

May 2018

Hawke's Bay Trends

TEMPERATURES
RAINFALL
RIVER FLOW
GROUNDWATER & SOIL
LONGER FORECAST
AIR QUALITY

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

May 2018

Within the month I've transitioned, metaphorically, from stubbly armpits to abominable snowman. At one stage biking in singlet and shorts, now looking fetching in 5 layers of clothing on my torso, two on my legs, three layers on my head and feet and two on my hands. And I haven't included undies. But apparently it was a reasonably typical autumn May, if you go by the monthly statistics. Rainfall was within the normal range, albeit wetter than usual around Waikaremoana and drier than normal around the south coast. River flows and groundwater levels are at mostly normal levels and soil moisture is around median levels for the time of year. Daytime temperatures plunged from balmy to arctic so ended up near average while overnight temperatures were mild for the month. We aced air quality because we start as we mean to go on ... Hopefully.

Kathleen Kozyniak
Principal Scientist Climate and Air



The short summary

a late plunge into winter but average rainfall and daytime temperatures.

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

June to August

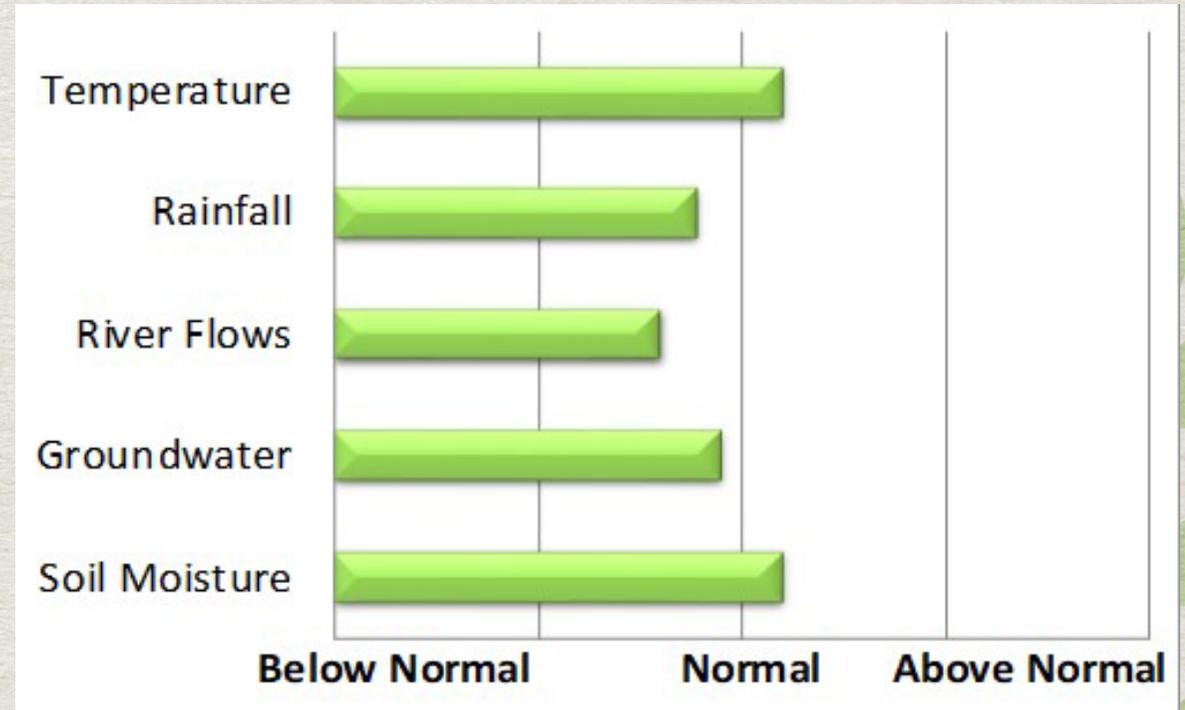
Temperature	Near average
Rain	Near or above normal
River flows	Near normal
Soil moisture	Near normal

(source : NIWA)

