

MAY 2016

Hawke's Bay Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

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

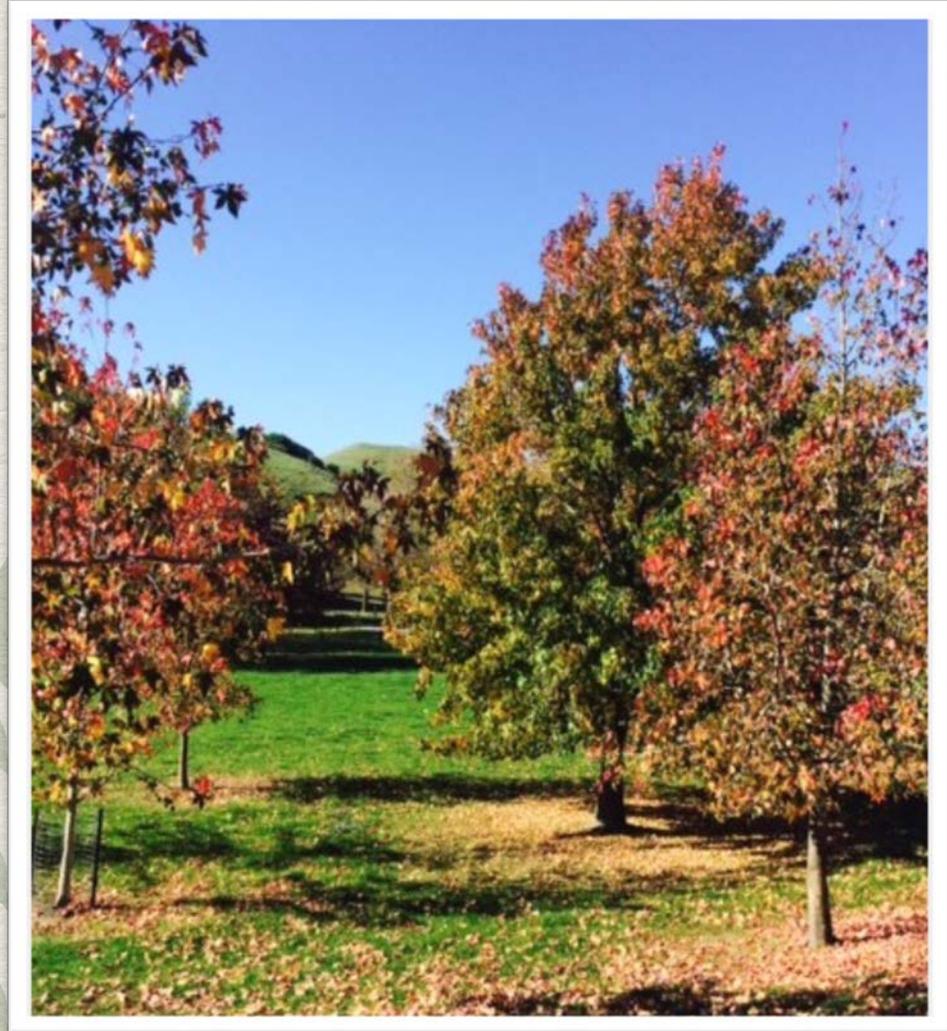
HAWKE'S BAY | Environmental Science
REGIONAL COUNCIL

HAWKE'S BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL

May 2016

For fear of sounding like a broken record, dare I say that May was dry and warm. That's now four consecutive months all following the same theme. May featured more in the way of unsettled weather than previous months but the storminess was very westerly in nature, meaning any rainfall coming our way was captured by the ranges and eastern areas were left with only the odd sprinkle. The shortfall in rain was compounded by high levels of evaporation for the time of year due to the heat in that westerly wind. The result is rather low soil moisture levels for May, around the Heretaunga Plains particularly, and lower than usual river and ground water levels. Of course there is always a silver lining to our non-existent rain clouds and that is we were on fire so to speak in terms of keeping air quality on a clean slate.

Kathleen Kozyniak
Senior Scientist Climate & Air



The short summary – Groundhog day, dry and 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.

