

JANUARY 2016

# Hawke's Bay Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

TEMPERATURES

RAINFALL

RIVER FLOW

GROUNDWATER & SOIL

RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY

MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

**HAWKE'S BAY** | Environmental Science  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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## January 2016

We seem to have an El Niño with an identity crisis. It lives up to its name for a time and then it suddenly adopts a warm, drenching, vaguely La Niña persona. But in this case, the wetter than usual January was courtesy of a couple of ex-tropical cyclones that toddled our way and the chance of that happening doesn't evaporate in El Niño conditions.

That tropical air made things hot and sticky and gave us one and a half times the usual January rainfall to balance out the half measures we had in December.

Our soil moisture levels in many places soared upward in response, while both river flows and groundwater levels are still middling around normal or a shade below.

If you packed away your sunglasses at the end of your hols, you might want to fish them out.

The image displaying our water quality results is usually one-toned green but this time it's bright and colourful. When you have a flush (of rain let me clarify) a temporary blip in water quality tends to result.

**Kathleen Kozyniak**  
Senior Scientist Climate & Air



## SUMMARY

### January was a bit tropical – 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.

#### *February to April Forecast*

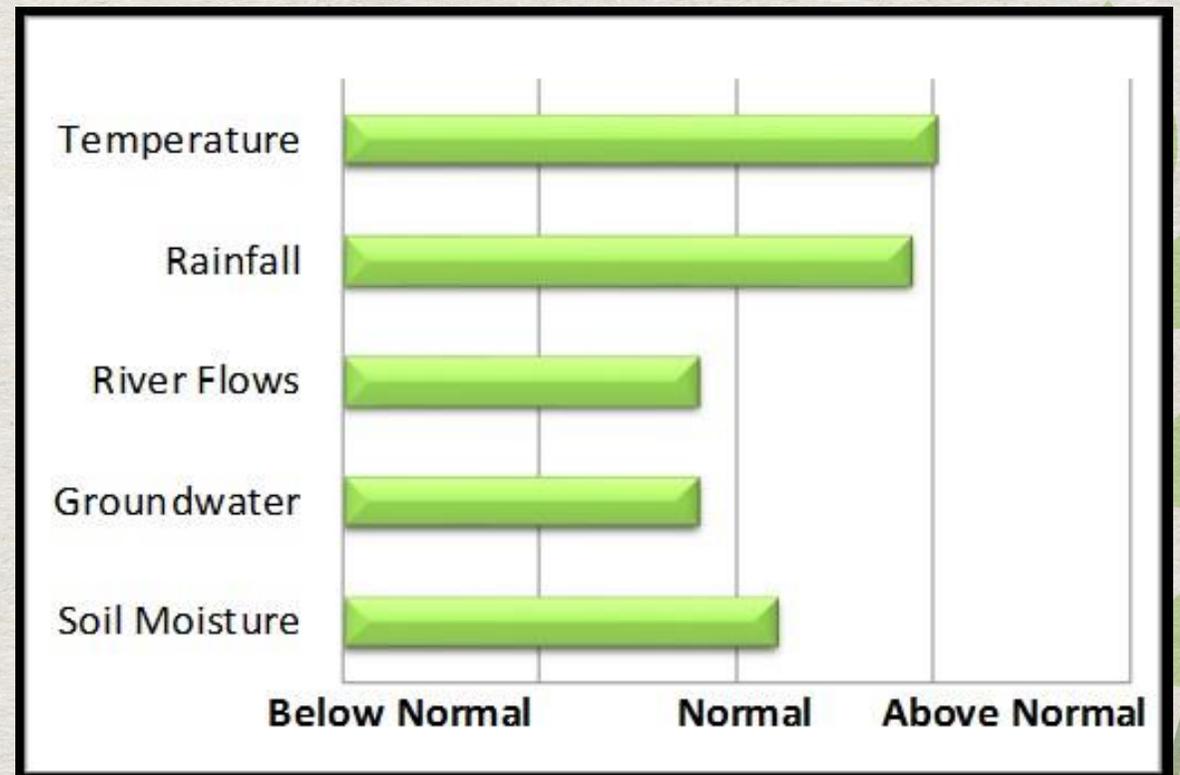
Temperature	Average to above average
Rain	Near to below normal
River flows	Near to below normal
Soil moisture	Near to below normal

