



Hawke's Bay Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

February 2022



TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI

February 2022

Any concern about the dry start to the year got decisively ditched in February. It's early days but 2022 is so far proving contrary. Virtually no rain in January then burgeoning amounts in February.

All areas saw double or more of their average February rainfall, which feed nicely into healthy river flows for the month. I'm unsure soil moisture levels could be similarly described as healthy, unless quite saturated is your thing. Groundwater levels remained stoic, despite January's challenges, and with February's rainfall still to make a full impact, the prospects for next month's report look good.

To be honest, the weather wasn't stellar for my February holiday - what with the rain and daytime temperatures that were pretty average. Night time temperatures were high... but I'm guessing only plants cared. And with the region covered in rain, our swimming spots weren't covered in glory. Our rainbow coloured water quality map and its penchant for a red hue indicates they were far from being holiday heaven.

Kathleen Kozyniak
Principal Scientist - Climate and Air

SUMMARY February 2021

Really wet and snug nights

This is a summary of the regions rainfall, river flows, ground water, air quality and soil moisture levels. Data and images provided by HBRC.

March to May Forecast

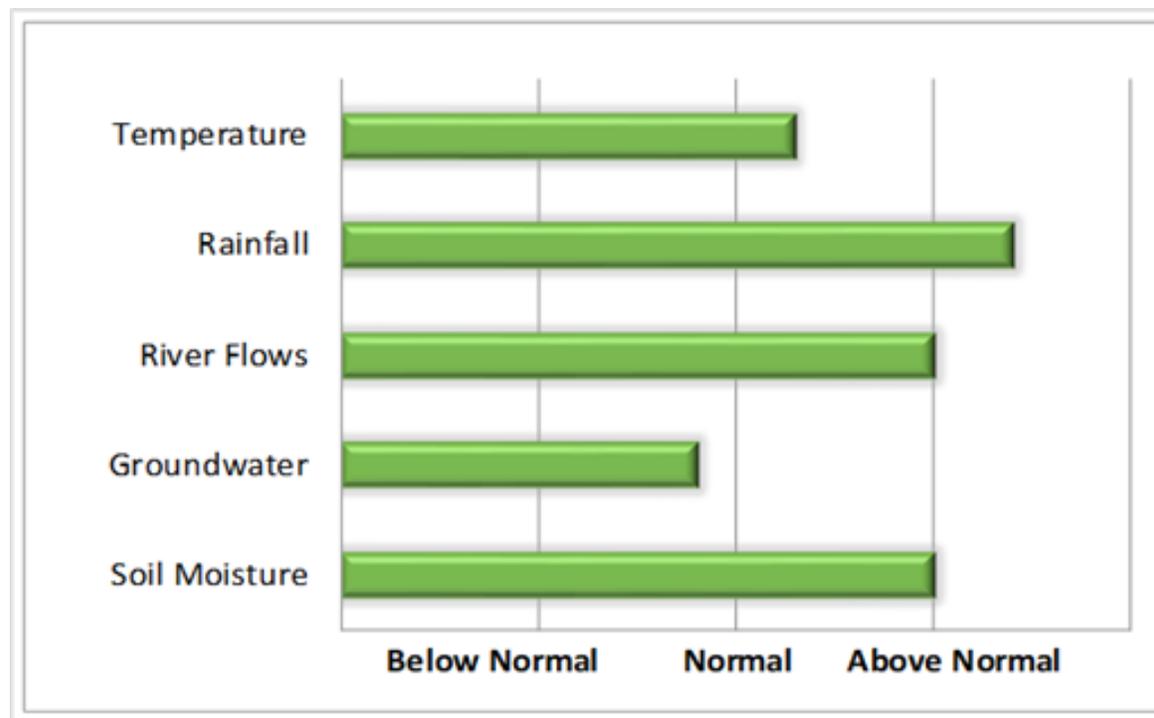
Temperature Above average
Rain Near normal
River flows Near normal
Soil moisture Near normal

