

January 2019

# Hawke's Bay Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

RAINFALL  
TEMPERATURES  
RIVER FLOW  
GROUNDWATER & SOIL  
RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY  
LONGER FORECAST

## January 2019

Seas around us have been well warm, up to 2°C above average over the last few months. Hence we baked, even on days with a sea breeze. It has shades of January last year, but then seas and overnight temperatures reached a lofty 4°C warmer than average not just 2°C. The warmer the air, the more water it can hold before it dumps it. And smack in the middle of the month it did.

Rainfall on the Heretaunga Plains and many other parts of the region doubled the January average or came close. It's three months now of above average rainfall and so groundwater levels, river flows and soil moisture look stellar for the time of year. Dunking sweaty brows was all go and all good at our popular bathing spots except for a pause mid-month when the region got a decent wash down.

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# SUMMARY

## January 2019

Boy, was it warm... and wet.

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

### ***NIWA forecast***

February to April forecast

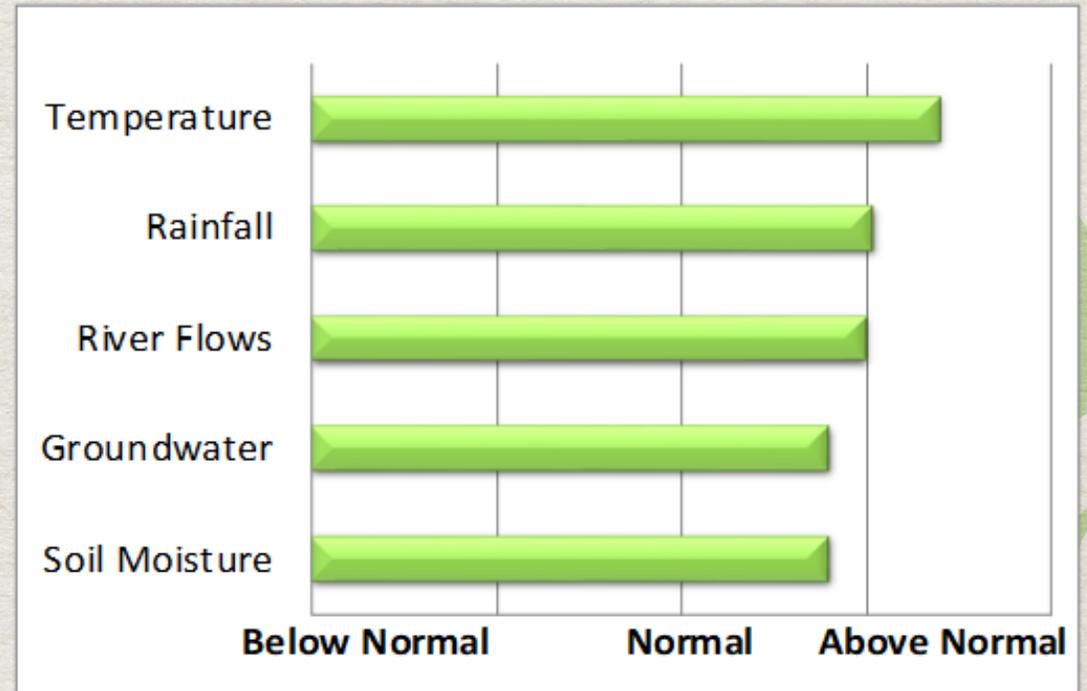
Temperature	Above average
Rain	Near normal
River flows	Near normal
Soil moisture	Below or near normal