*(source : NIWA)*

**For more information**

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

**P: 06 835 9200**



# TEMPERATURES

## What we've been waiting for... hot

Mean difference from normal  
Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 1.0°C

Minimum Temperature: 1.5°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 24°C

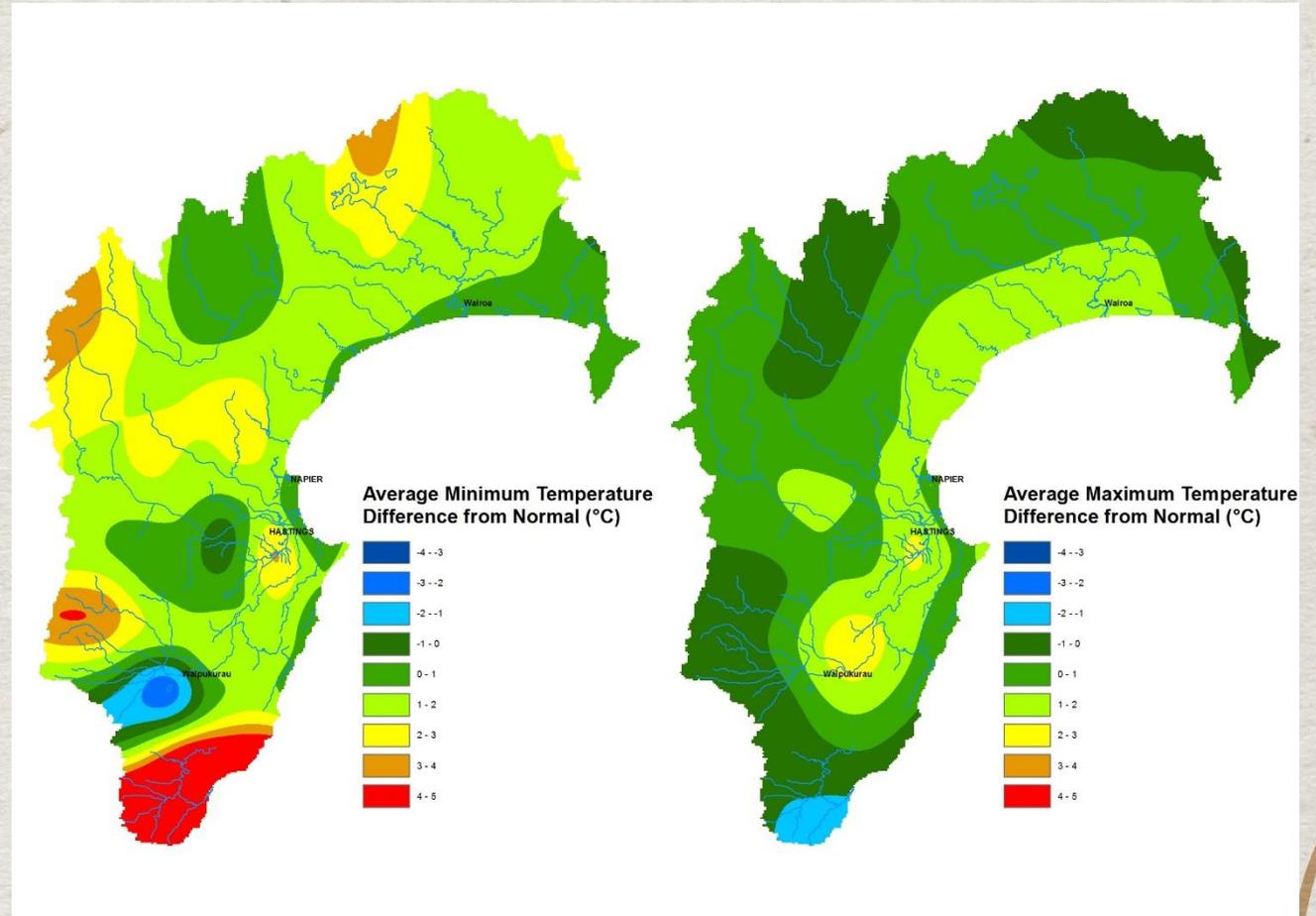
Mean Daily Minimum: 13°C

Highest Daily: 33.9°C