source : NIWA

For more information

www.hbrc.govt.nz

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RAINFALL

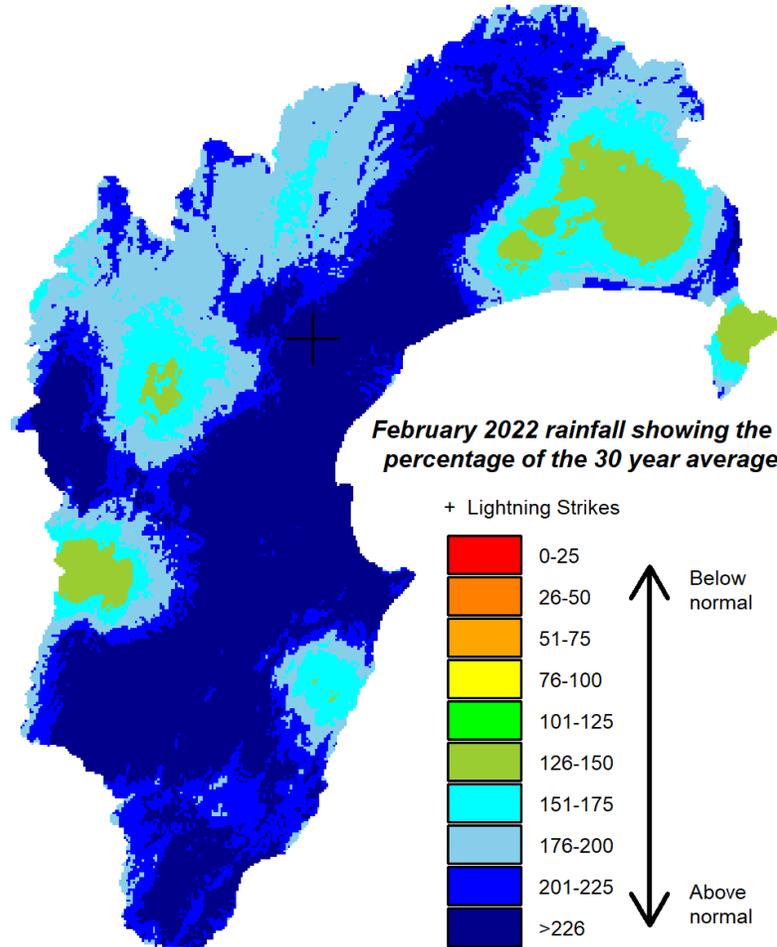
Loads of it - over double the average. One cloud to ground lightning strike.

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

Percentage of normal February rainfall
(30 year average)

For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	244%
Northern HB	194%
Tangoio	247%
Kaweka	190%
Ruahine	203%
Heretaunga Plains	279%
Ruataniwha Plains	267%
Southern HB	232%
Hawke's Bay Region	232%