*(source : NIWA)*

For more information

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

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# RAINFALL

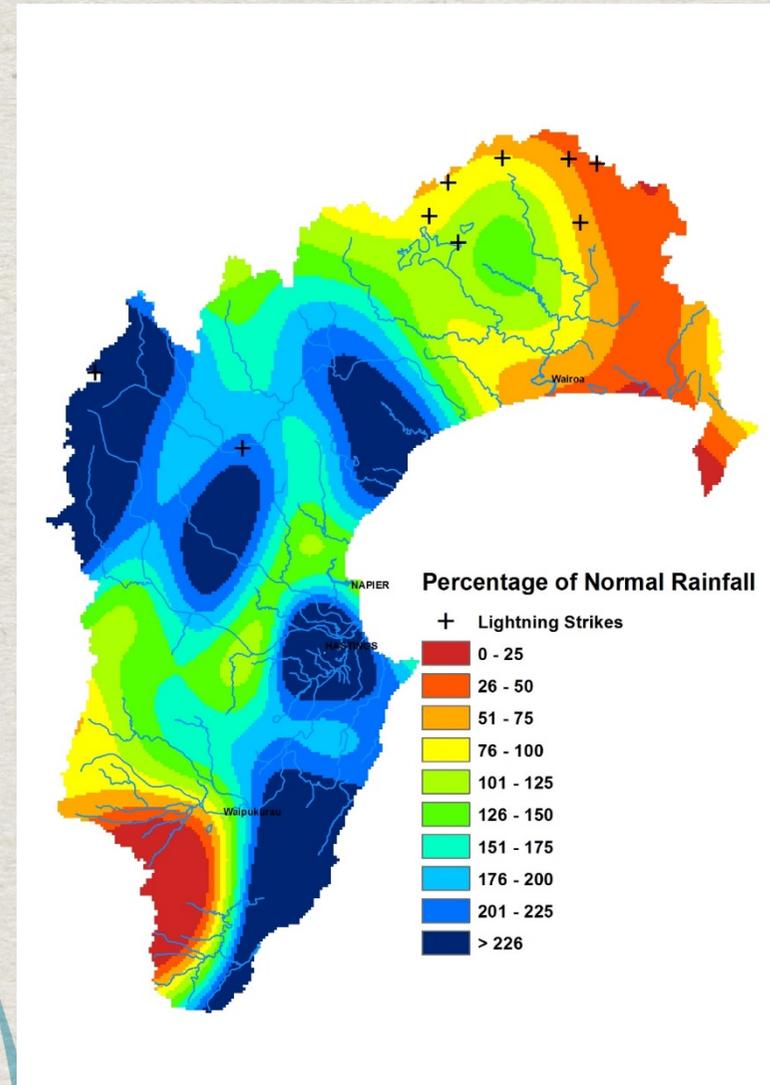
Above normal, especially on the Heretaunga Plains.  
9 cloud to ground lightning strikes.

*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	104%
Northern HB	96%
Tangoio	191%
Kaweka	198%
Ruahine	97%
Heretaunga Plains	210%
Ruataniwha Plains	136%
Southern HB	184%
<b>Hawke's Bay Region</b>	<b>152%</b>



# TEMPERATURES

Stonking – well above normal

## Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 2.0°C

Minimum Temperature: 2.4°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 25°C

