

March 2018

# Hawke's Bay Trends

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

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

## March 2018

March was a wet month for most... phenomenally so within cooee of our Glengarry rain gauge. Over 30 cm dumped within 24 hours – dangerously close to breaching an average sized gumboot I'm thinking (being a short townie). River flows are bolstered, soil moisture is definitely up and groundwater levels are normal for the time of year. High temperatures continue on a roll, hitting four consecutive months of warmer than usual days and an impressive seven months of warmer than usual nights. The hot, wet conditions were a challenge for our recreational water spots but an early autumn paddle was still possible especially around the southern beaches.

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Principal Scientist Climate and Air



### The short summary

Wet (really wet for some) and warm.

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

### April to June Forecast

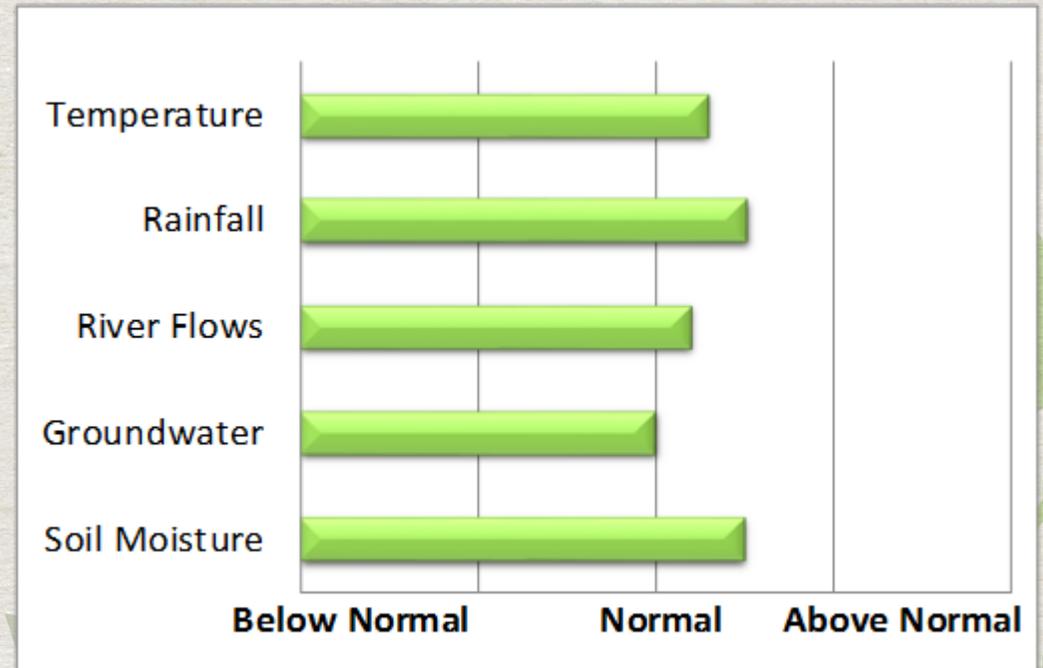
Temperature	Above average
Rain	Above normal
River flows	Above normal
Soil moisture	Above normal

