

JANUARY 2018

# Hawke's Bay Trends

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

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

## January 2018

January is all about the temperatures. They went mad. Not in a phenomenal, scorching, new daytime record kind of way. Rather, it was a relentless, never cool down sort of way. Especially at night. Sheet washing halved because the top one spent January never gainfully employed in temperatures 4°C above average. The heat didn't dent our water stocks badly, thanks to loads of rain in all the main ranges. Some of that spread east at times but not that often to the south coast. Groundwater and soil moisture levels look good for the time of year and river levels received a boost. The occasional downpour and warm water temperatures made some of our swimming spots not so swimmable but most of them took the weather and their popularity in their stride.

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**Principal Scientist Climate and Air**



### The short summary

*Spectacular temperatures and helpful rain*

*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

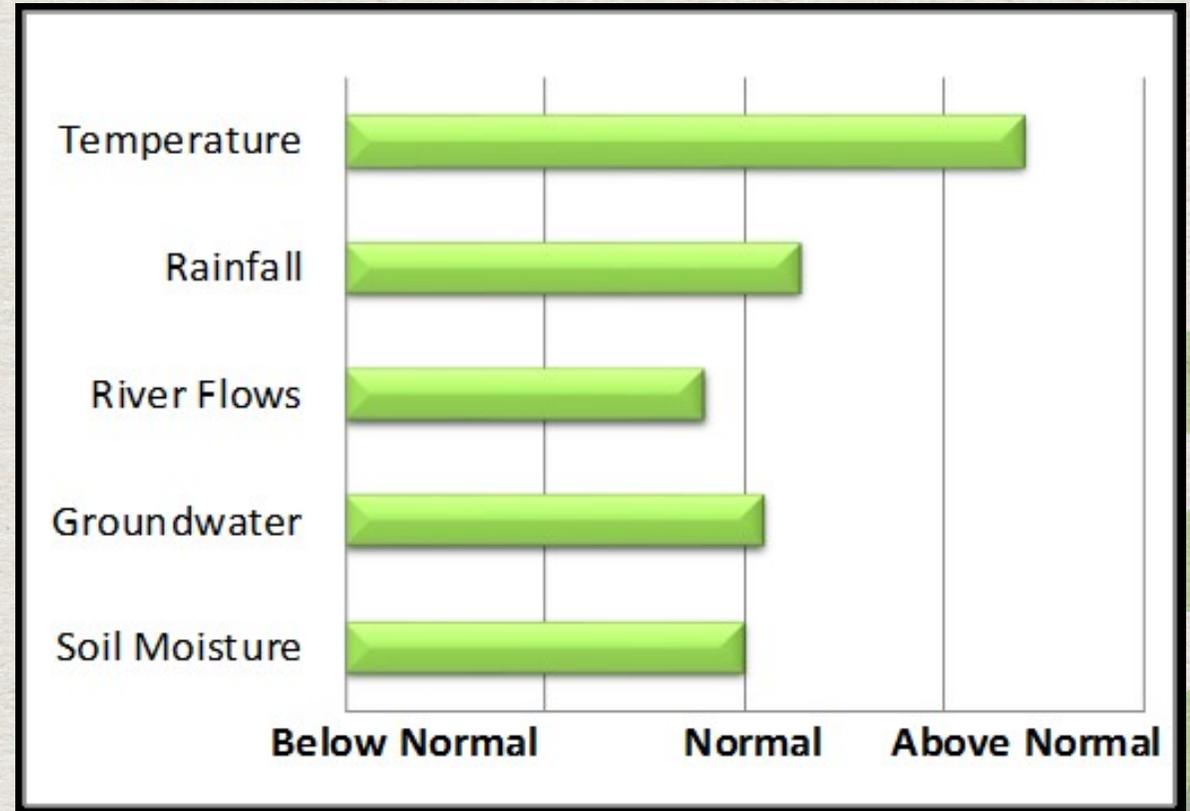
**Temperature**    **Above average**  
**Rain**            **Above normal**  
**River flows**    **Near or above normal**  
**Soil moisture**   **Near or above normal**