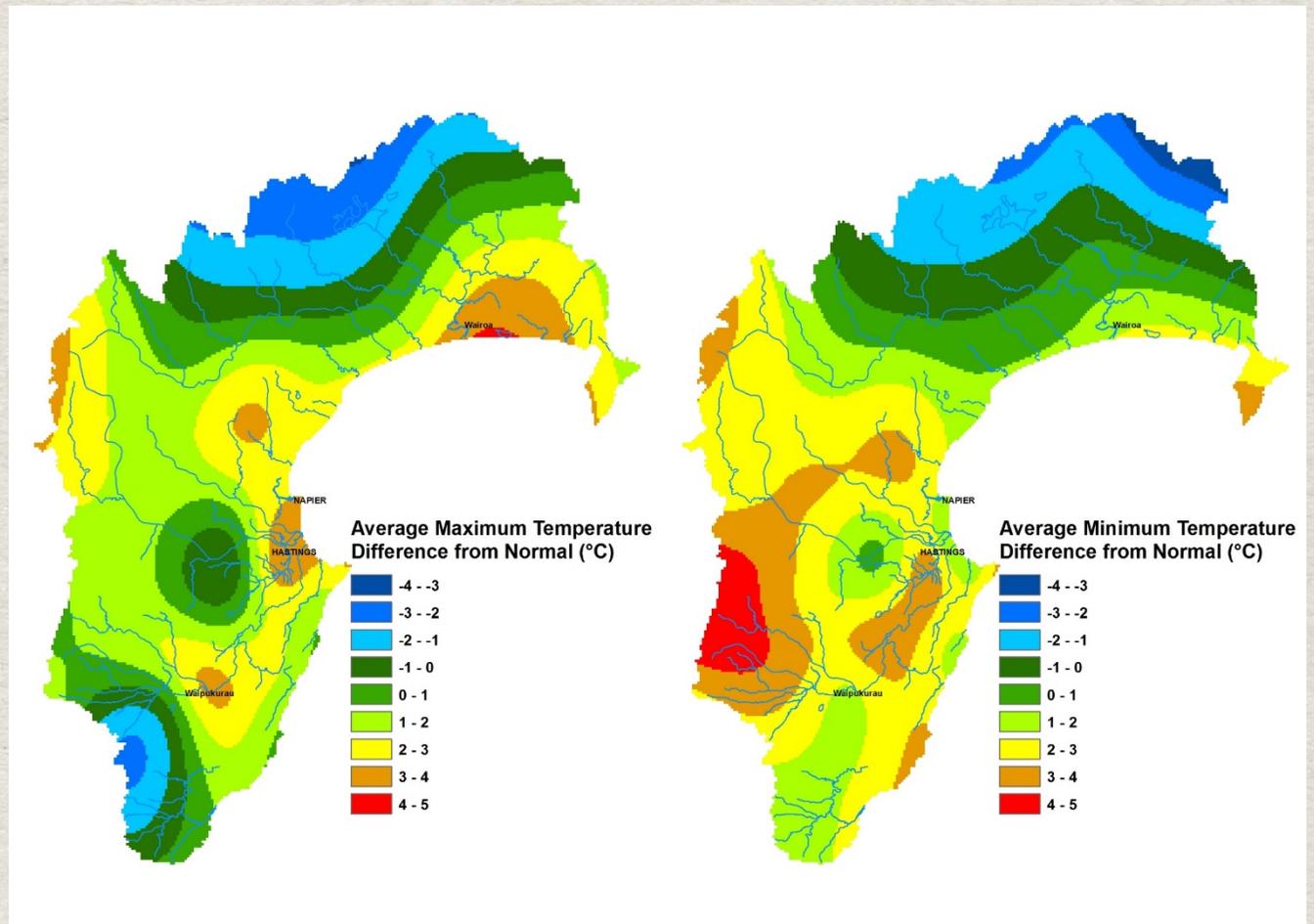
Mean Daily Minimum: 14°C

Highest Daily: 34.8°C

Location: Napier EWS

Lowest Daily: 7°C

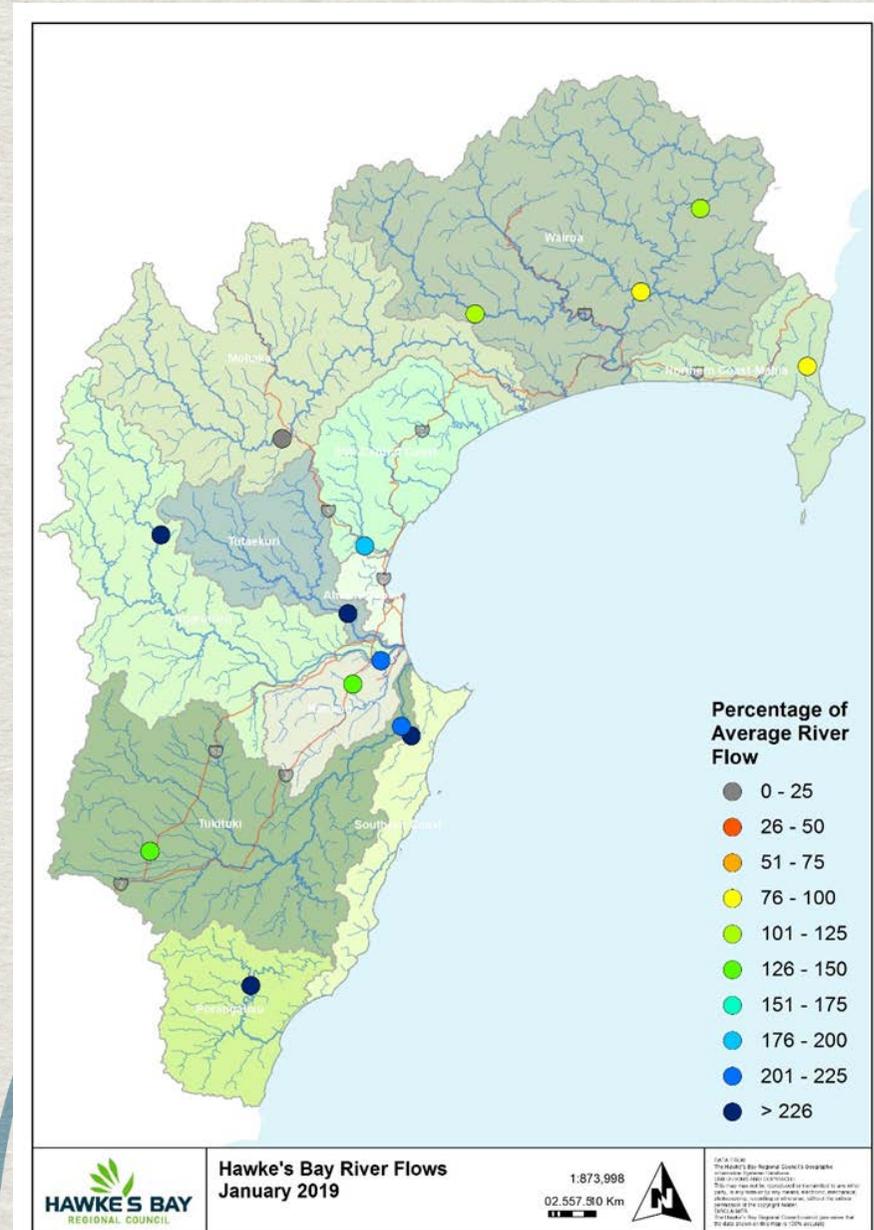
Location: Porangahau Climate



# RIVER FLOW

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

Northern Coastal	92%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	123%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	95%
Northern HB – Waiau River	106%
Mohaka	0%
Esk-Central Coastal	198%
Tūtaekuri	255%
Karamu	138%
Ngaruroro - Upper	295%
Ngaruroro - Lower	206%
Southern Coastal	254%
Tukituki – Tukipo River	142%
Tukituki – Tukituki River	202%
Porangahau	887%
<b>Hawke's Bay Region</b>	<b>214%</b>



# GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

## Groundwater:

### Heretaunga basin:

Mostly normal and above normal levels.