Location: Hastings AWS

Lowest Daily: 3.7°C

Location: Taharua



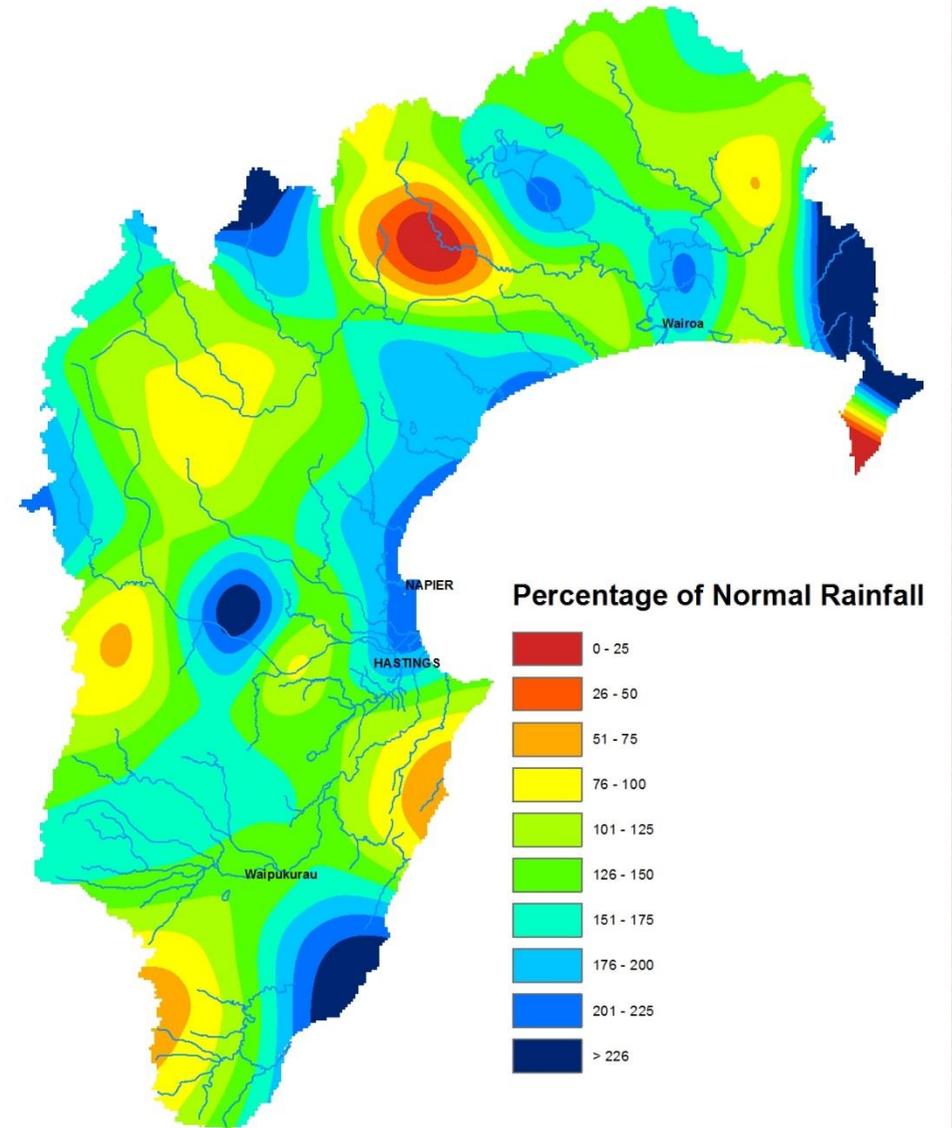
# RAINFALL

**Above normal - We made up for the lack of rain the previous month.**

Percentage of normal January rainfall  
(30 year average)  
For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	144%
Northern HB	177%
Tangoio	154%
Kaweka	118%
Ruahine	123%
Heretaunga Plains	160%
Ruataniwha Plains	147%
<u>Southern HB</u>	<u>119%</u>

