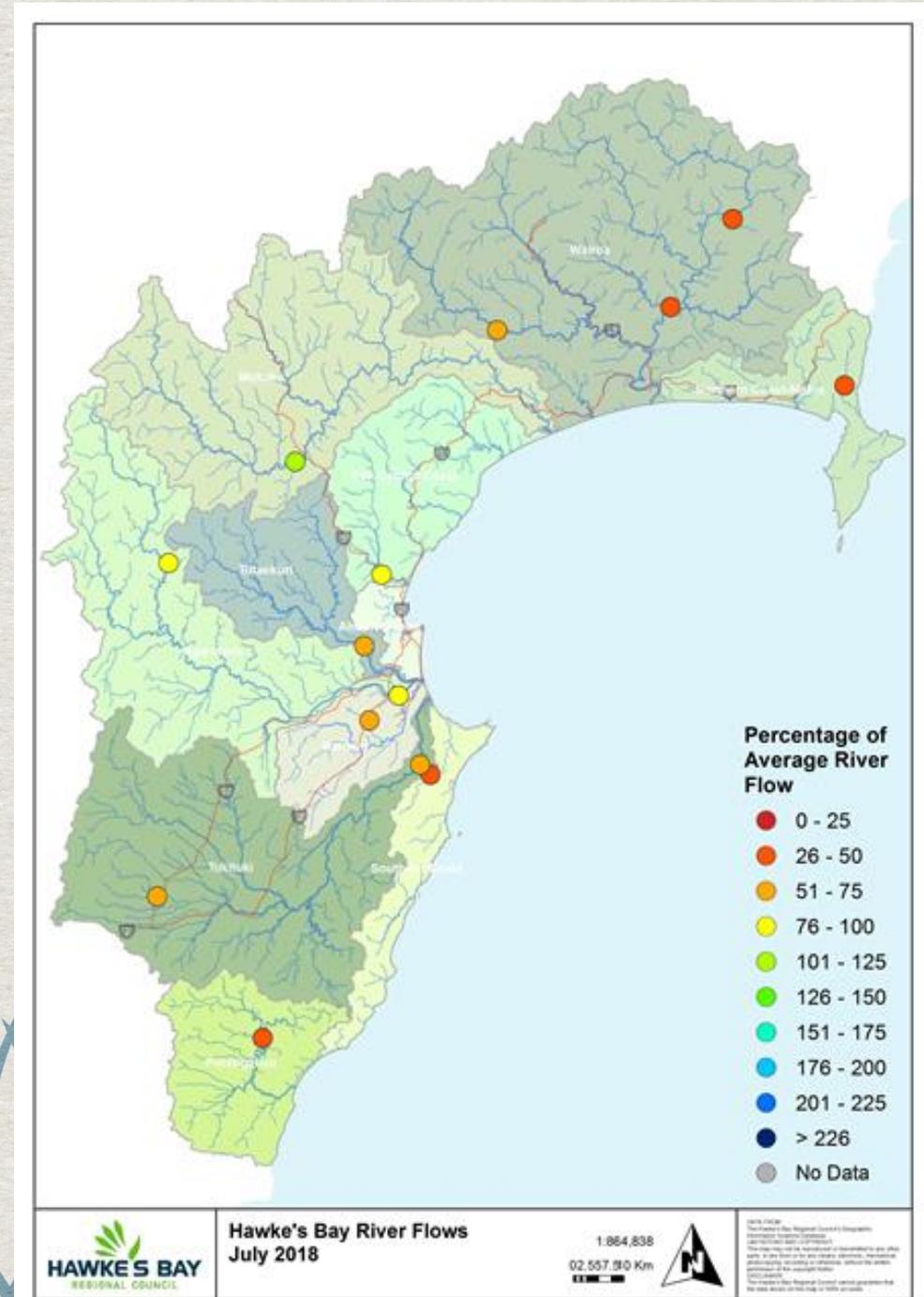
Location: Taharua



RIVER FLOW

Percentage of average July flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coastal	28%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	28%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	27%
Northern HB – Waiau River	65%
Mohaka	102%
Central Coastal	78%
Tūtaekuri	61%
Karamu	68%
Ngaruroro - Upper	85%
Ngaruroro - Lower	92%
Southern Coastal	34%
Ruataniwha Plains	73%
Tukituki	54%
Southern HB	35%
Hawke's Bay Region	59%



GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

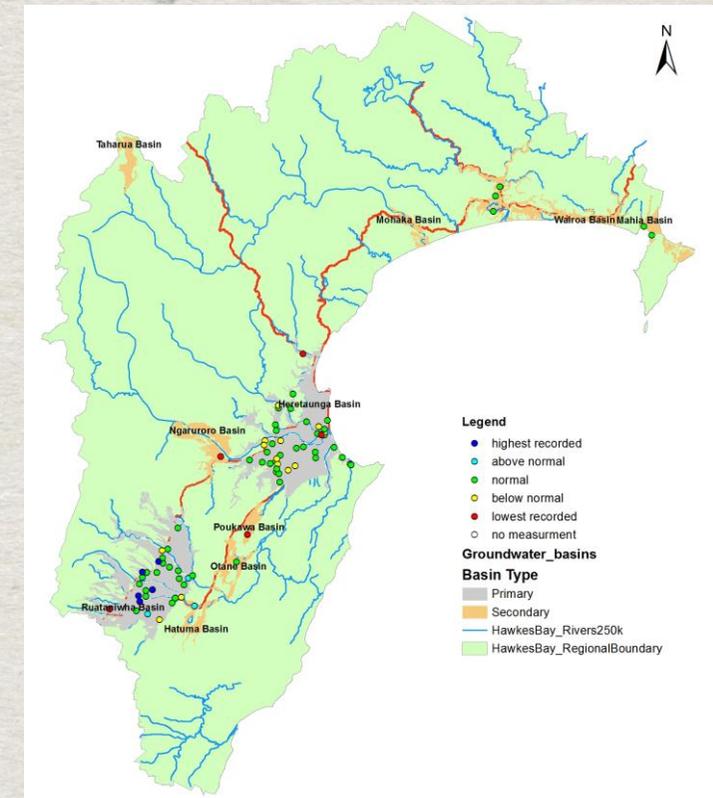
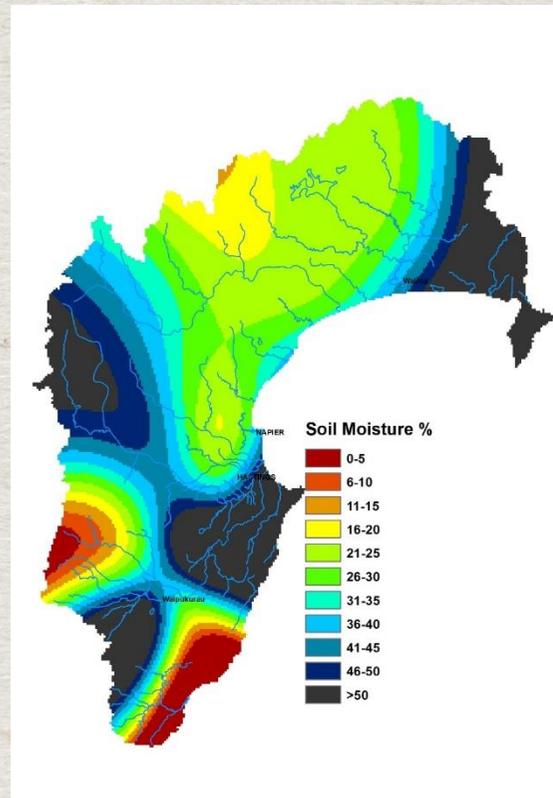
Groundwater:

Heretaunga basin: Mostly normal and below water levels.

Ruataniwha basin: Mostly normal and above normal water levels.

Secondary basins: A mix of normal water levels and record lows.

Soil Moisture: About normal.



