



Hawke's Bay Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

January 2022

JANUARY 2022

Blimey. January was a bolter after months of good rain and favourable forecasts. Ex-TC Cody promised, then went AWOL and all that followed was tumbleweed. The Plains and main ranges had about a quarter or less of average January rainfall and other areas weren't well endowed either. Our good river flows readily surrendered and whimpered to below normal levels. I'm told the water take bans equal the same time last summer.

January groundwater levels looked the best I can remember (my memory isn't good), with a sizeable number above average. Shame the month's rainfall was such custard that those numbers will likely disappear as quickly as a plate of namesake squares. Soil moisture levels are dropping, though still some sites remain just above median levels for the time of year.

Temperatures weren't as rollicking as last month but respectable. The daytime temperatures were above average, and the overnight temperatures nudged the boundary as well. Swimming was all go and our popular spots were up to the task, though our testing showed that when it's hot and dry skirt venturing into a shallow lagoon.

Kathleen Kozyniak
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RAINFALL

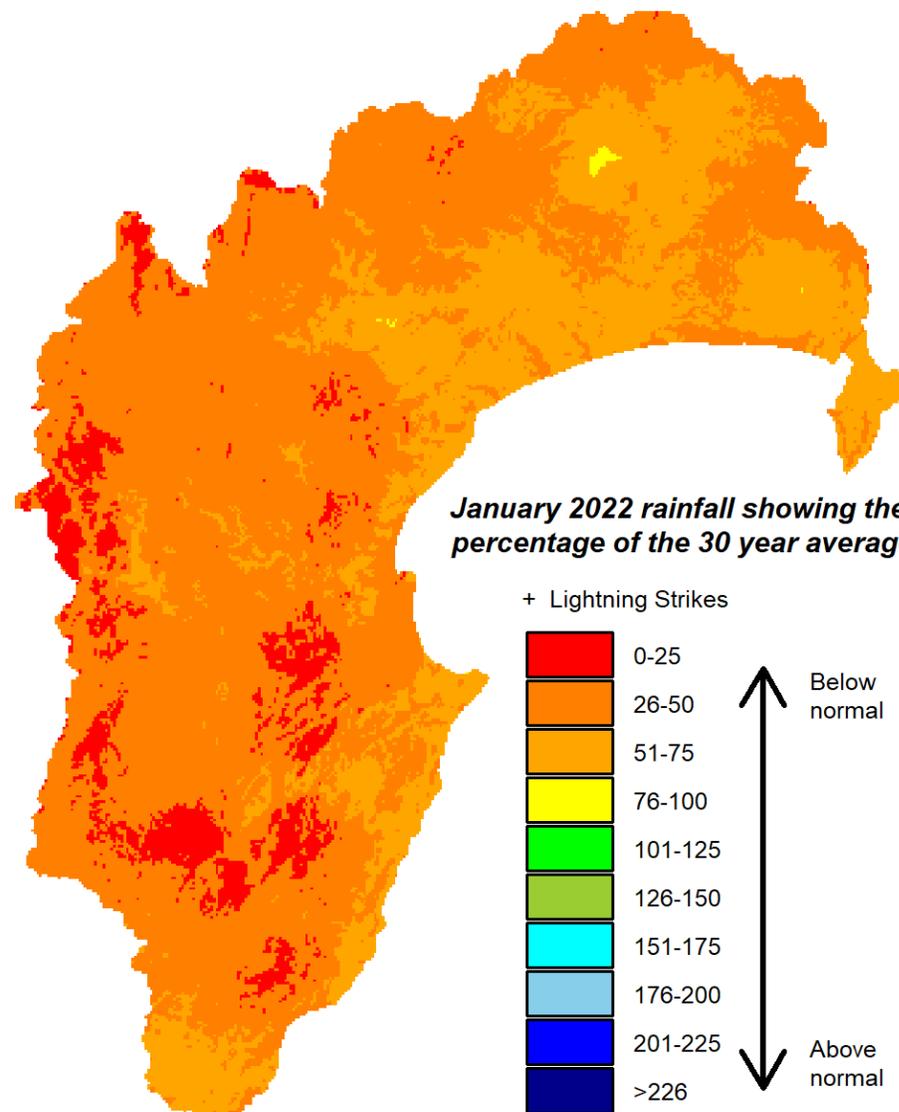
Horribly below normal, especially on the Plains and main ranges. No cloud to ground lightning strikes

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	52%
Northern HB	53%
Tangoio	37%
Kaweka	18%
Ruahine	26%
Heretaunga Plains	26%
Ruataniwha Plains	23%
Southern HB	38%
Hawke's Bay Region	34%



TEMPERATURES

Above average days and almost nights as well.

Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 0.6°C

Minimum Temperature: 0.4°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 23 °C

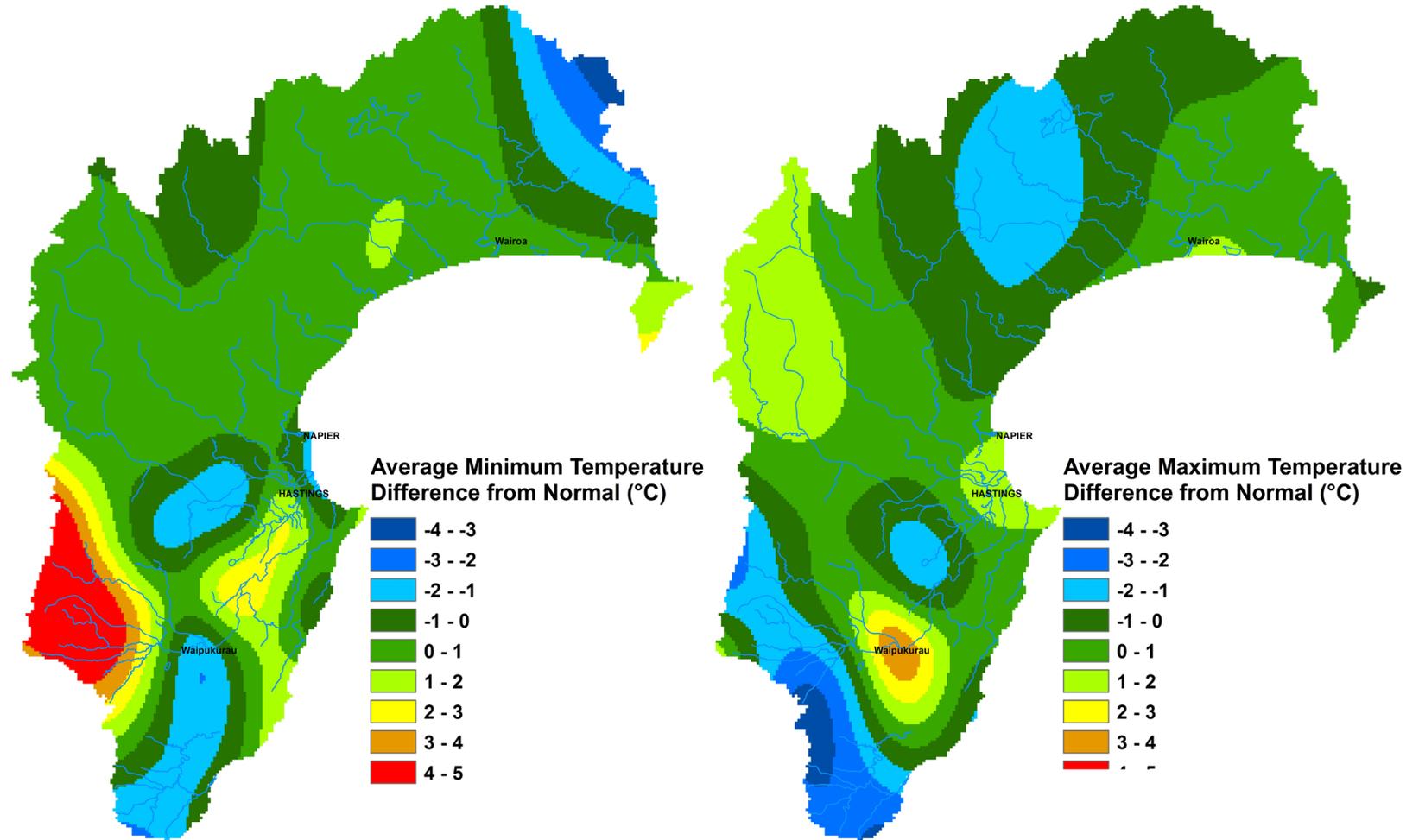
Mean Daily Minimum: 12°C

Highest Daily: 32.9 °C

Location: Wairoa North Clyde EWS
(NIWA)