*(source : NIWA)*

For more information

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

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# RAINFALL

Heaps in the ranges and near normal overall

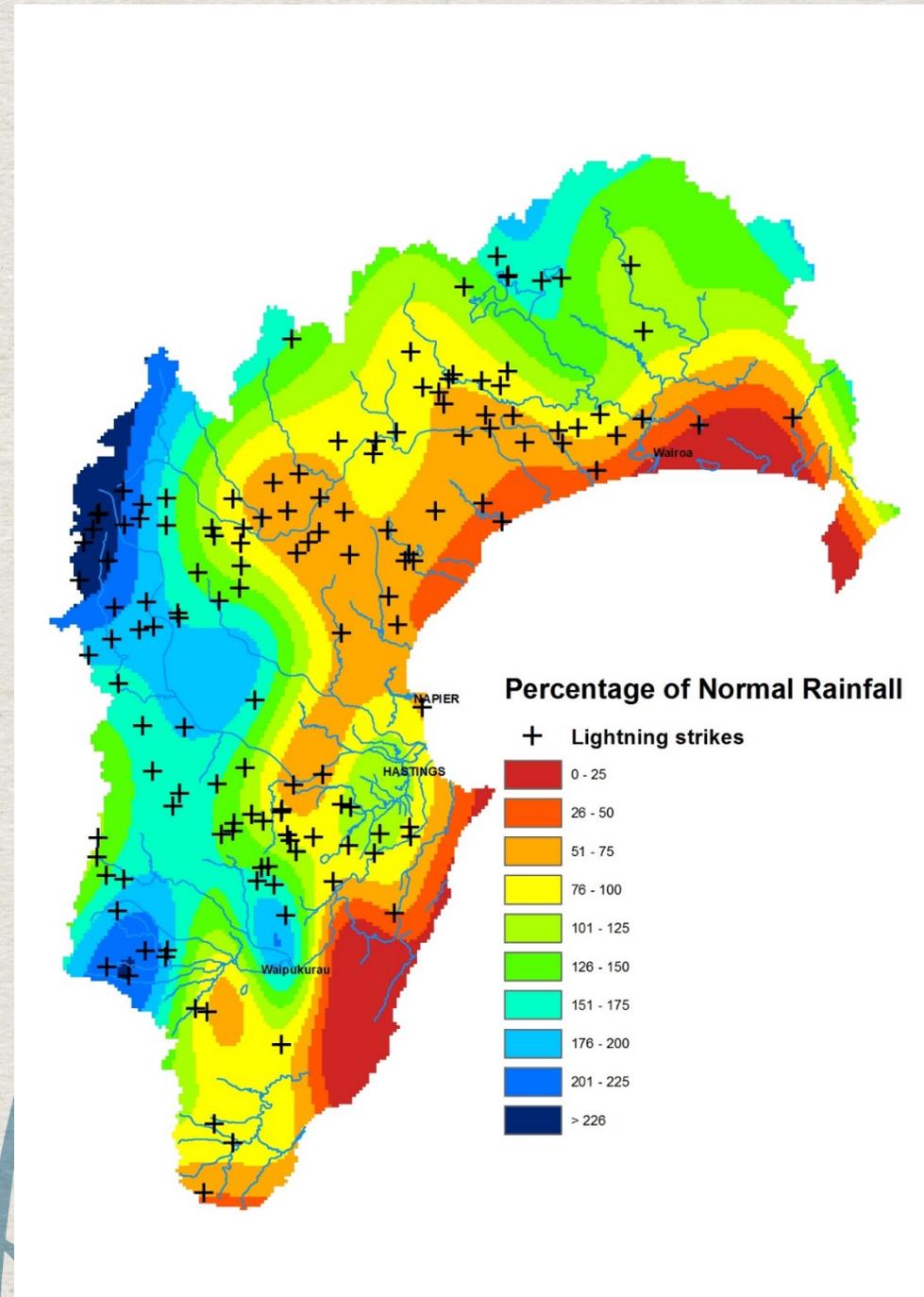
Lightning strikes (cloud to ground) - 138