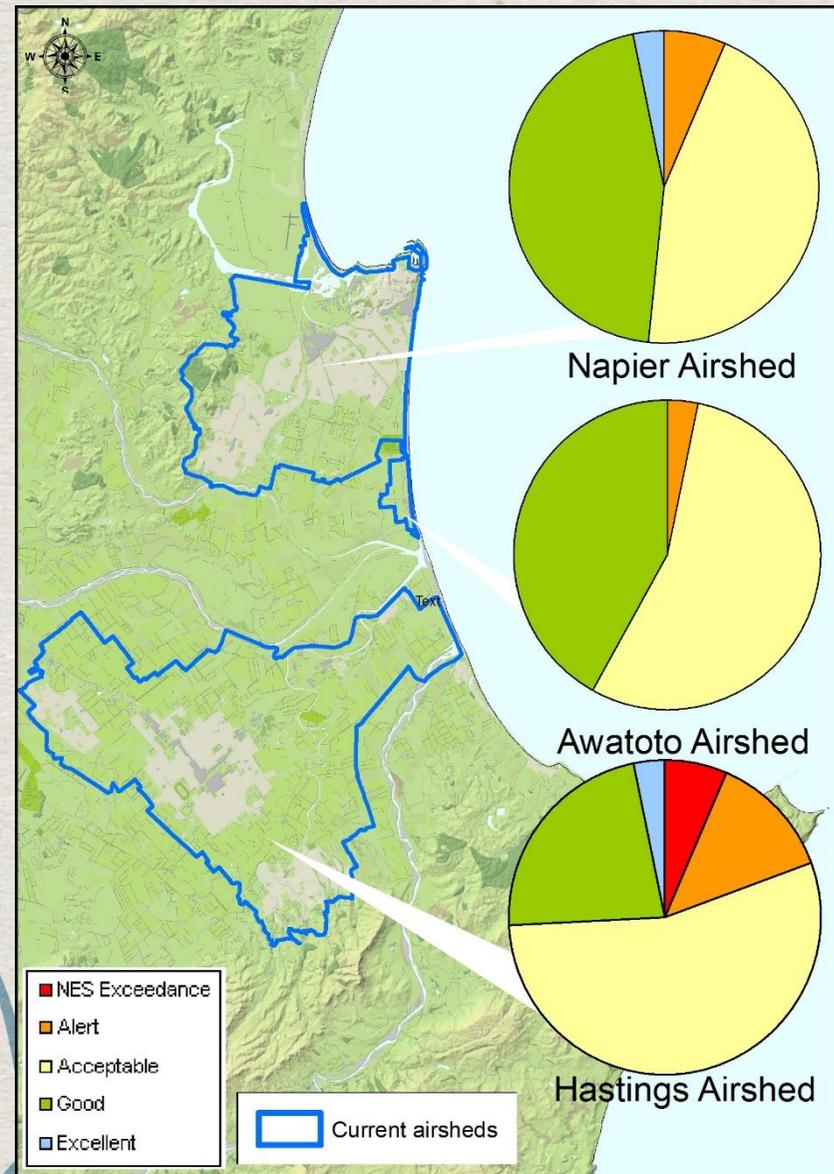
Exceeded twice by a whisker

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 and Awatoto airsheds but was exceeded on two occasions in the Hastings airsheds in July 2018.

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.

Further information is available at:
www.hbrc.govt.nz



LONGER FORECAST

An El Niño developing in spring is increasingly likely and may be accompanied by a positive Indian Ocean Dipole. While they don't promise dry conditions, they do diminish the chances of rainfall being above normal. Their influence may not play out until later in spring and early summer, and we may see normal rainfall and temperatures to end winter and start spring. That's due to climate models wanting lower than normal pressures still to the northeast of us but a change in patterns and drier, hotter signals seem to feature down the track. Early days though mind.



MPI COMMENT

Farmers and growers welcomed the drier conditions in July following a wet June where most of the region received double the average monthly rainfall. Feed utilisation and pasture growth improved as soils dried out, and with the mild air temperatures. The drier conditions underfoot allowed farmers to catch up with stock work, and growers to progress with pruning, maintenance work and preparation for new plantings on orchards and vineyards.

Winter chill accumulation started late but sped up in June. By the end of July, winter chill was below that of last year (an early season), but ahead of recent late seasons so there is potential for fruit crops to be close to normal timing for the region.

Prime lamb prices reached a new record, topping \$8.00 per kilogram carcass weight at the end of July, driving up demand for good lines of store lambs.

Lambing on the early country has been helped by the good weather. Farmers will be hoping that the good weather extends into August and September allowing them to make the most of the good prices forecast.

Dairy farmers are pleased with Fonterra's forecast milk price of \$7.00 per kilogram of milksolids for the 2018/19 season. Spring calving is in full swing. Milk production has got off to a good start with good feed covers and cow condition.

Mycoplasma bovis continues to be front of mind for most beef and dairy farmers in the region.