



Hawke's Bay Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

January 2021



HAWKES BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI

January 2021

January had the usual hallmarks of summer. It was hot - a top temperature over 35°C and daytime temperatures a good 1°C above average. It was frustratingly dry - quite consistently so across the region, and amounting to about 57% of normal January rainfall. It's the second month of below normal rainfall for much of the region and it showed in January's diminishing river flows.

Groundwater and soil moisture levels looked great for a while but spent January nearing or descending into below normal territory. The fat in our reserves that November afforded us is steadily whittling away.

But at least the stonking good weather made for salubrious bathing beaches and an old-fashioned proper summer school holiday.

Kathleen Kozyniak
Principal Scientist - Climate and Air

SUMMARY January 2021

Summery. Dry (dammit) 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.*

February to April Forecast

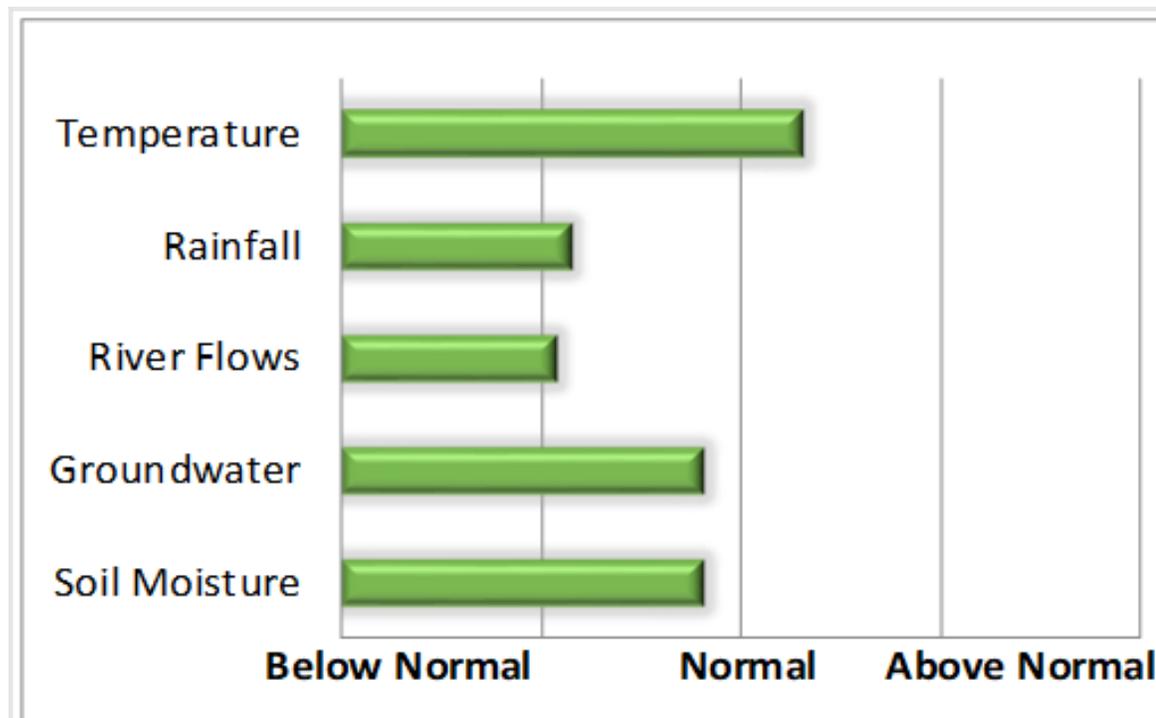
Temperature Near or above average
Rain Near or below normal
River flows Near normal
Soil moisture Below normal