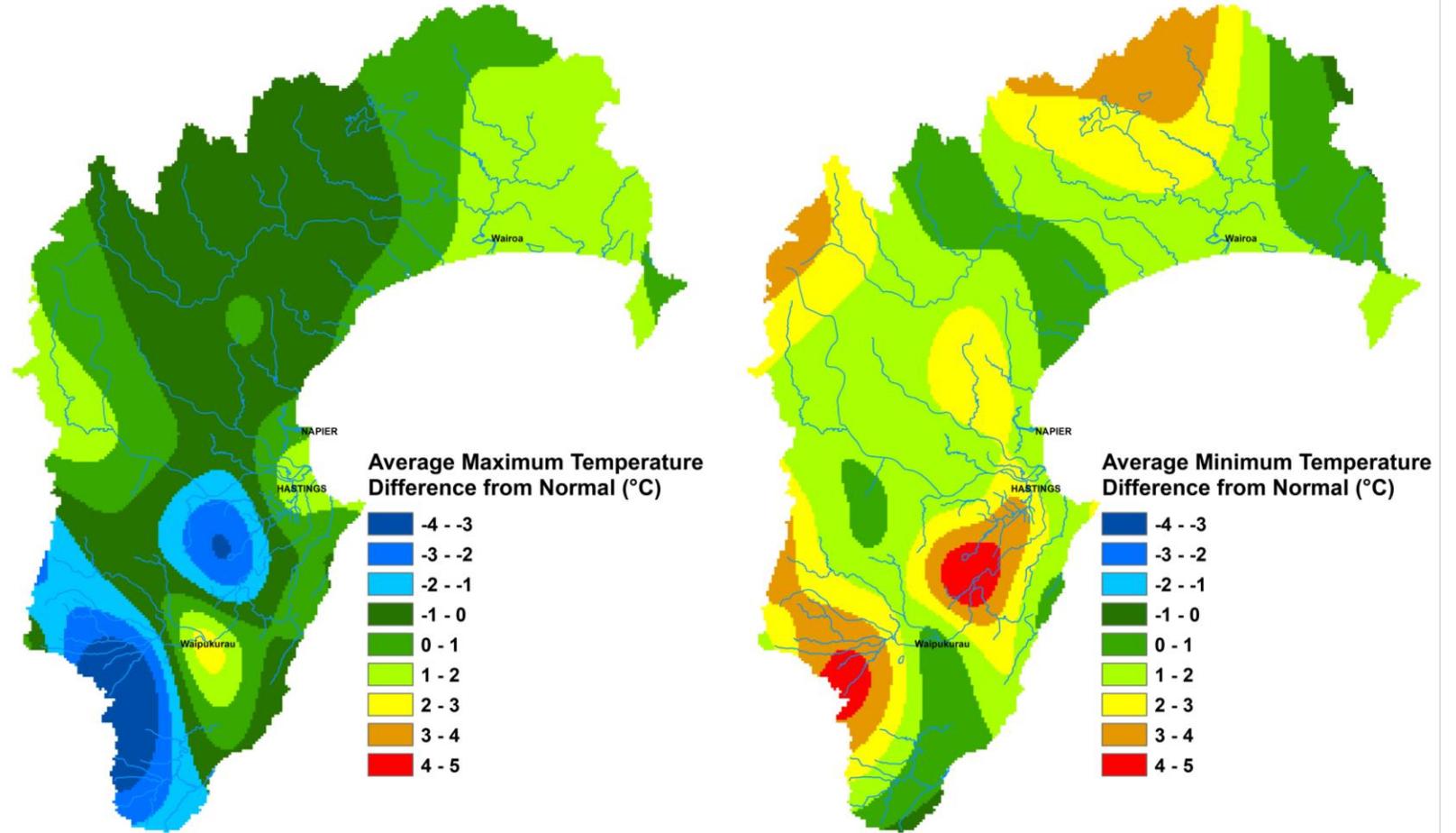


TEMPERATURES

Normal days and warm nights.

Mean Difference from Normal
Maximum Temperature: 0.3°C
Minimum Temperature: 1.8°C