*(source : NIWA)*

For more information

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

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# RAINFALL

Above normal – impressively so around Eskdale

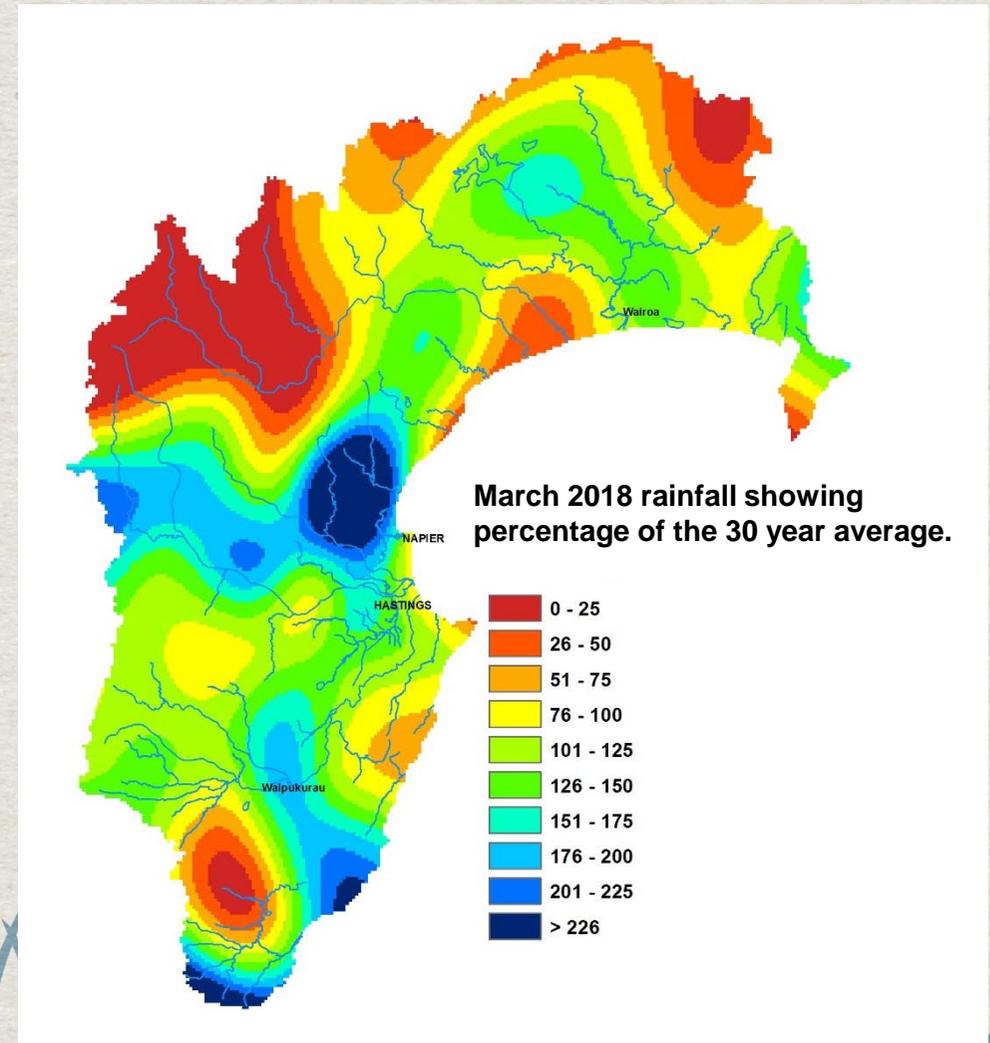
32 lightning strikes

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

Percentage of normal March rainfall  
(30 year average)

**For areas in the region:**

Waikaremoana	108%
Northern HB	109%
Tangoio	160%
Kaweka	139%
Ruahine	111%
Heretaunga Plains	134%
Ruataniwha Plains	131%
Southern HB	119%
<b>Hawke's Bay Region</b>	<b>126%</b>



# TEMPERATURES

Above average – four consecutive months and counting!

## Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 0.7°C

Minimum Temperature: 1.4°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 21°C