source : NIWA

For more information

www.hbrc.govt.nz

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RAINFALL

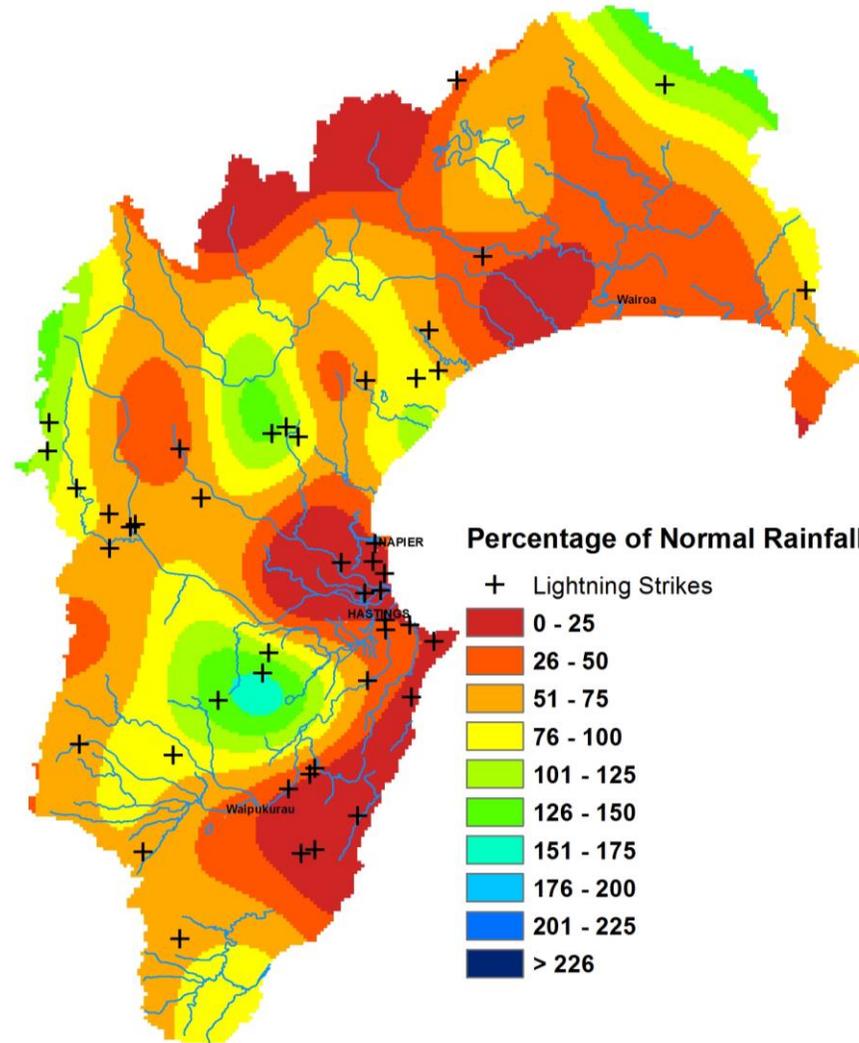
Sadly below normal. Forty five cloud to ground lightning strikes.

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

Percentage of normal January rainfall
(30 year average)

For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	56%
Northern HB	40%
Tangoio	76%
Kaweka	62%
Ruahine	55%
Heretaunga Plains	59%
Ruataniwha Plains	63%
Southern HB	46%
Hawke's Bay Region	57%



TEMPERATURES

Above average.

Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 1.0 °C

Minimum Temperature: 0.6 °C

Mean Daily Maximum: 24 °C

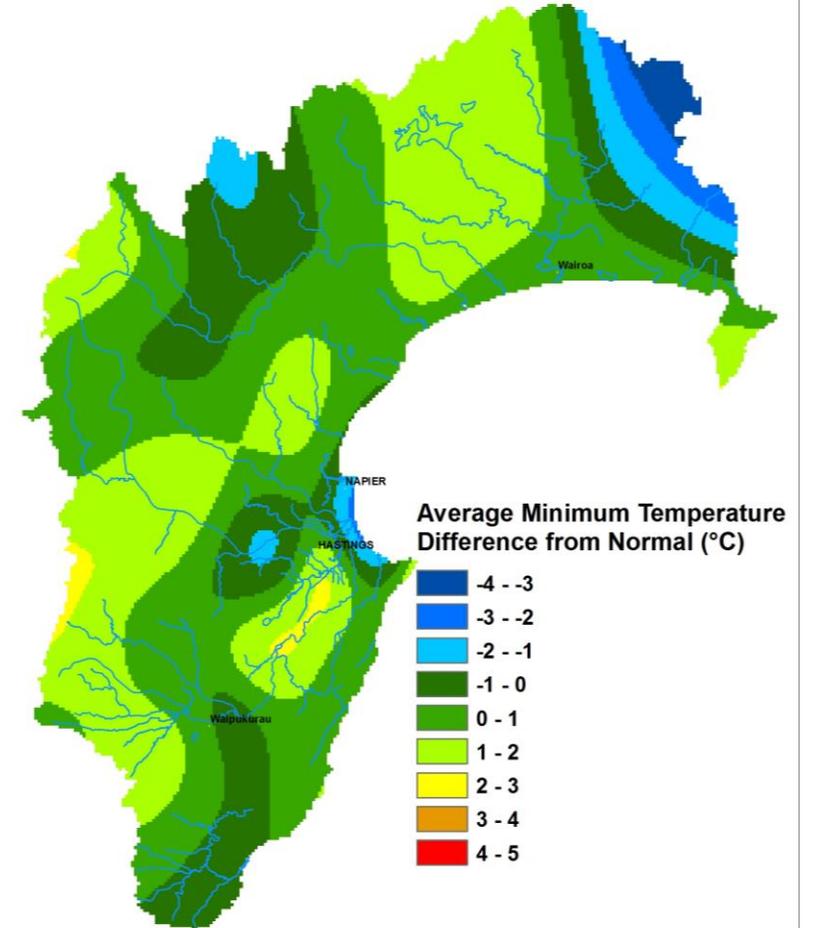
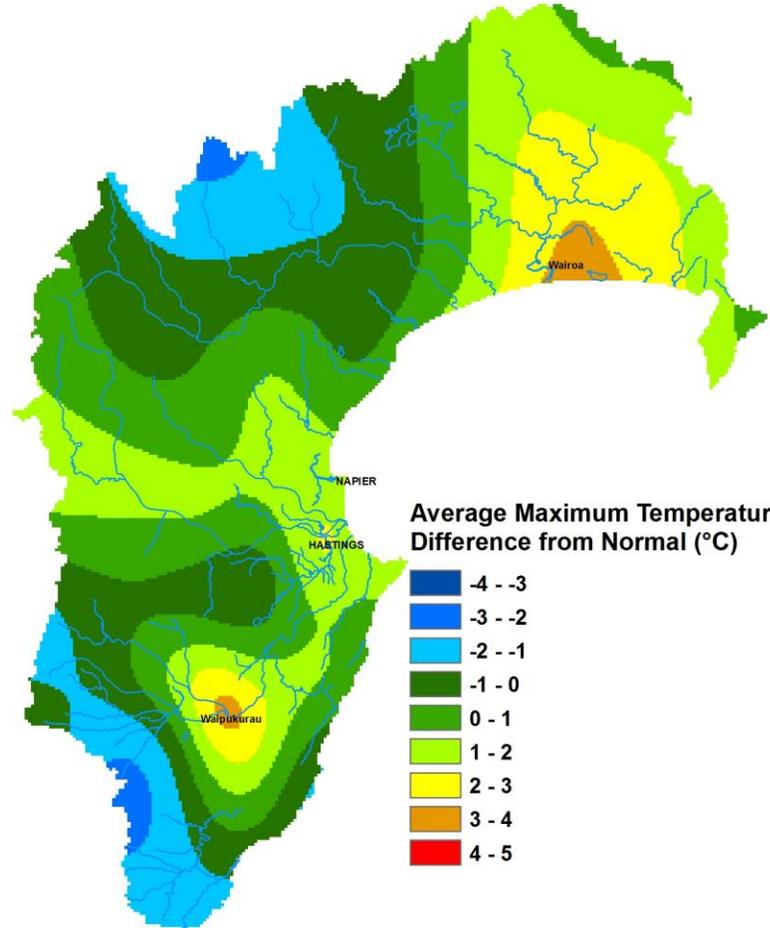
Mean Daily Minimum: 13°C