Lowest Daily: 1.8 °C

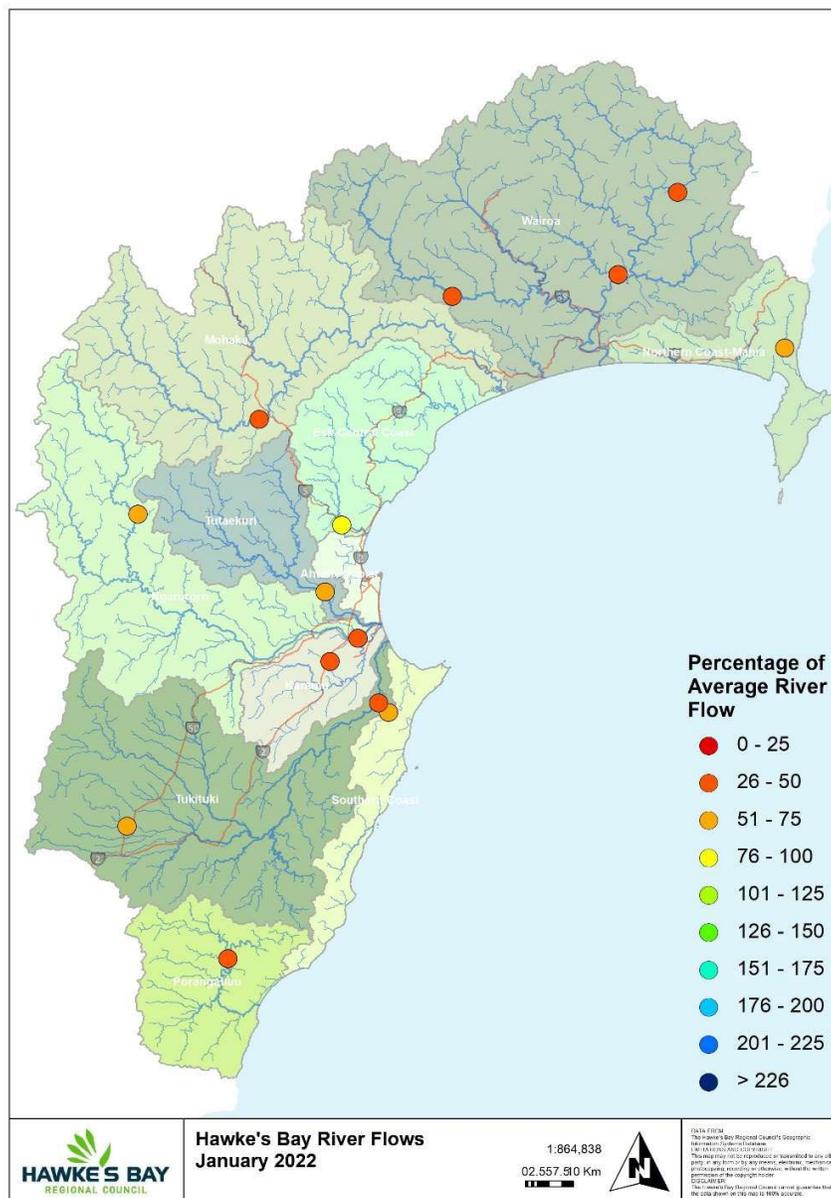
Location: Taharua Climate



RIVER FLOW

Percentage of average January flows
for areas in the region:

Northern Coast – Mahia	52%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	34%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	35%
Northern HB – Waiau River	38%
Mohaka	39%
Esk-Central Coast	82%
Tūtaekuri	63%
Karamu	30%
Ngaruroro – Kuripapango	52%
Ngaruroro – Chesterhope	45%
Southern Coast	61%
Tukituki – Tukipo River	55%
Tukituki – Tukituki River	44%
Porangahau	32%
Hawke's Bay Region	47%