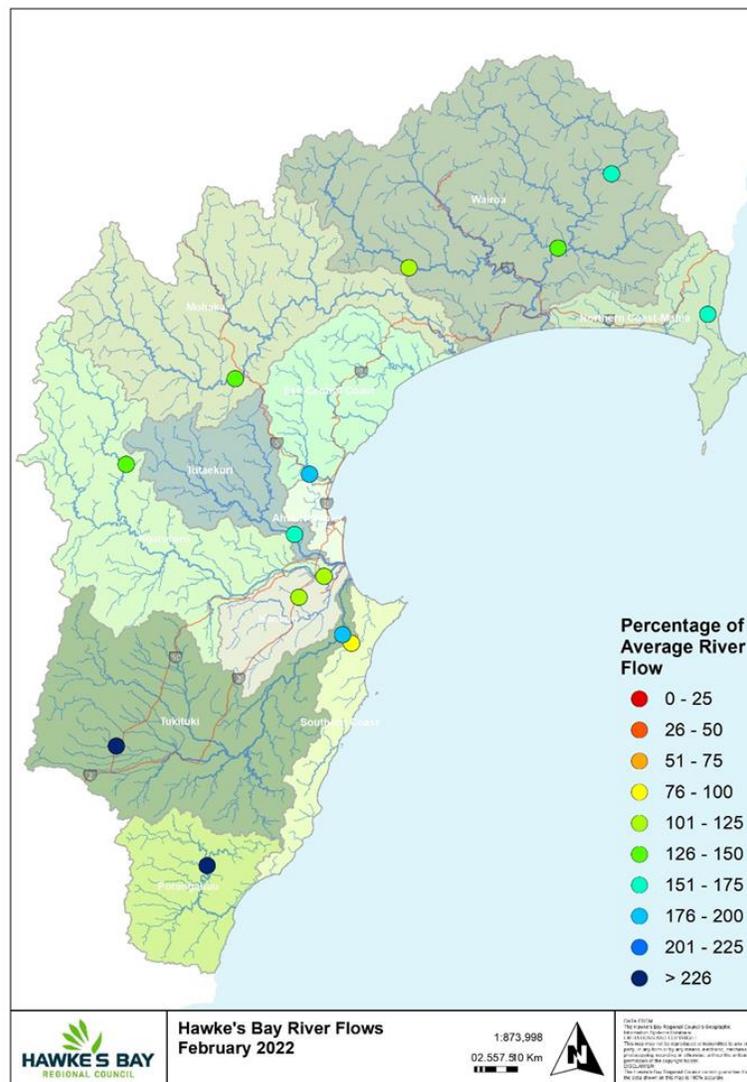
Mean Daily Maximum: 22 °C
Mean Daily Minimum: 14°C
Highest Daily: 33.6 °C
Location: Crownthorpe Climate
Lowest Daily: 2.6 °C
Location: Taharua Climate



RIVER FLOW

Percentage of average February flows
for areas in the region:

Northern Coast – Mahia	164%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	172%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	143%
Northern HB – Waiau River	115%
Mohaka	149%
Esk-Central Coast	187%
Tūtaekuri	159%
Karamu	114%
Ngaruroro – Kuripapango	133%
Ngaruroro – Chesterhope	119%
Southern Coast	98%
Tukituki – Tukipo River	370%
Tukituki – Tukituki River	189%
Porangahau	316%
Hawke's Bay Region	173%



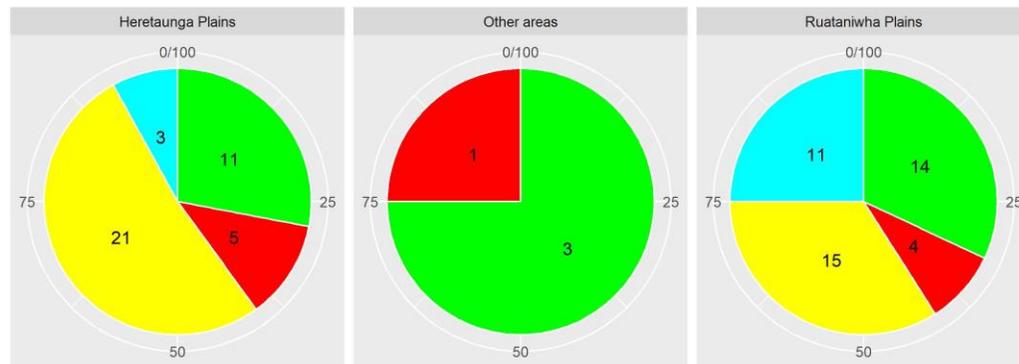
GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

Soil Moisture: Well above normal.