Highest Daily: 36.4°C

Location: Wairoa North Clyde EWS

Lowest Daily: 1.4 °C

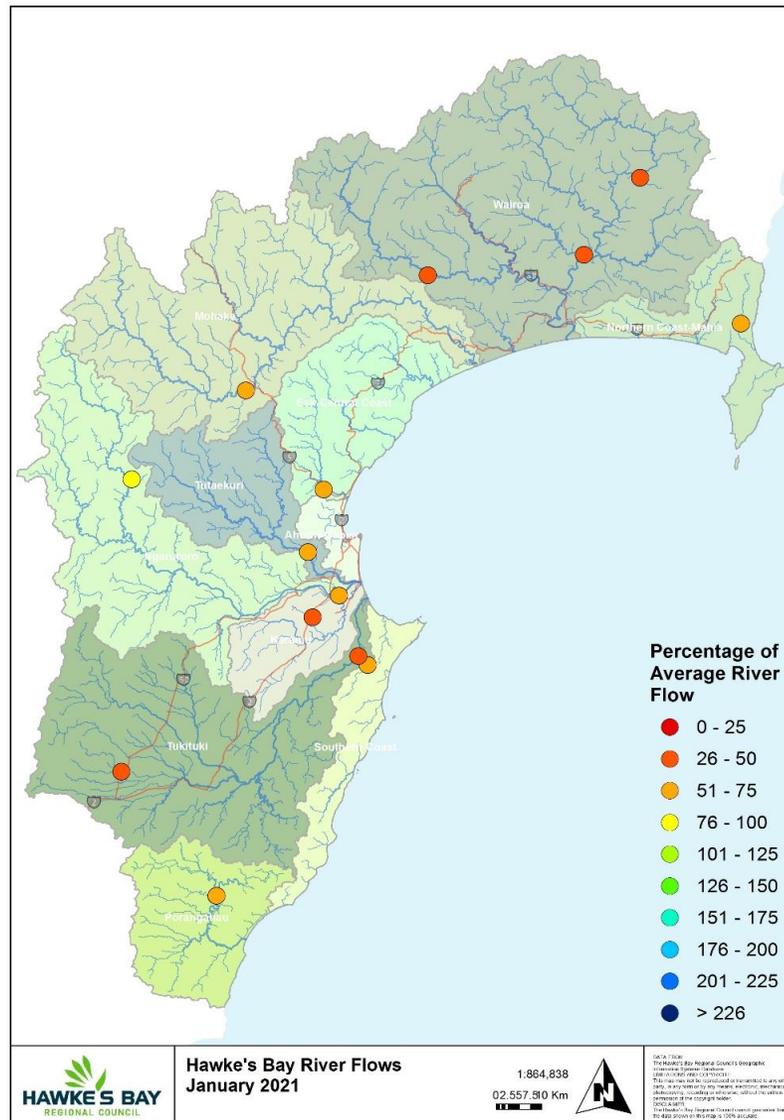
Location: Taharua



RIVER FLOW

Percentage of average January flows
for areas in the region:

Northern Coast – Mahia	66%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	28%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	36%
Northern HB – Waiau River	31%
Mohaka	68%
Esk-Central Coast	70%
Tūtaekuri	51%
Karamu	37%
Ngaruroro – Kuripapango	91%
Ngaruroro – Chesterhope	68%
Southern Coast	70%
Tukituki – Tukipo River	41%
Tukituki – Tukituki River	34%
Porangahau	53%
Hawke's Bay Region	53%



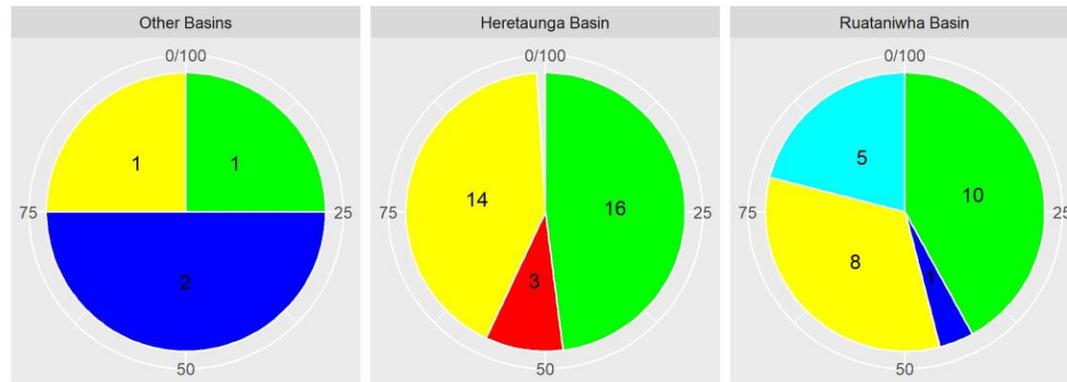
GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

Soil Moisture: Heading below normal.