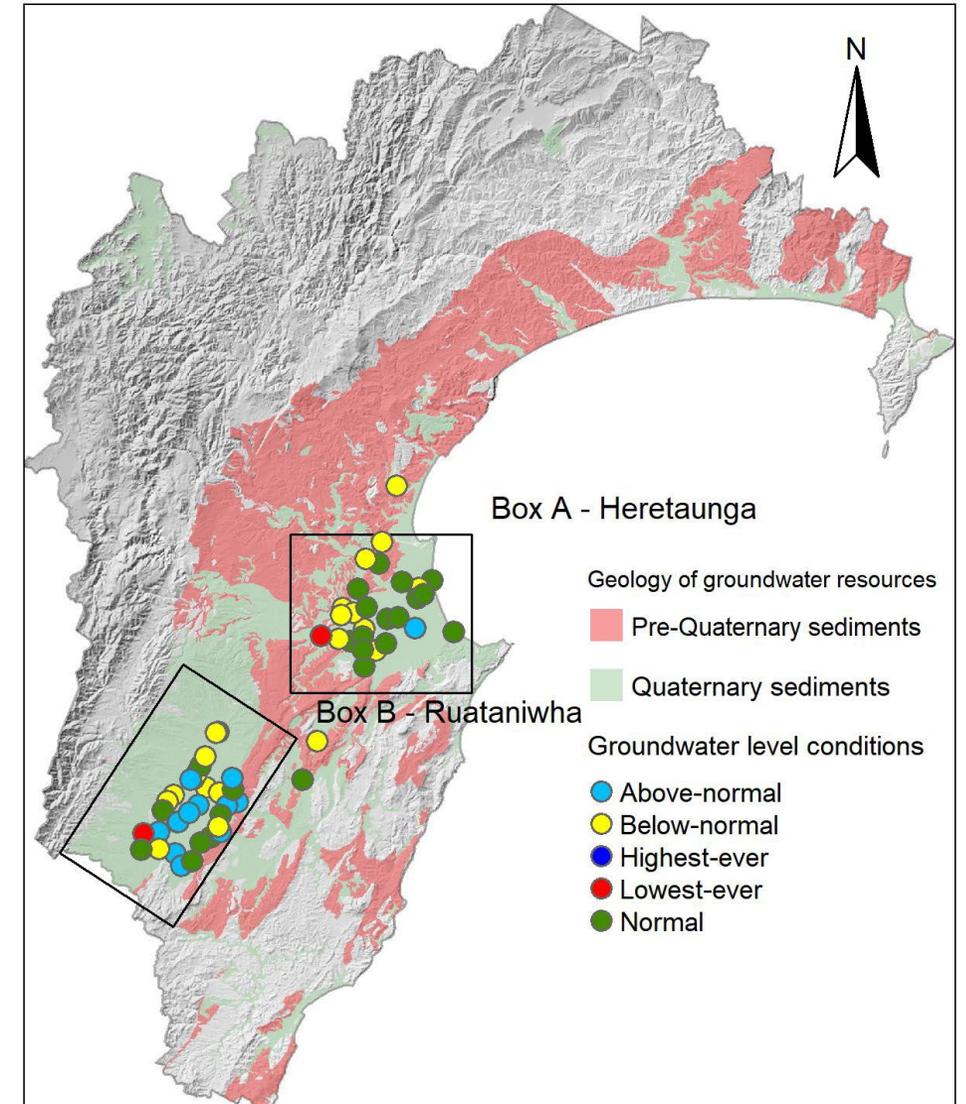
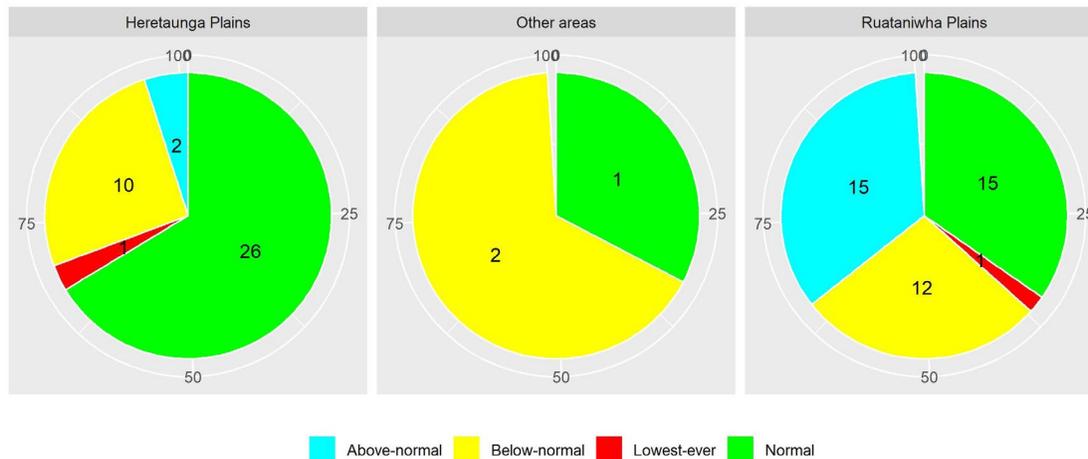


GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

Soil Moisture: Normal or below normal

Current state of Groundwater levels:

This report compares groundwater levels measured in January with historic readings to evaluate current monthly 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.



RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY

It's been a scorching welcome into the new year here in Hawke's Bay, with plenty of people out and about cooling off at our favourite swim spots. Overall there were fewer exceedances in January compared to the wetter months towards the end of 2021.

Coastal lagoons such as Pourerere, Waipatiki Lagoon and Maraetotara Lagoon continue to be the main suspects for exceedances in this warm weather.

There were a few one-off exceedances at a handful of beaches (Mahia, Port Sandy, Westshore) which were cleared after being resampled. The rivers and southern Beaches (Ocean to Porangahau) were the places to keep cool this January.



LONGER FORECAST

Hopefully January was just a glitch in a broader pattern of ample rain. Warm sea temperatures still surround us and La Niña rumbles on but is expected to wane in autumn. The predicted pattern over the next few months continues from previous instalments, being one of lower than normal sea level pressure across the north Tasman Sea and northern New Zealand, with higher than normal pressure south of the country.

The pattern promotes an easterly flow and hopes of moisture laden systems visiting from the north. Rainfall is expected to be near or above normal over the next three months and ditto temperatures. And now that I'm about to take a good holiday break, it can rain all it likes as long as it's at night.

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