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

Percentage of normal January rainfall  
(30 year average)

**For areas in the region:**

Waikaremoana	135%
Northern HB	74%
Tangoio	79%
Kaweka	169%
Ruahine	157%
Heretaunga Plains	95%
Ruataniwha Plains	139%
Southern HB	67%
<b>Hawke's Bay Region</b>	<b>114%</b>



# TEMPERATURES

Ballistic! **NO MAP AVAILABLE**

Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 2.2°C

Minimum Temperature: 4.1°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 25°C

Mean Daily Minimum: 16°C

Highest Daily: 34.1°C

Location: Waipukurau Climate

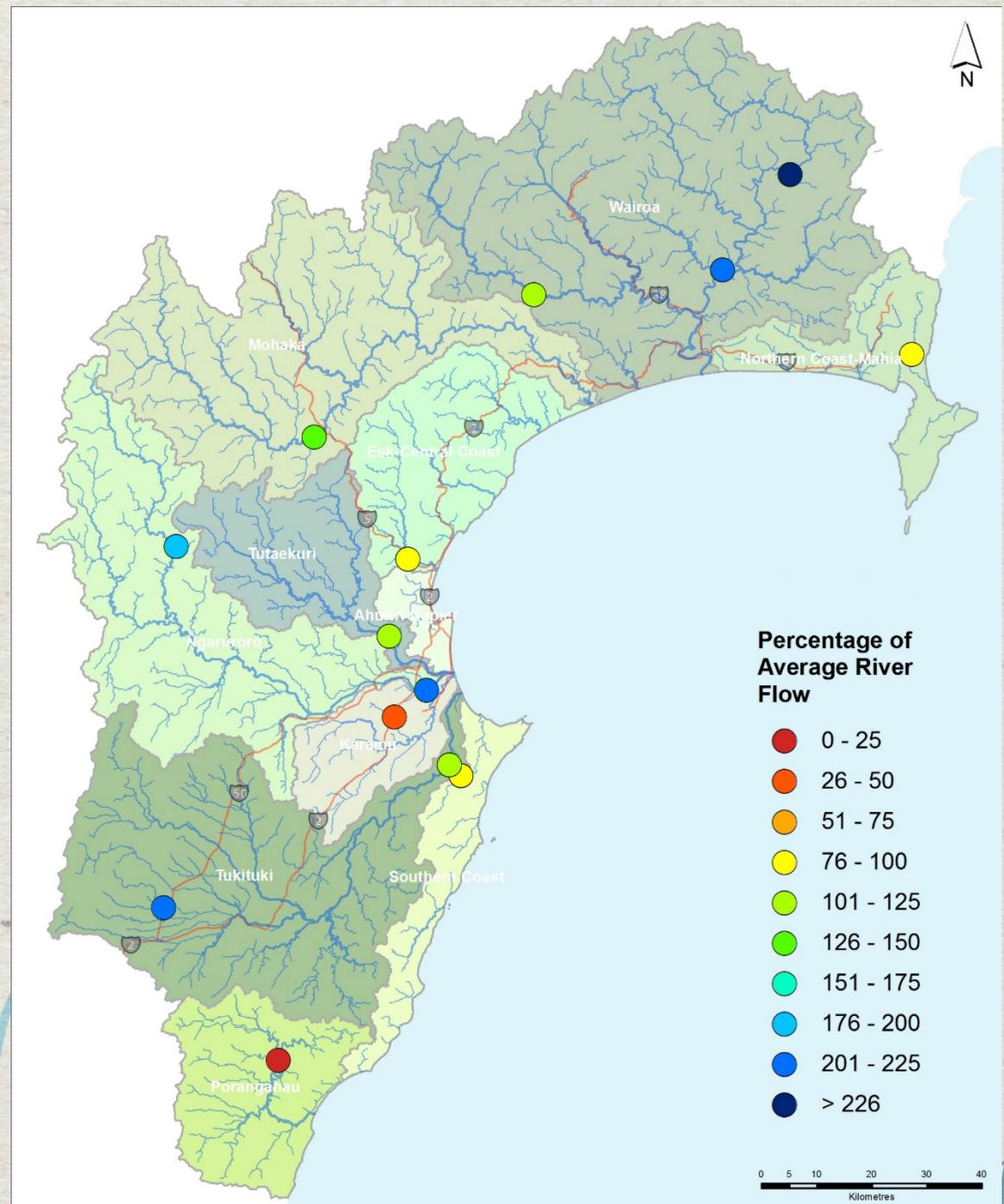
Lowest Daily: 6.9°C