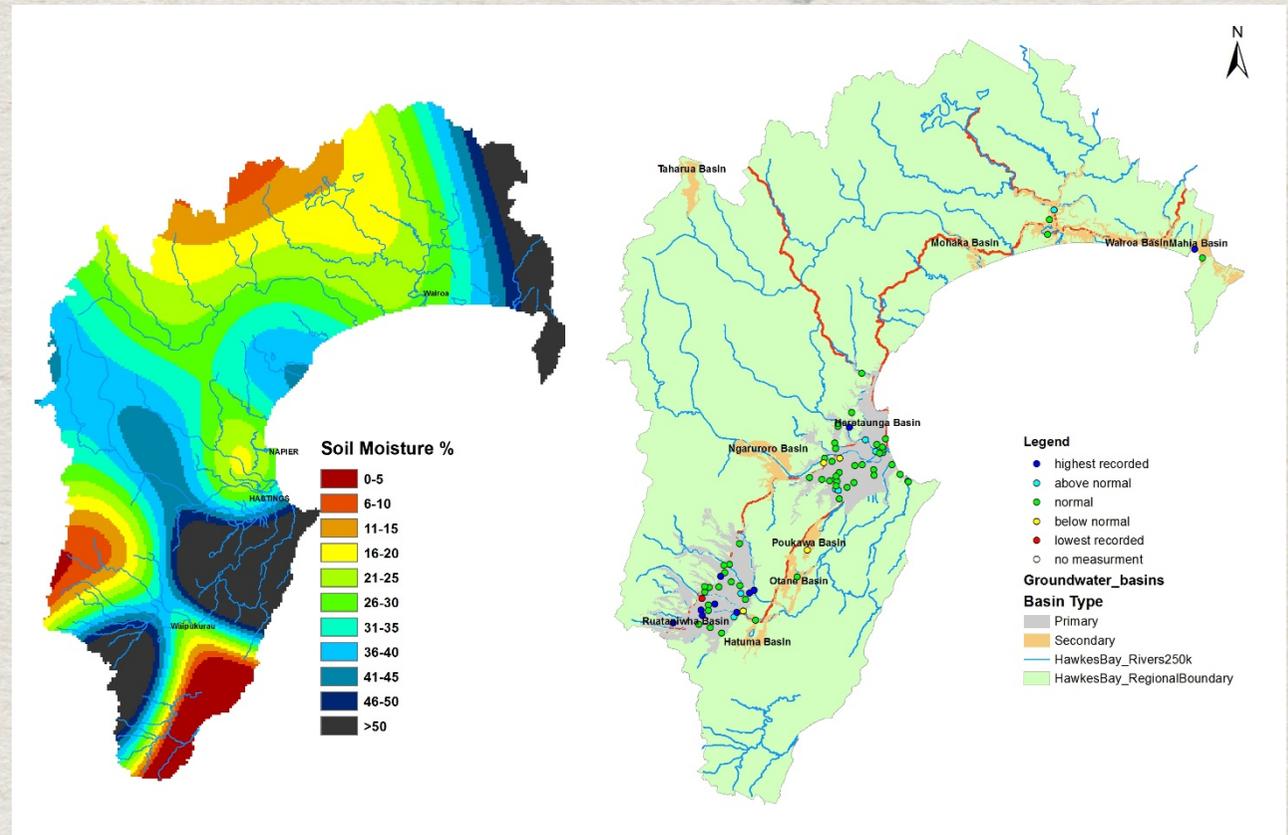
### Ruataniwha basin:

Mostly normal and above normal levels.

### Secondary basins:

Mostly normal and above normal levels.

**Soil Moisture:** Above normal





## LONGER FORECAST

The El Niño has still failed to materialise. The spectre of it eventuating hasn't disappeared but it has a "cried wolf" feel about it due to the length of time it's toyed with us.

Continued warm seas around us will remain a player in our weather and keep temperatures above normal for the next few months. Higher pressures are favoured to the southeast of the country and lower to the northeast.

The associated easterly winds directed over Hawke's Bay, together with those warm seas, make it unlikely late summer/autumn rainfall will be below normal.

Farmers have been enjoying a very growthy couple of months with more regular rainfall than is usually expected in December and January, warmer conditions and soil moisture levels higher than normal. With near record harvests of silage, baleage and hay, storage is full.

Livestock are in good condition but the warm moist conditions have led to some anticipated animal health concerns including the early arrival of facial eczema, more parasites and flystrike.

Good pasture quality and quantity underpinned the store market for some time. The recent ewe fairs have been strongly supported, with prices for two-tooth ewes exceeding \$300 per head, reflecting confidence amongst sheep farmers. Livestock are being held longer on-farm to reach heavier weights and help control pasture quality. This has restricted the supply of stock to processors.

Dairy cows are in great order, mating results are good and milk production is slightly ahead of last year.

Crops have grown well with the combination of good soil moisture and warm days. Following good rain in late November, there was little need for irrigation during December but irrigation resumed where needed in January.

Export onion growers in the region are hopeful of a good outcome this season with average to good yields anticipated, and a lift in prices driven by a shortage of onions in Europe.

The season is running around normal timing for apples and kiwifruit. Good crops are expected from favourable growing conditions and new plantings and re-developments ramping up production.

The hot, windy weather at the end of January started to dry conditions out and increase the fire risk.