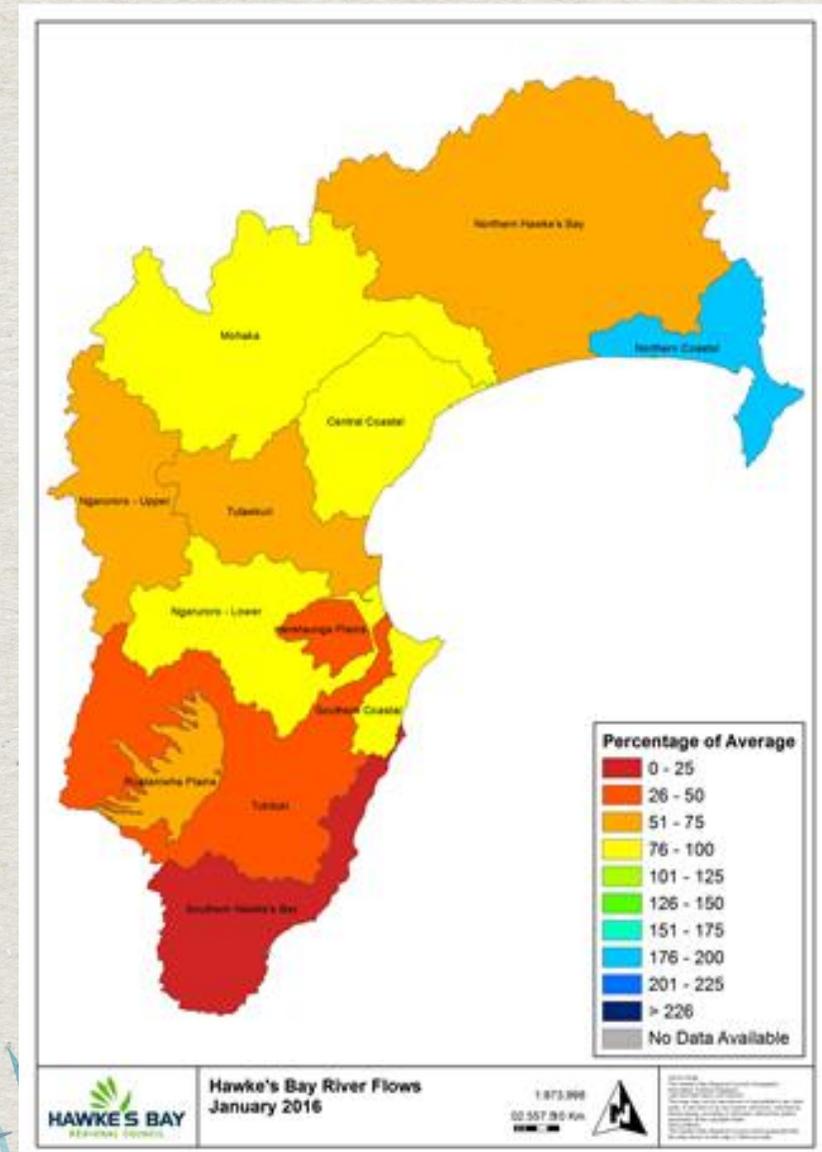
Hawke's Bay Region 143%



# RIVER FLOW

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

Northern Coastal	189%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	60%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	84%
Northern HB – Waiau River	71%
Mohaka	83%
Central Coastal	83%
Tūtaekuri	56%
Heretaunga Plains	29%
Ngaruroro - Upper	75%
Ngaruroro - Lower	77%
Southern Coastal	85%
Ruataniwha Plains	57%
Tukituki	42%
Southern HB	20%
<b>Hawke's Bay Region</b>	<b>72%</b>



## Groundwater Levels

### *Heretaunga Basin*

Mostly normal water levels, some below normal in the unconfined zone.