Location: Taharua

# RIVER FLOW

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

Northern Coastal	77%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	250%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	211%
Northern HB – Waiau River	125%
Mohaka	126%
Central Coastal	92%
Tūtaekuri	101%
Heretaunga Plains	41%
Ngaruroro - Upper	189%
Ngaruroro - Lower	211%
Southern Coastal	79%
Ruataniwha Plains	210%
Tukituki	111%
Southern HB	11%
<b>Hawke's Bay Region</b>	<b>131%</b>



# GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

## Groundwater:

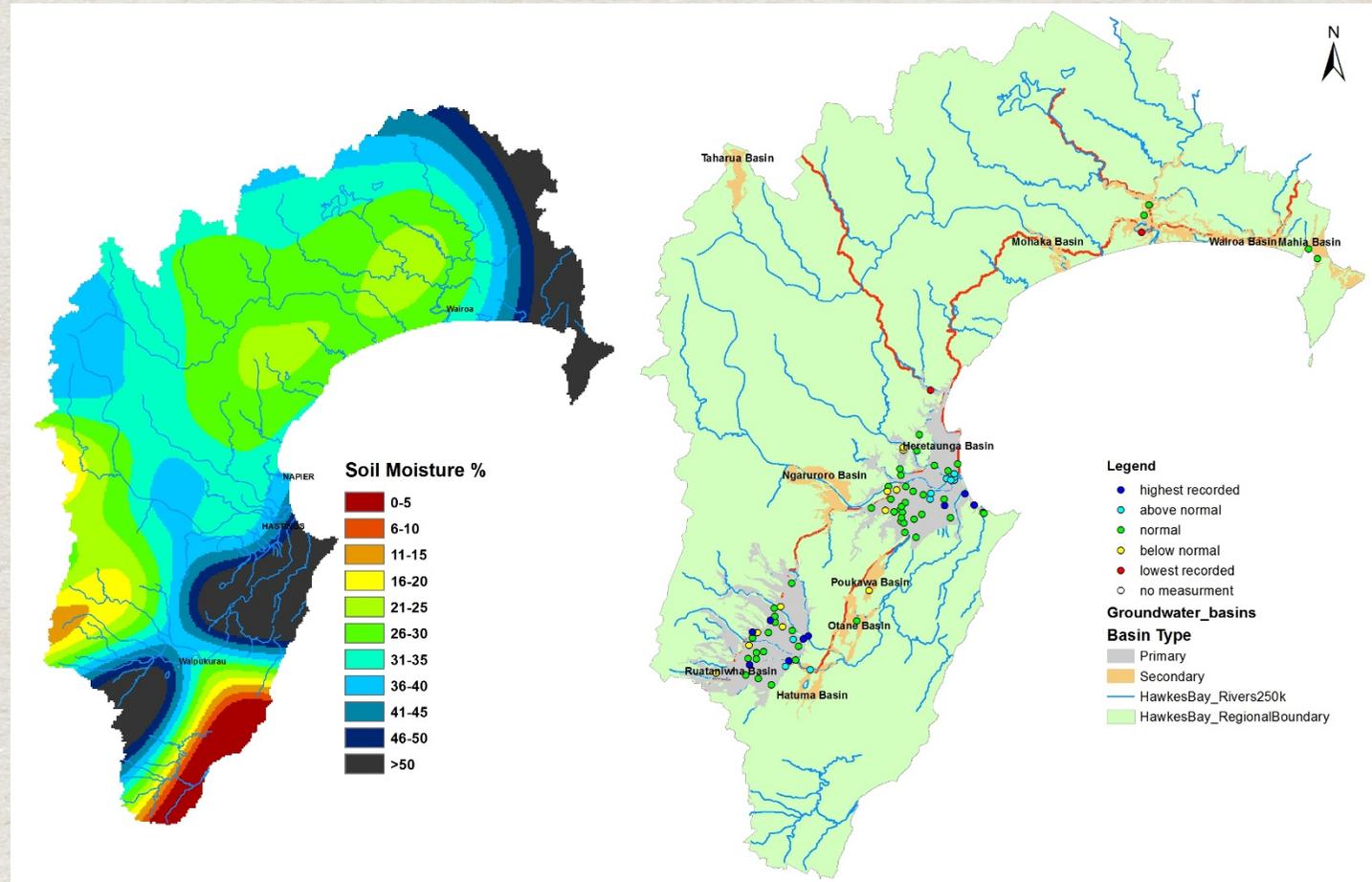
**Heretaunga basin** – Mainly normal and above normal water levels