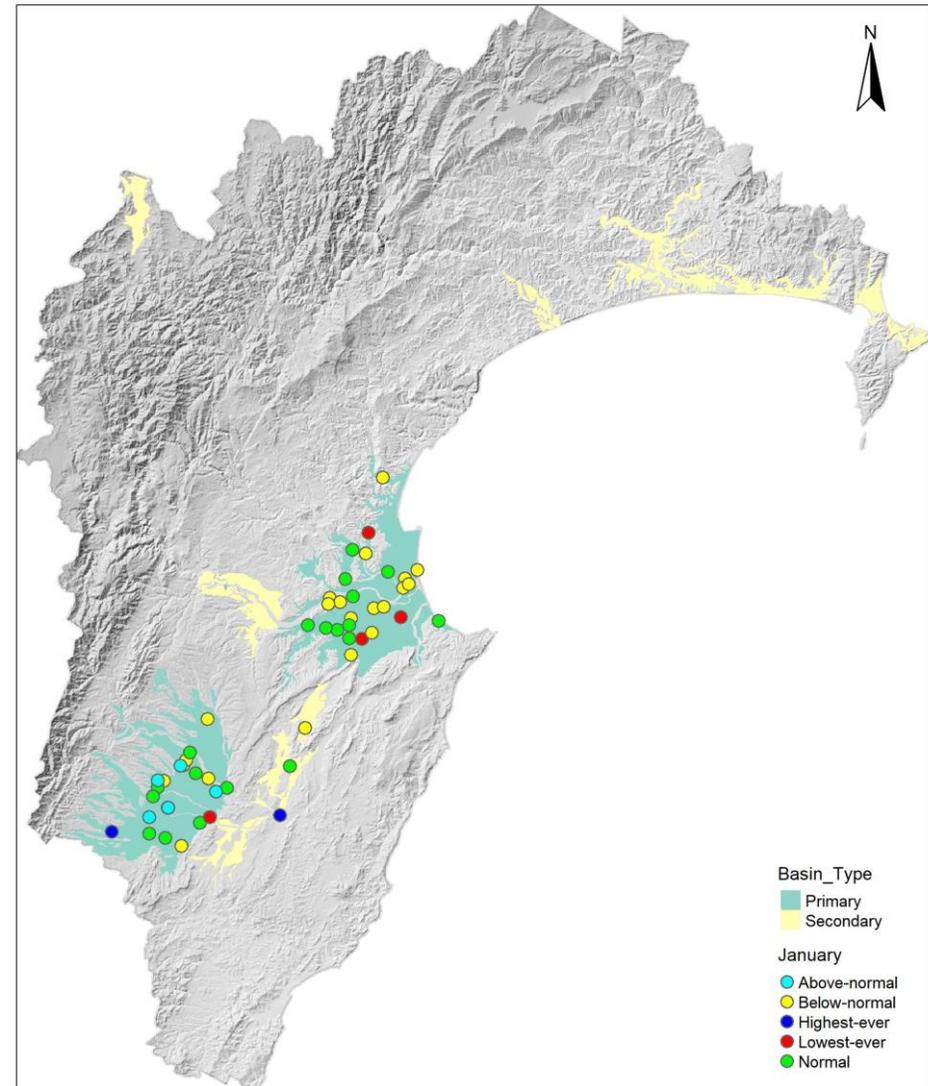
Current state of Groundwater levels:

This report compares groundwater levels in January with historic readings to evaluate current conditions. To assess these conditions, we have grouped groundwater levels at each well relative to their monthly percentiles.

Groundwater levels measuring between their monthly minimum and 25th percentile are considered below-normal, groundwater levels measuring between the 25th and 75th percentiles are classed as normal, and groundwater levels measuring between the 75th-maximum are considered above-normal. Wells with less than 5 years of record are excluded from the analysis.



■ Above-normal
 ■ Below-normal
 ■ Highest-ever
 ■ Lowest-ever
 ■ Normal



RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY

The Recreational Water Quality program is off to a great start for the new year, with only four sites (Nuhaka River, Porangahau Estuary and two Wairoa River sites) exceeding in January.

The hot, dry weather meant swim spots all around Hawkes Bay have been busy with people looking for a place to cool off.

Exceedances in the Wairoa/Nuhaka catchments were largely rainfall related, permanent signage is in place at both Wairoa River sites.



LONGER FORECAST

There are a number of factors influencing the weather in the next while. Top of the list is that I'm on annual leave for the next three weeks so expect the weather to turn to custard. The other is that La Niña remains with us, though neutral conditions may return in autumn. Seasonal forecast models vary little from past months and still depict lower than usual sea level pressures to the northwest of New Zealand, higher pressures to the south and an easterly flow resulting from that.

This time the models don't necessarily equate that pattern with higher than normal rainfall. The forecasts now encompass above, near and below normal rainfall, depending on which model you look at. Given that they don't show any great change in the weather pattern, it's fair to expect little change to the weather we've had over the past couple of months. So far it's given us reasonable temperatures but not as much rain as we'd like.

Some hope remains from a tropical cyclone outlook that still indicates we could see one ex-tropical cyclone brush the country before the end of April and storm action lingers around the Pacific Islands to start February, the dregs of which would be great if it came our way.

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