### *Ruataniwha Basin*

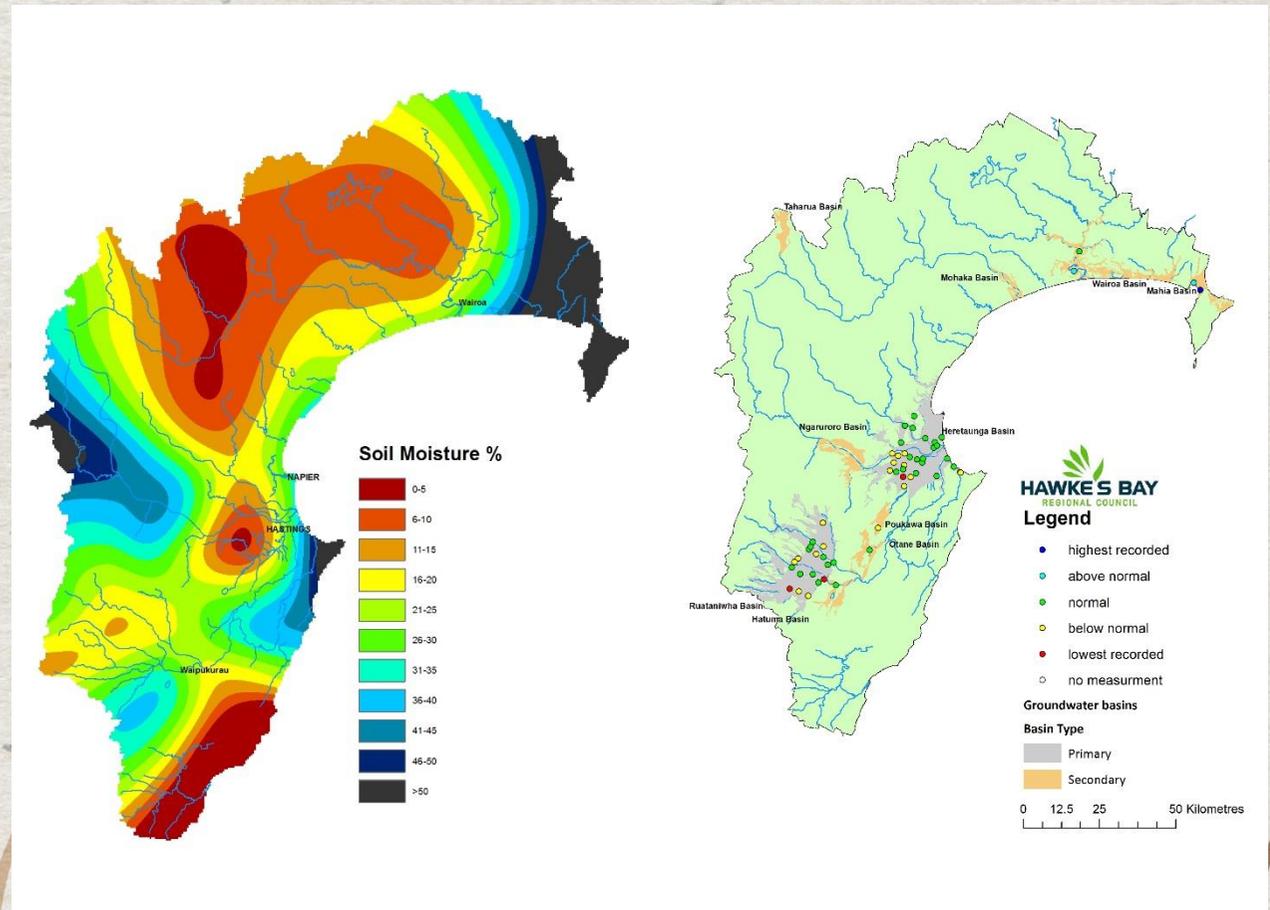
Mostly normal to below normal water levels