June to August Forecast

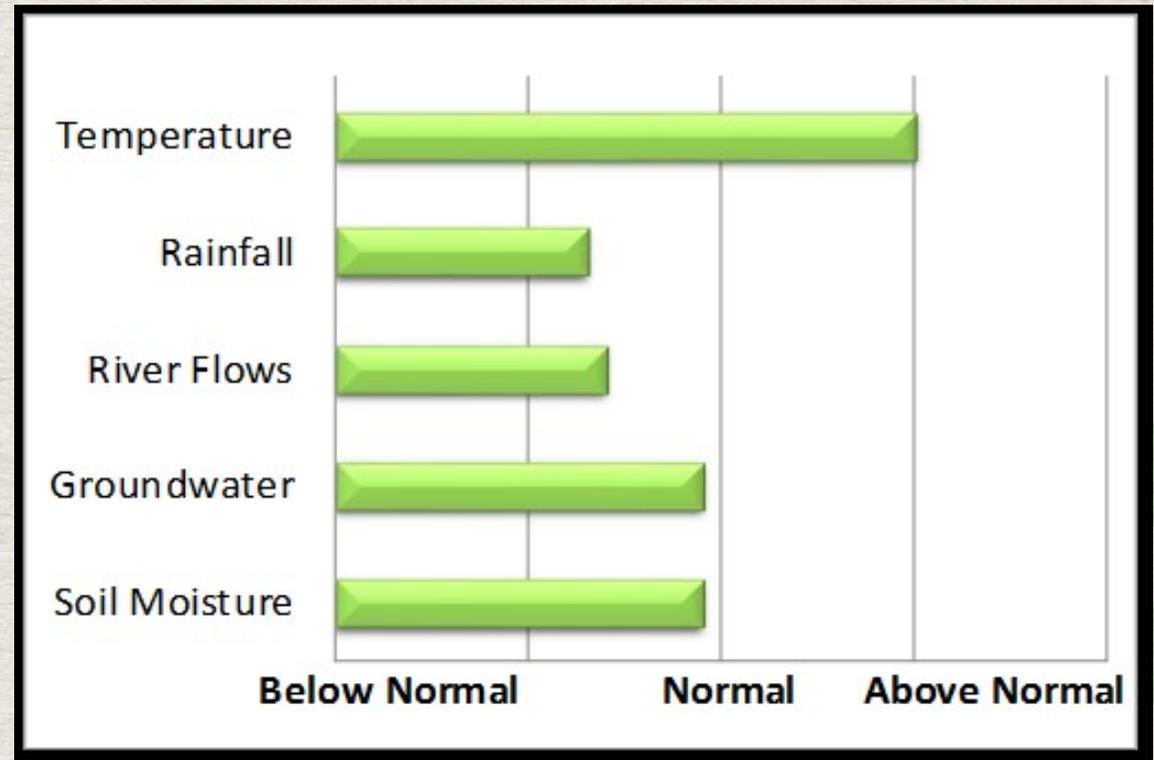
Temperature	Above average
Rain	Near or above normal
River flows	Near normal
Soil moisture	Near normal

(source : NIWA)

For more information

www.hbrc.govt.nz

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TEMPERATURES

Warm, warm, warm, whichever way you look at it.

Mean Difference from Normal

Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 2.6°C

Minimum Temperature: 2.7°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 18°C

