

# Monthly Environmental Report

Environmental Science Report



## November 2025

Summer was delivered a month early this year, as November brought scorching temperatures and below average rainfall to the Bay. Rainfall on the plains managed to make it into the normal range (between 80% and 120% of the long-term average) but they were both on the lower side of normal. Everywhere else was below normal, with Northern HB and the Ruahine Ranges receiving just half the average for this time of year. Daytime temperatures were a staggering 3.4°C above average across the region! There wasn't much respite at night either since minimum temps were 2.9°C warmer than usual.

The hot dry conditions meant river flows, groundwater levels and soil moisture were all below average. A couple of river flow and soil moisture sites bucked the trend, but they were the exceptions to the overall pattern. Roughly a third of wells on the Heretaunga and Ruataniwha plains recorded their lowest November levels on record. On a brighter note, recreational water quality monitoring started this month and most sites saw 100% compliance. Those who chose to swim at the beach were rewarded with good water quality and sea surface temperatures nearly 1.5°C above normal, which was a pleasant change to the colder waters of previous months. Bring on summer!

**Jeremy Kidd**

**Air Quality Scientist**

## Short summary

Hot and dry!

### November Forecast

**Temperature** Near or above average

**Rain** Near average

**River flows** Near or below average

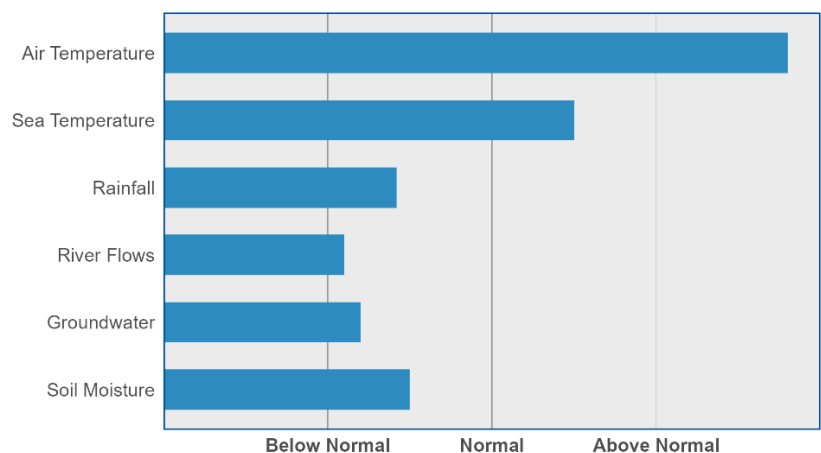
**Soil moisture** Near or below average

Source: NIWA

### For more information

[www.hbrc.govt.nz](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz)

Ph: 06 835 9200



Summary – Nov 2025

# RAINFALL

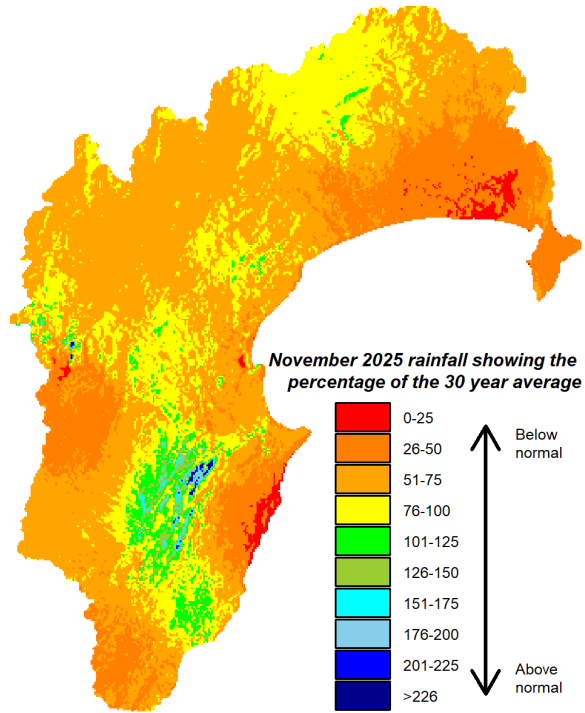
Below average for most of the region. Four cloud to ground lightning strikes.

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

**Percentage of normal November rainfall (30 year average) for areas in the region:**

Waikaremoana	81%
Northern HB	50%
Tangoio	74%
Kaweka	71%
Ruahine	53%
Heretaunga Plains	87%
Ruataniwha Plains	90%
<u>Southern HB</u>	<u>62%</u>
Hawke's Bay Region	71%

For a more detailed rainfall report click [here](#).  
and for a five-year monthly summary click [here](#).



# AIR TEMPERATURES

Hot days and warm nights.