**Ruataniwha basin** – Mainly normal and above normal water levels

**Secondary basin** – Mainly normal water levels conditions

## Soil Moisture

Near or above normal

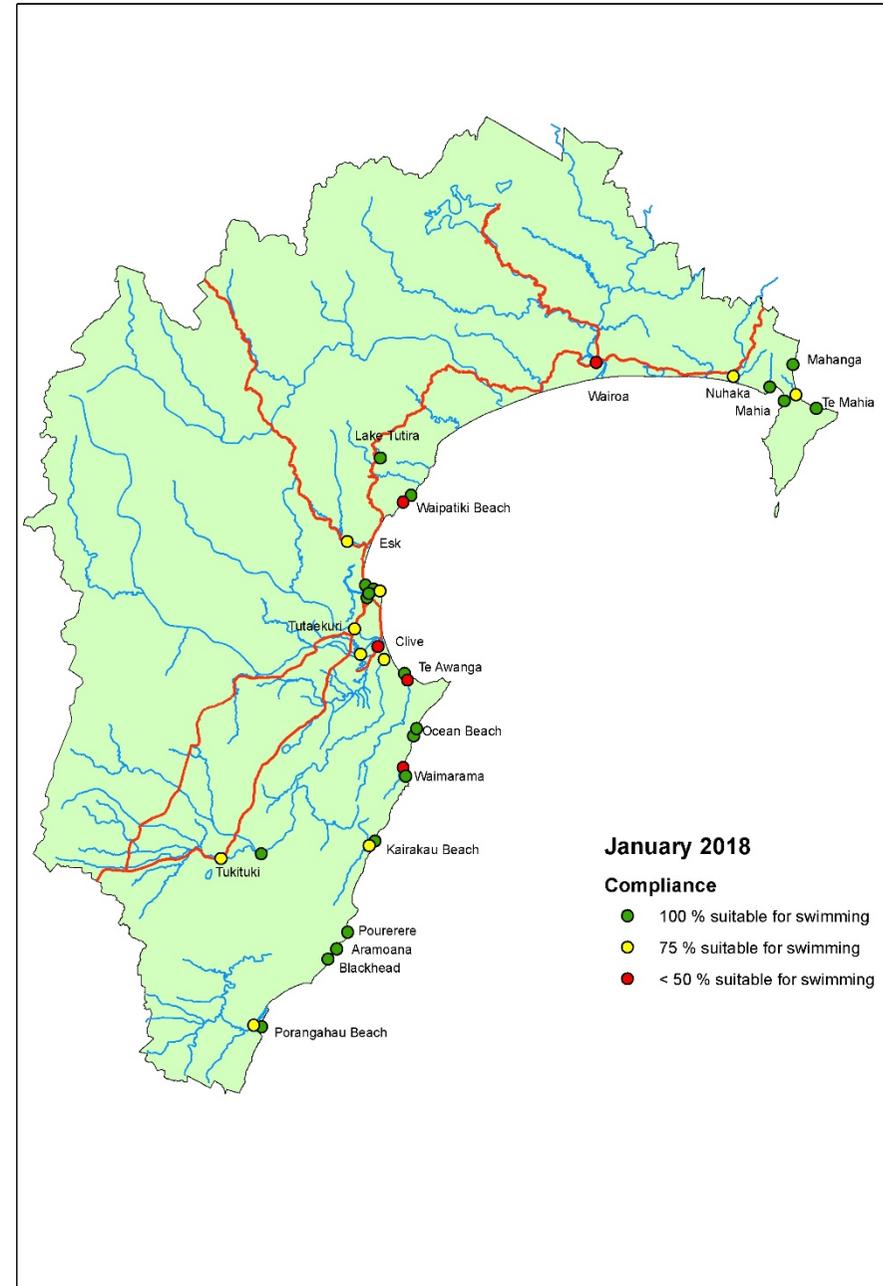


## RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY

January saw mixed E. coli and Enterococci count results for our popular swimming spots. There were a lot of E. coli exceedances early in the month.

These were attributed to rainfall across the region. Exceedances later in the month were not attributed to rainfall and resamples were taken. Both Maraetotara Lagoon and the Wairoa River had signage installed by the HBDHB due to repeated exceedances.

The lagoons and lowland streams across the Bay exceeded more often than upstream river sites and the beaches. The beaches were the best spots to cool off this month.



## LONGER FORECAST

A weak La Niña persists but should wane to neutral conditions during autumn. I feel like a broken record when I say the pattern of weather doesn't look like changing – a predominantly northeast wind flow due to high pressures to the southeast of us and low pressures in the Tasman Sea and over northern New Zealand, hotter than average temperatures and normal or above normal rain. The south coast may still get less rain than elsewhere in the region and long spells of fine weather will hopefully still feature for all (especially as I take some annual leave!!).