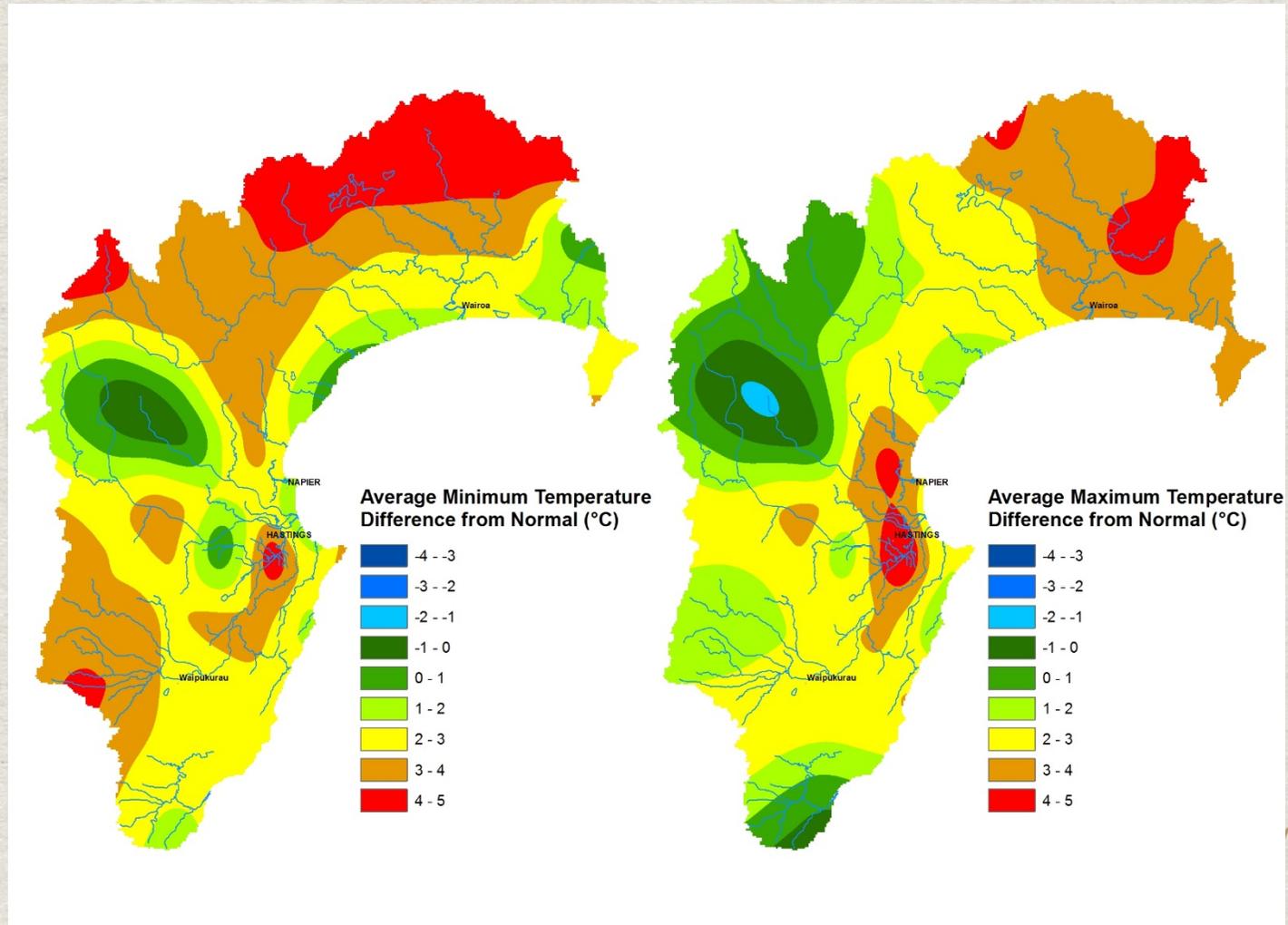
Mean Daily Minimum: 9°C

Highest Daily: 25.6°C

Location: Bridge Pa

Lowest Daily: -1.7°C

Location: Taharua



RAINFALL

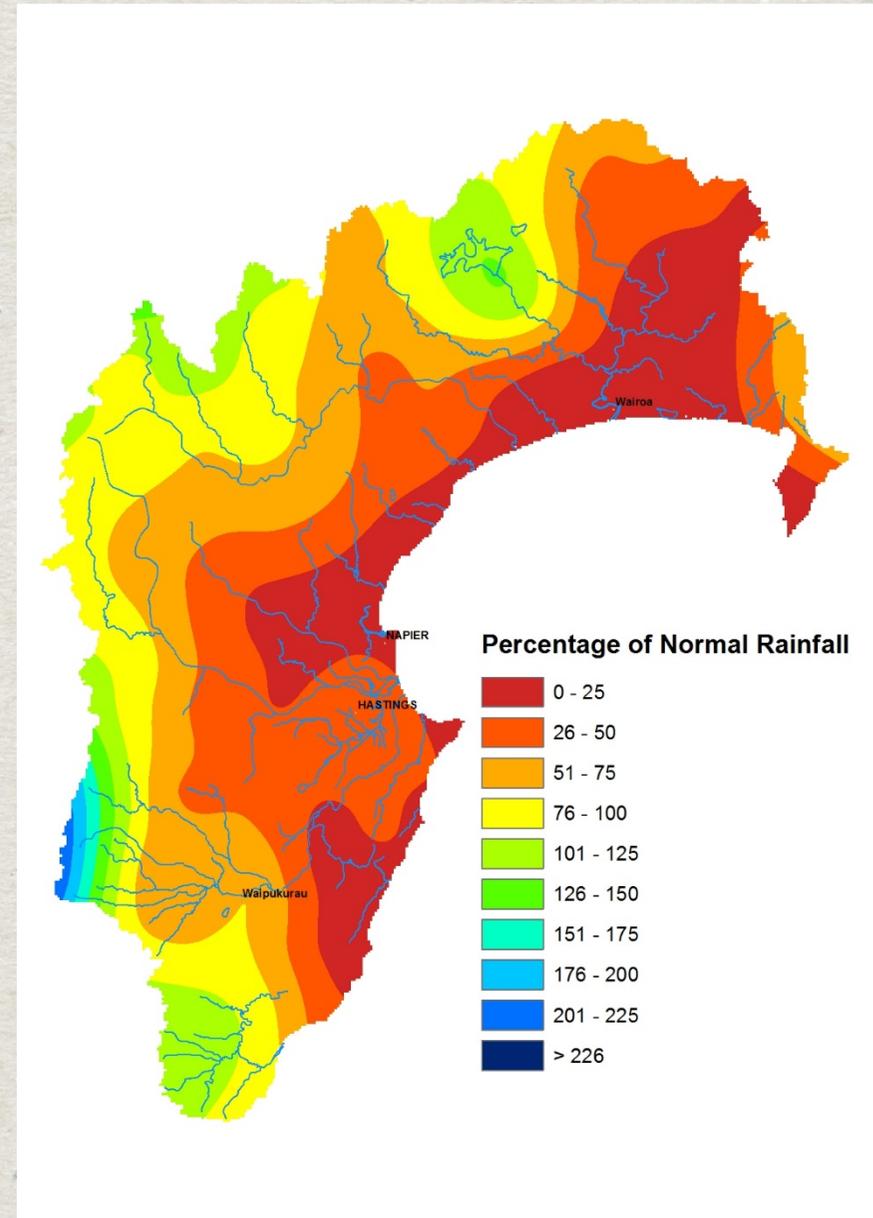
Below normal, especially eastern areas

Percentage of normal May rainfall
(30 year average)

For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	80%
Northern HB	31%
Tangoio	38%
Kaweka	77%
Ruahine	142%
Heretaunga Plains	29%
Ruataniwha Plains	58%
Southern HB	64%