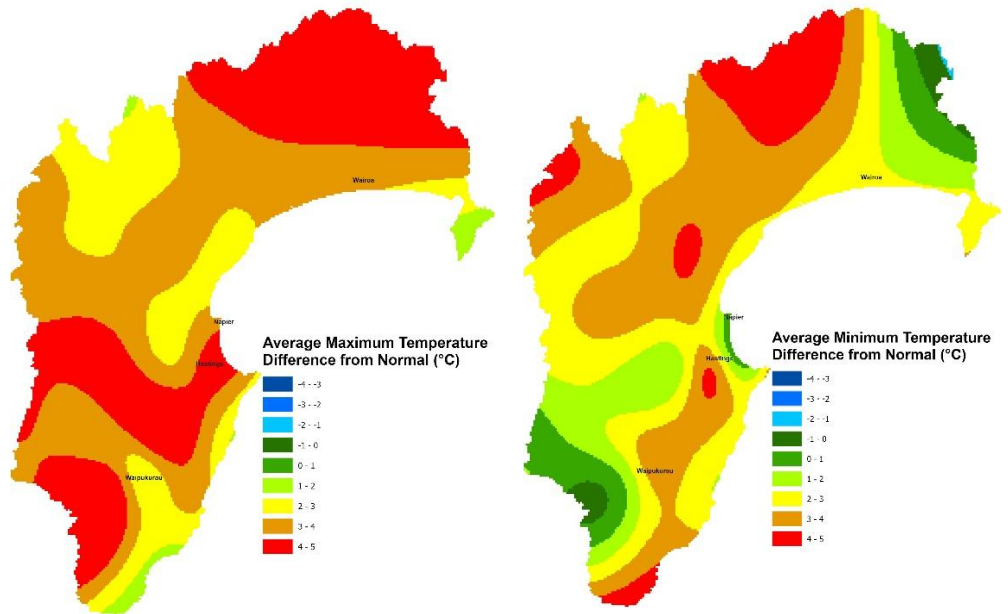
**Mean Difference from Normal**

Maximum Temperature: **3.4°C**  
Minimum Temperature: **2.9°C**

Mean Daily Maximum: **22.1°C**  
Mean Daily Minimum: **11.7°C**

Highest Daily: **32°C**  
**Location: Whakatu EWS (NIWA)**

Lowest Daily: **1.2°C**  
**Location: Taharua Climate**



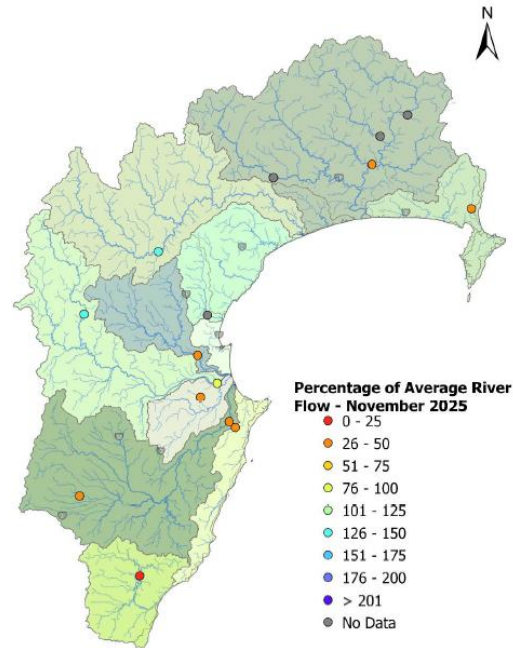
# RIVER FLOW

## Percentage of average November flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coast – Mahia	35%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	No data
Northern HB – Wairoa River	36%
Northern HB – Waiau River	No data
Mohaka	126%
Esk-Central Coast	No data
Tūtaekuri	40%
Karamu	30%
Ngaruroro – Chesterhope	85%
Ngaruroro - Kuripapango	129%
Southern Coast	50%
Tukituki – Tukipo River	30%
Tukituki – Red Bridge	46%
Porangahau	1%

**Hawke’s Bay Region** **55%**

For a more detailed river flow report click [here](#).



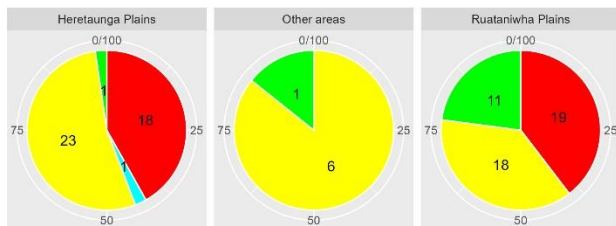
# GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

**Soil Moisture:** Below average.

For a more detailed soil moisture report click [here](#).

## Current state of Groundwater levels:

This report compares groundwater levels measured in November 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 25<sup>th</sup> percentile are considered below-normal, groundwater levels measuring between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles are classed as normal, and groundwater levels measuring between the 75<sup>th</sup>-maximum are considered above normal. Wells with less than 5 years of record are excluded from the analysis.



Normal Below-normal Above-normal Lowest-ever