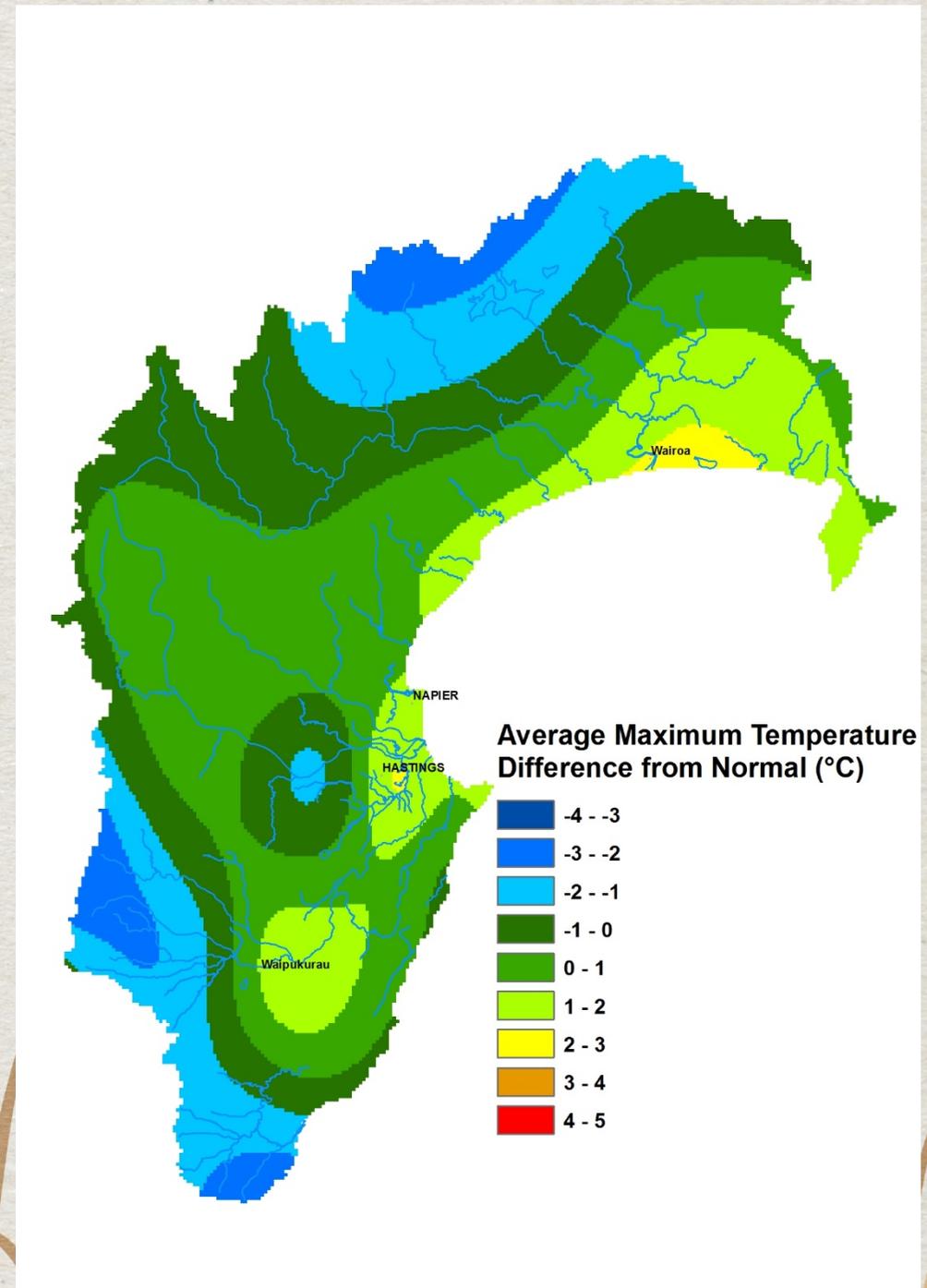
Mean Daily Minimum: 12°C

Highest Daily: 29.8°C

Location: Napier EWS

Lowest Daily: 1.7°C

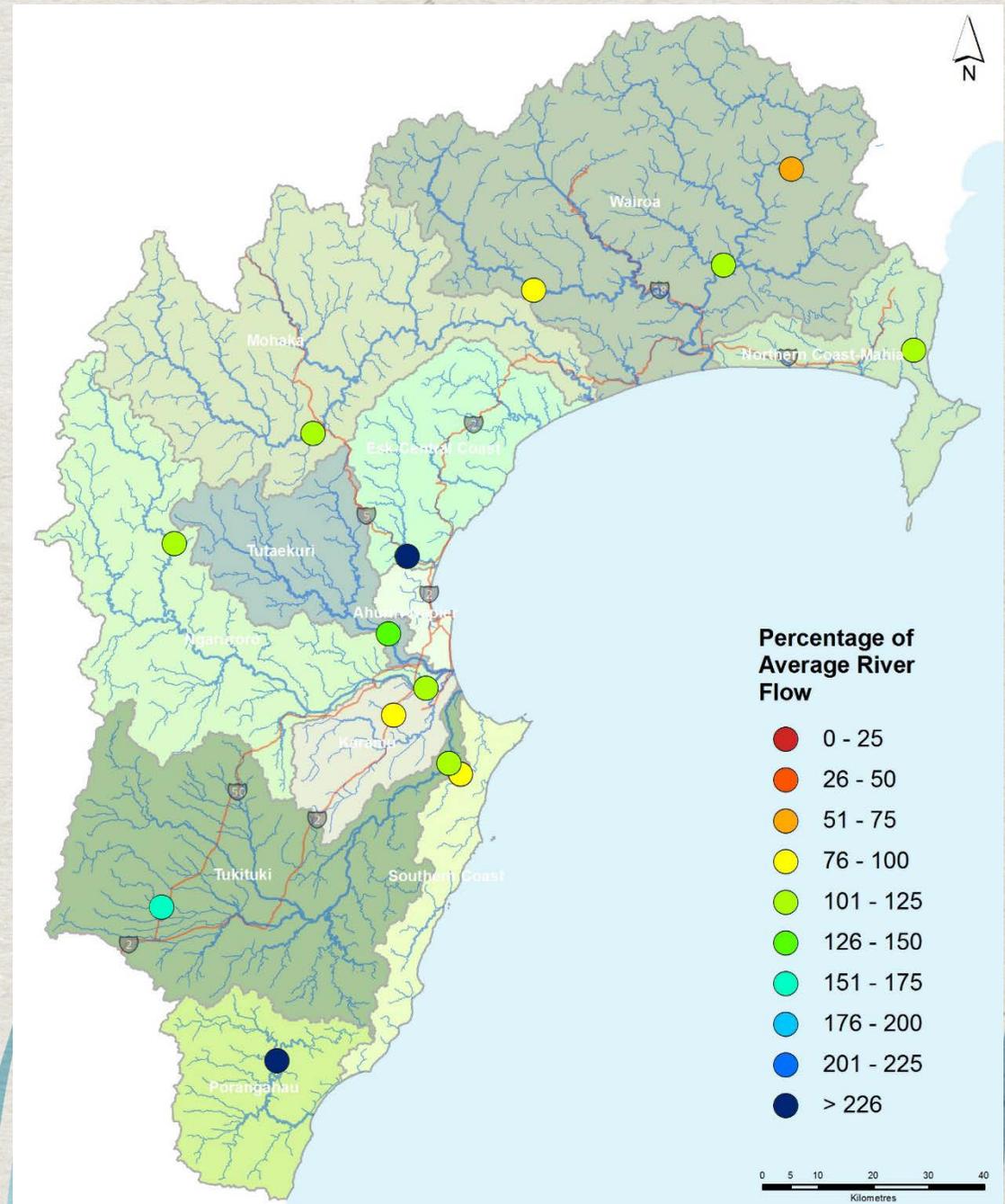
Location: Taharua



# RIVER FLOW

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

Northern Coastal	108%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	61%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	104%
Northern HB – Waiau River	87%
Mohaka	116%
Central Coastal	241%
Tūtaekuri	136%
Heretaunga Plains	80%
Ngaruroro - Upper	103%
Ngaruroro - Lower	105%
Southern Coastal	84%
Ruataniwha Plains	160%
Tukituki	108%
Southern HB	788%
<b>Hawke's Bay Region</b>	<b>163%</b>



# GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

## Groundwater:

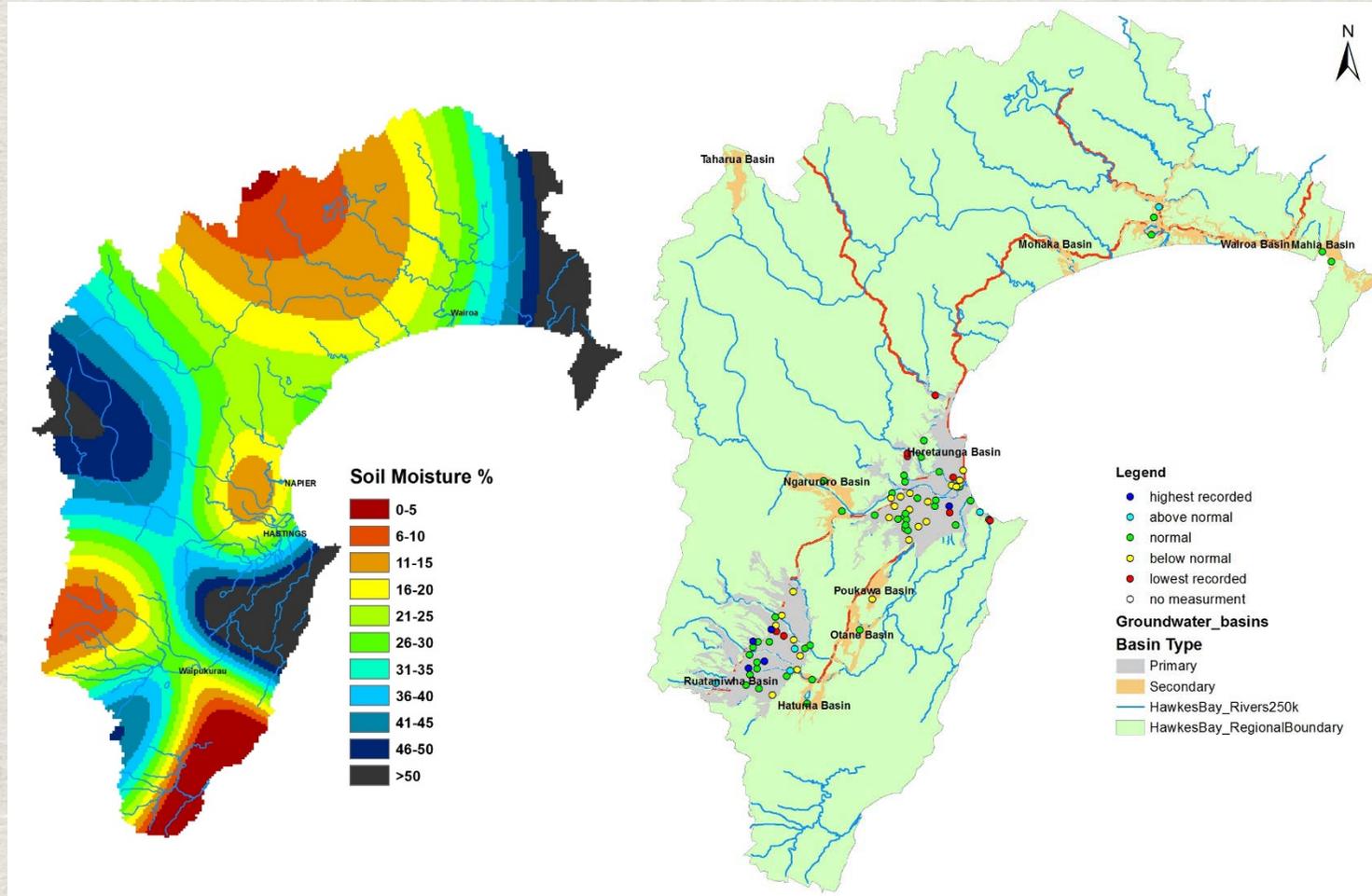
**Heretaunga basin** – Mostly normal water levels