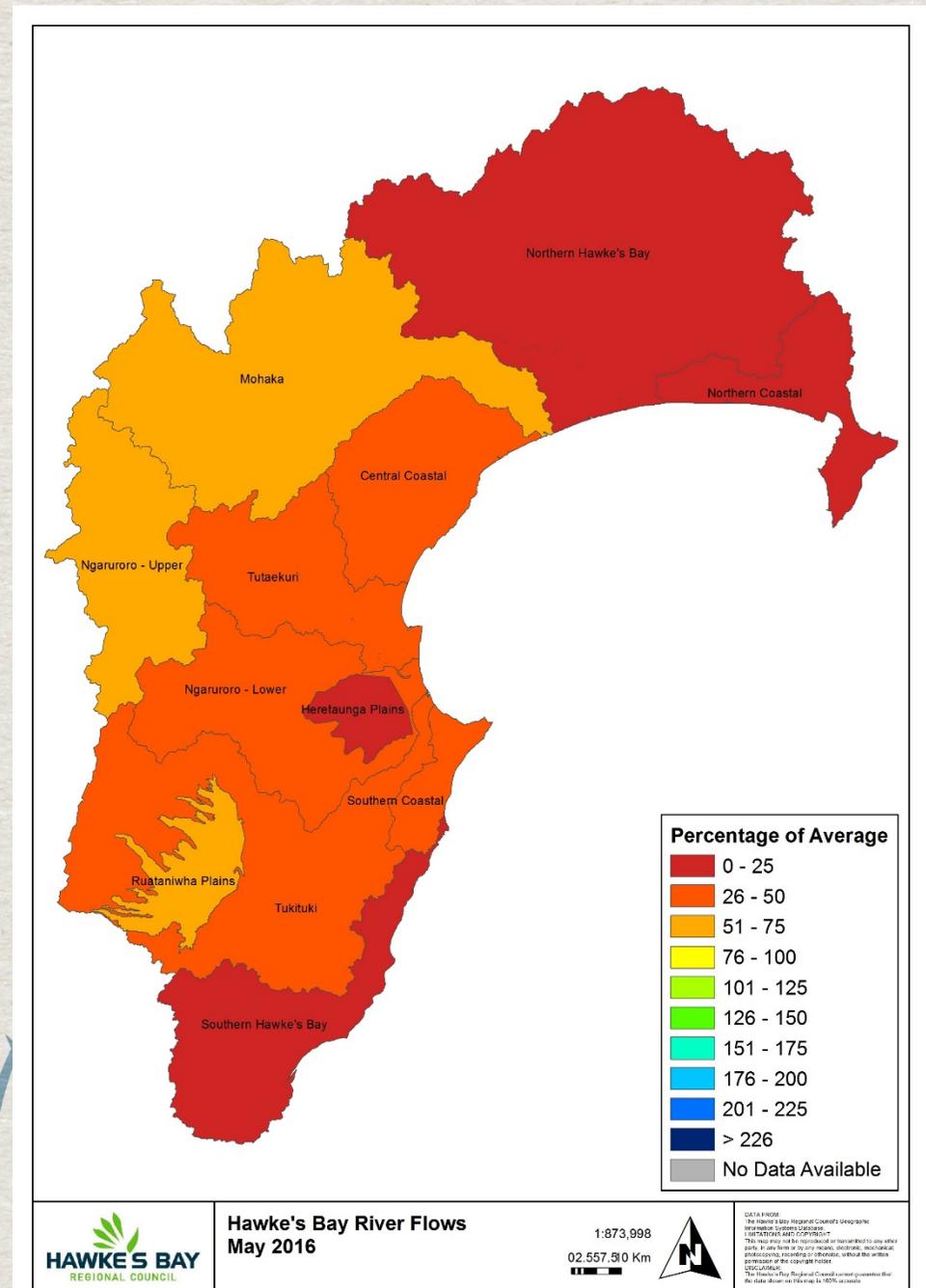
Hawke's Bay Region **65%**



RIVER FLOW

Percentage of average May flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coastal	20%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	16%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	17%
Northern HB – Waiau River	67%
Mohaka	74%
Central Coastal	47%
Tūtaekuri	27%
Heretaunga Plains	25%
Ngaruroro - Upper	73%
Ngaruroro - Lower	41%
Southern Coastal	32%
Ruataniwha Plains	52%
Tukituki	36%
Southern HB	2%
Hawke's Bay Region	38%