Periodic showers of rain in most parts of the region in late December and early January means feed covers are generally better than normal for this time of year. In many areas, pastures were uncharacteristically green until the hot weather in late January, which saw feed disappear quickly. The growth period has resulted in lower quality cattle feed in some areas. Feed crops for finishing lambs were rescued by timely rain in December. The warm, humid conditions have kept sheep farmers busy managing the increased incidence of fly strike and parasites.

With drought-breaking rains over much of the North Island, prices rose markedly, and unusually for January, for store lambs and also for prime lambs for chilled exports for Easter. Prices at the annual ewe fairs were also up around \$50 on the previous year, indicating strong demand for ewes to put to the ram for next spring's lamb crop. Beef prices have also held up better than was expected.

Dairy farmers continue to enjoy a very good season with cows in good condition and producing well, good feed crops and plenty of supplementary feed conserved. The current milk price also provides confidence.

A lot of hay and baleage has been made and left Hawke's Bay headed to the drought-affected western regions. Regular rain on the ranges kept the main river levels above widespread ban throughout January. Higher than average temperatures in January have been good for fruit growth, with both wine growers and apple and pear growers anticipating that this year's harvest will be 7 to 10 days ahead of last year.

The warm weather and periodic rain has beekeepers in the region anticipating average to good honey crops – a significant improvement on the poor season last year.