**Ruataniwha basin** – Mostly normal water levels

**Secondary basin** – Mostly normal water levels

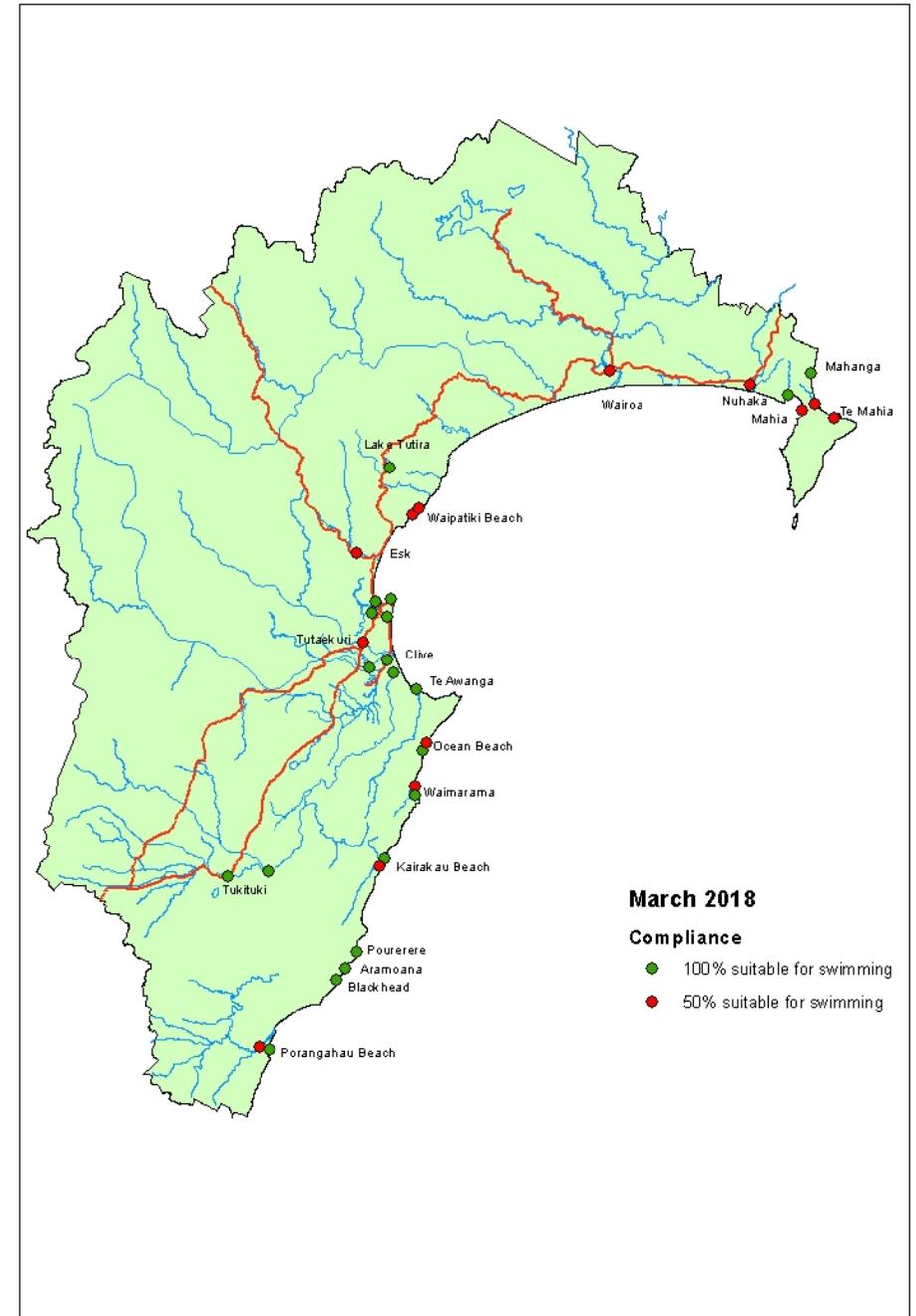
## Soil Moisture

Above normal across the region



## RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY

Our recreational water quality monitoring season came to an end mid-March, so there were only two sampling runs for this month. There were a lot of exceedances in the second week which were attributed to the rainfall, especially in the Wairoa and Mahia areas. Even after the rain our southern coastal beaches were the best places to swim, and the associated lagoons and estuaries were the areas best avoided.



## LONGER FORECAST

The La Niña has fizzled and conditions are likely to remain neutral for the remainder of autumn and winter. The longer outlook is wavering between a neutral state and El Niño. It's groundhog day with respect to the dominant weather pattern for the next few months – it's the same as we've had for the past few months. Expect a mainly northeast flow over the region due to higher pressures to the southeast of the country and low pressures in the Tasman Sea. Normal or above normal rainfall appears on the cards and temperatures remain warm, with above average sea temperatures set to continue.