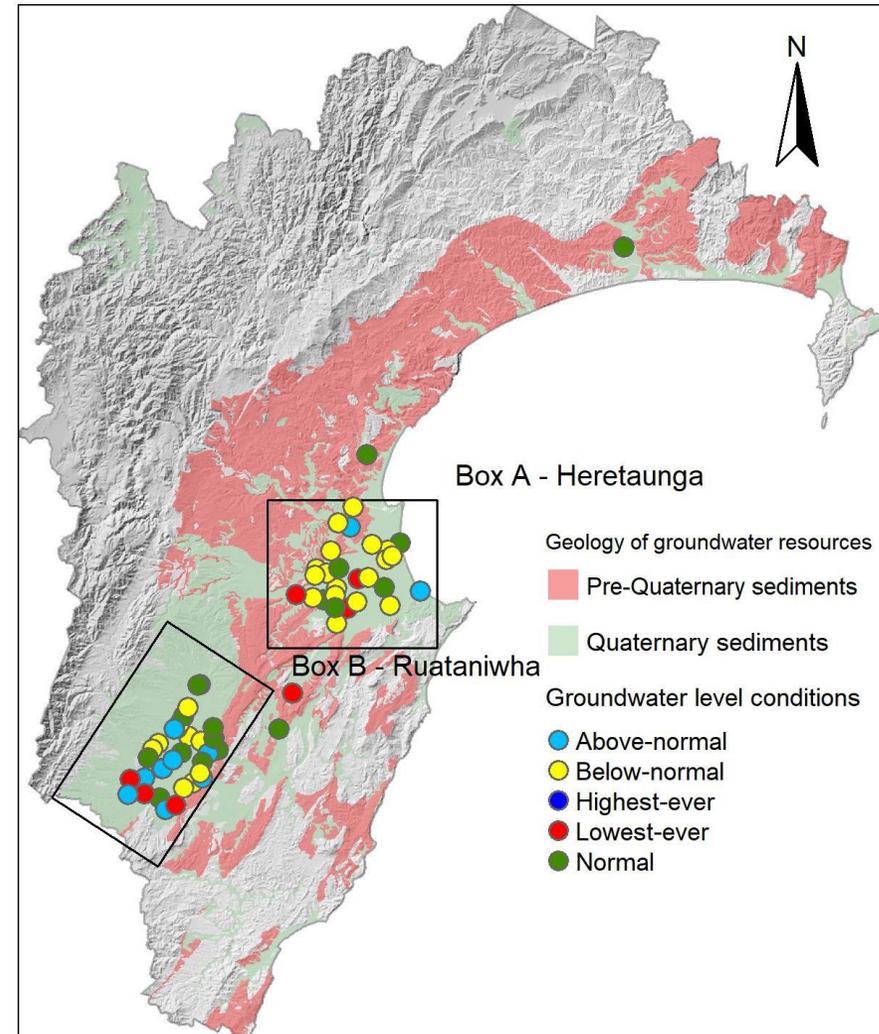
Current state of Groundwater levels:

This report compares groundwater levels in February 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
 ■ Lowest-ever
 ■ Normal



RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY

It was a wet February with more than double the average February rainfall in most areas, and the recreational water quality results reflect that. Most sites region wide experienced at least one rainfall related exceedance, with the exception of Lake Tūtira, Mahanga Beach and Hardinge Road Beach.

February reminds us of the importance of checking water quality information before you swim, and avoid swimming for at least 2 - 3 days after heavy or prolonged rain, even for sites that have good water quality.



LONGER FORECAST

The La Niña is weakening and neutral conditions should prevail during the course of autumn, though it may be towards the end of the period. The pending establishment of neutral conditions hasn't greatly changed the expected pattern of mean sea level pressure around New Zealand for the next three months. Lower pressures are expected to the north and northwest of the country and higher to the south.

The upshot is that easterlies are still expected to be quite prevalent across the region. Sea temperatures remain warm around us so above normal air temperatures are still on the cards. The models generally depict near or above normal rainfall for us over the three months. However there is no sign of rain on the immediate horizon and MetService foresee a drier than normal March. So if the seasonal models end up right, we may be in for more rollercoaster months that kicked off the year.

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