GROUNDWATER & SOIL

Groundwater Levels

Heretaunga Basin

Mostly below normal water levels

Ruataniwha Basin

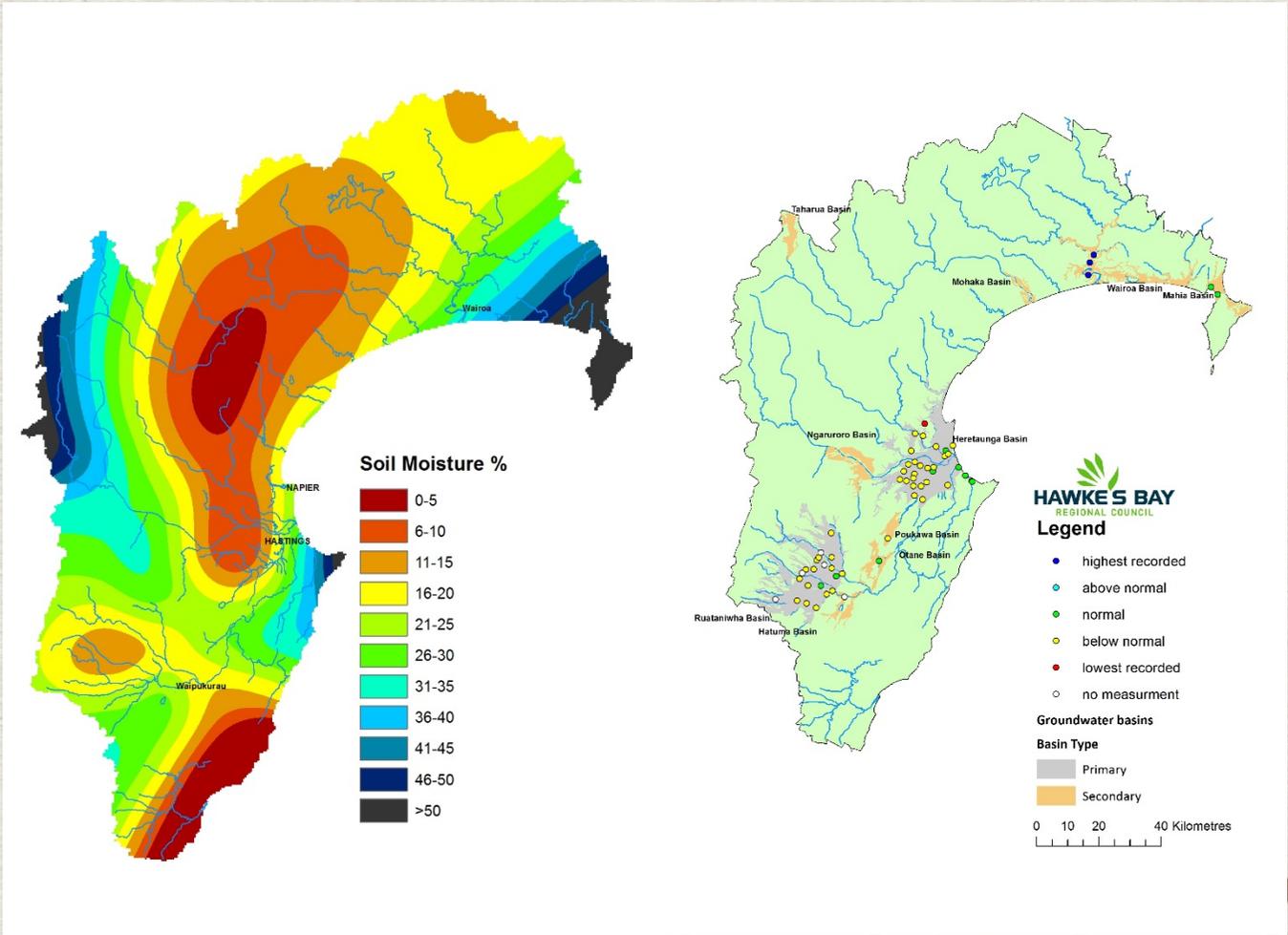
Mostly below normal water levels

Secondary Basins

A mix of normal and highest ever water levels in Northern Hawke's Bay

Soil Moisture

Near normal in the north and below normal in the south



May 2016 – Good as gold

PM₁₀ exceedances:

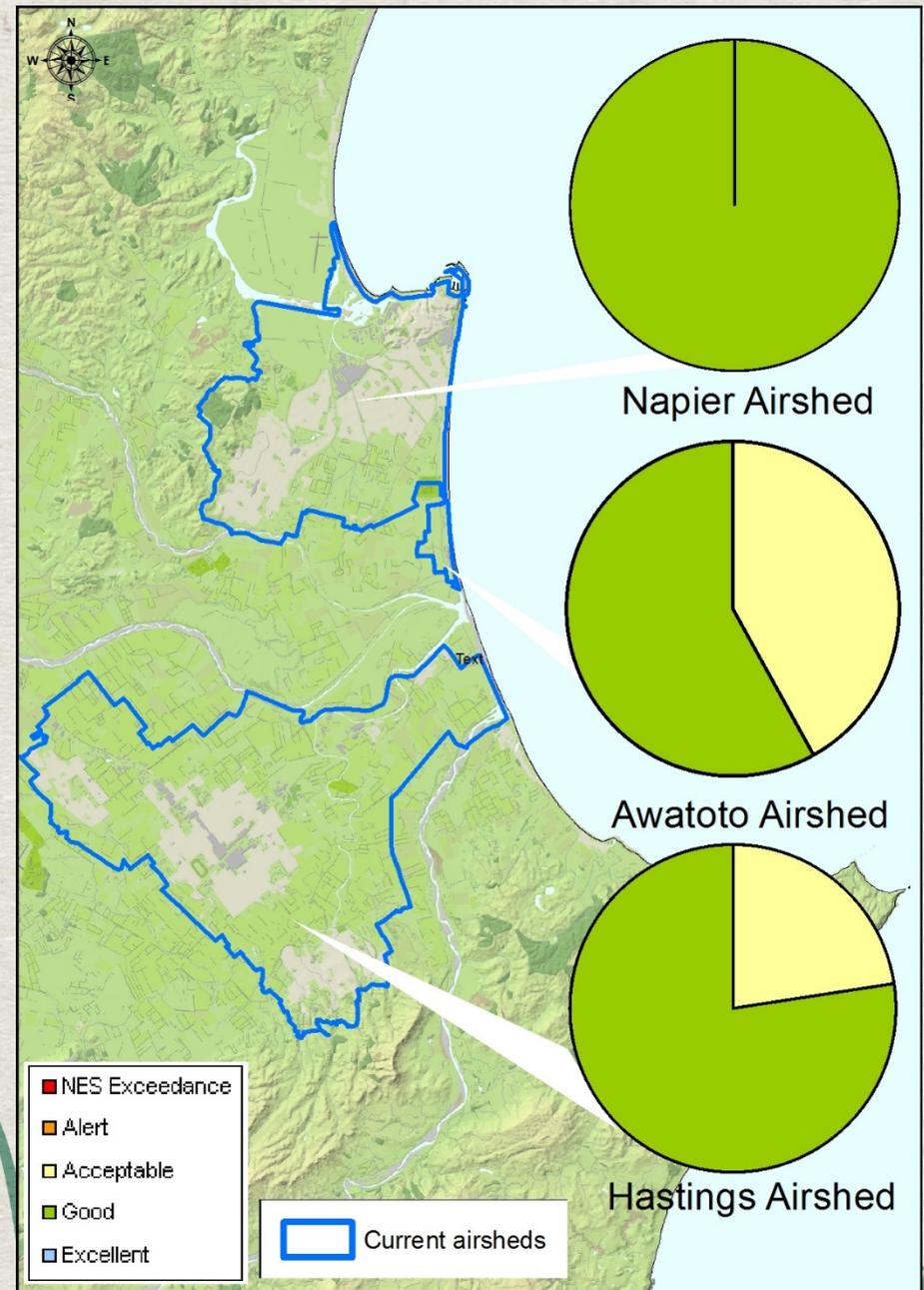
The National Environmental Standard (NES) for particulate matter (PM₁₀) of 50 micrograms per cubic metre (24 hour average) was not exceeded in the Hastings, Napier and Awatoto airsheds in May 2016.

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.



May 2016

Autumn has not delivered for Hawke's Bay pastoral farmers. May rainfall was too little, too late to build good pasture covers before winter. Eastern areas from the Heretaunga Plains south remain dry. Cold weather and frosts in late May caused soil temperatures to drop, and low covers and the short day length are limiting pasture growth rates. Farmers will likely get through to lambing in August with pasture covers similar to those they had at the end of May. Supplementary feeding started early for many. This will continue through winter and fortunately there is plenty of hay, baleage and grain available. At this stage, stock are generally in good condition although Facial Eczema is reported to have been widespread and in places where it is not normally expected. Prices for stock in the store markets have been strong enabling farmers to sell surplus animals for reasonable prices.