### *Secondary Basins*

Mostly normal and above normal

### *Soil Moisture*

Near to above normal



## RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY

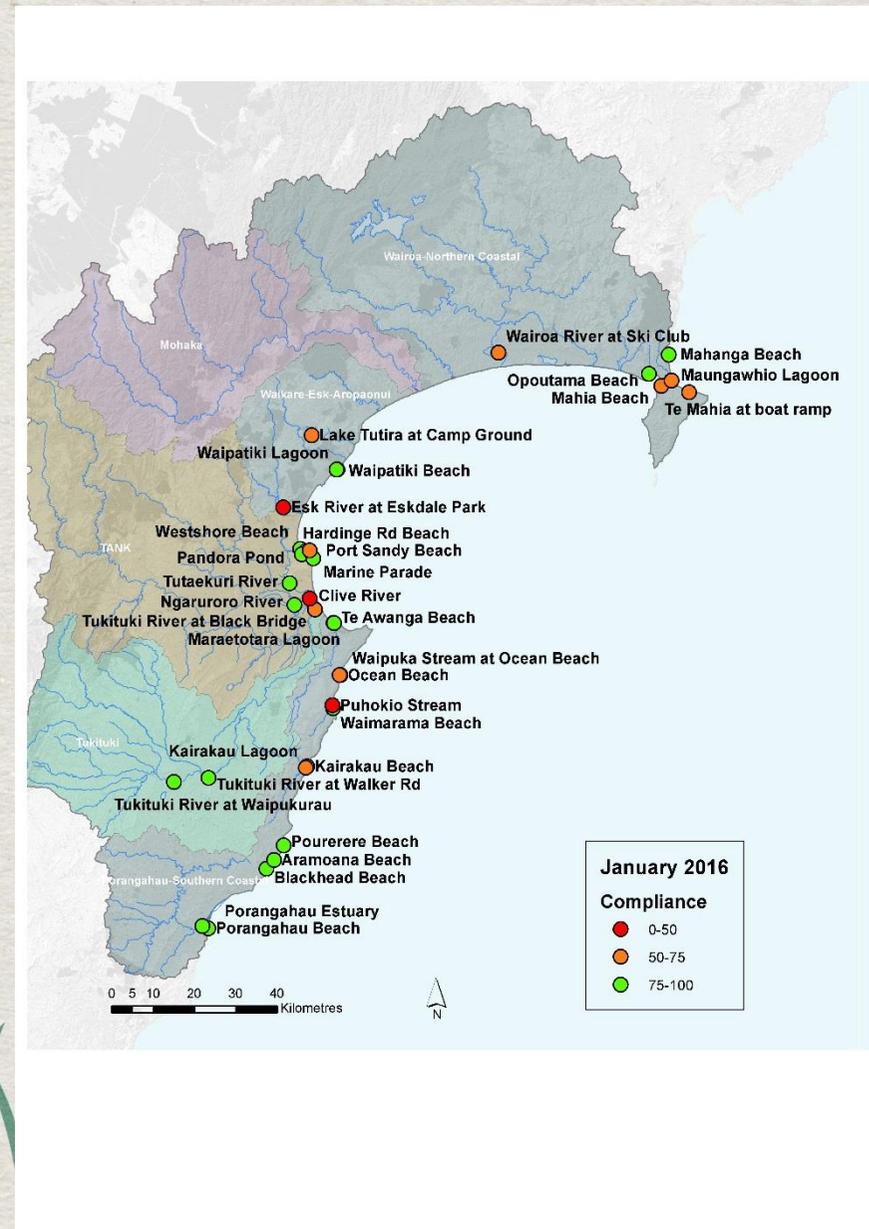
With the month of January being a wet one, the recreational water quality sites showed influences from surface water runoff.

The sites most affected by this were freshwater and estuarine sites.

The Esk River exceeded on 2 different occasions.

Two coastal sites also exceeded, they were; Port Sandy Beach in Napier and Mahia Beach.

Whilst Puhokio Stream and Clive River indicate only 50% compliance on the map, it is reminded that they are sampled fortnightly.



## January 2016

Good rainfall at the end of January across the Heretaunga Plains was very timely, bringing relief to irrigators.

High temperatures throughout much of January allowed pipfruit and grape crops to catch up following a cool spring and early summer.

The Hawke's Bay pipfruit crop for export is forecast to be larger than last season driven by increased plantings and favourable growing conditions to date. Good yields are also anticipated for grapes.

Timely moisture and warmer temperatures meant good growth in pasture and forage crops during January. Lambs are being drafted to good weights but prices are disappointing. However, farmers wanting to restock with ewes are facing higher prices.

Dairy farmers have been able to maintain production with the pasture on their milking platform, without buying in supplements or using a lot of irrigation. This is helping them to contain costs in the face of the falling payout.

It has been a reasonable season for process and cereal crops, though rain has occasionally delayed harvest and can impact on grain quality depending on timing.