For more information

www.hbrc.govt.nz

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RAINFALL

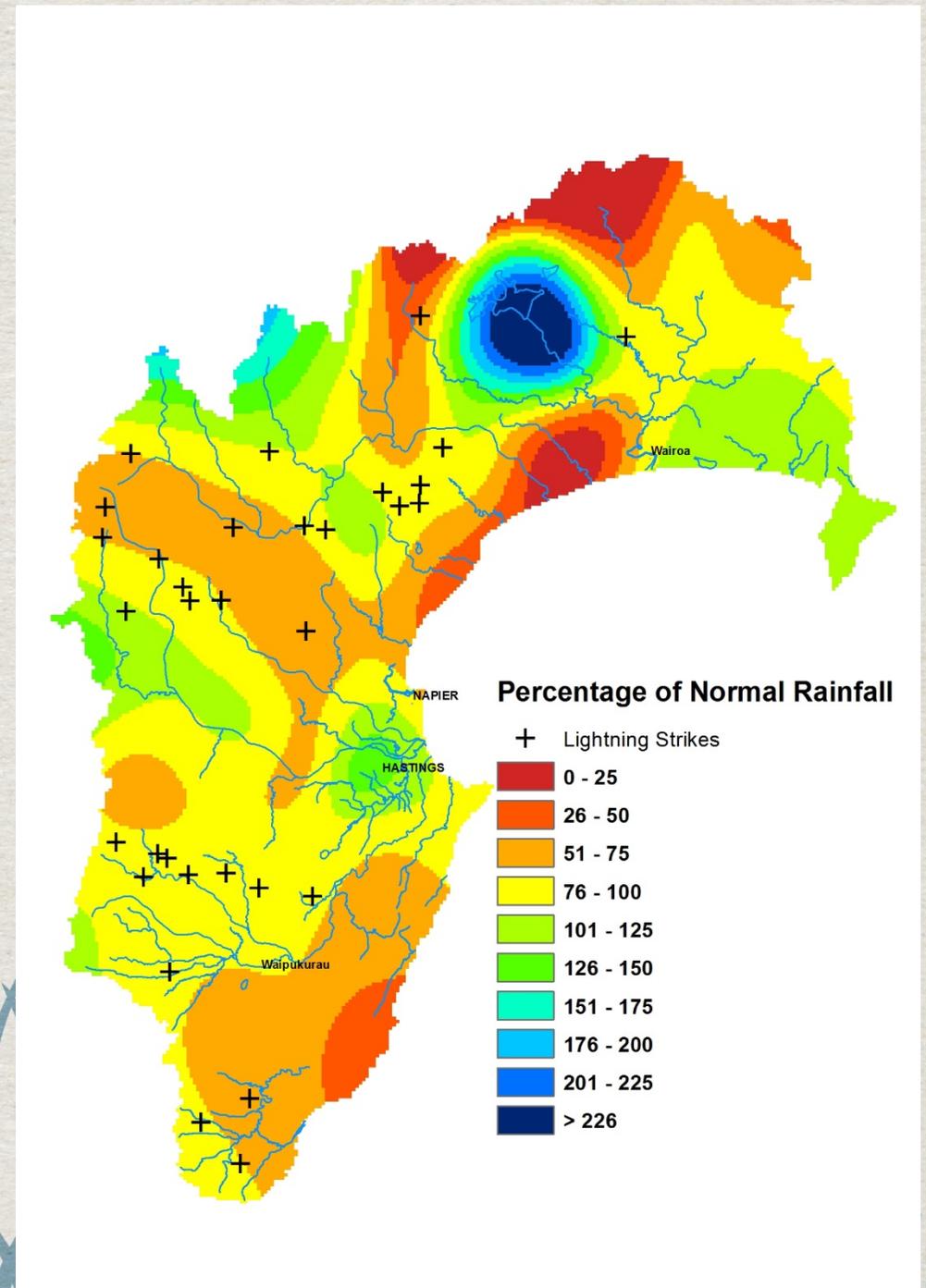
Rainfall – Wet in the far north, dry in the far south and normal in between. 32 lightning strikes (cloud to ground)

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

Percentage of normal May rainfall
(30 year average)

For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	128%
Northern HB	88%
Tangoio	76%
Kaweka	92%
Ruahine	85%
Heretaunga Plains	96%
Ruataniwha Plains	80%
Southern HB	70%
Hawke's Bay Region	89%



TEMPERATURES

Average daytime temperatures and mild nights

Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 0.3°C

Minimum Temperature: 1.3°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 15°C

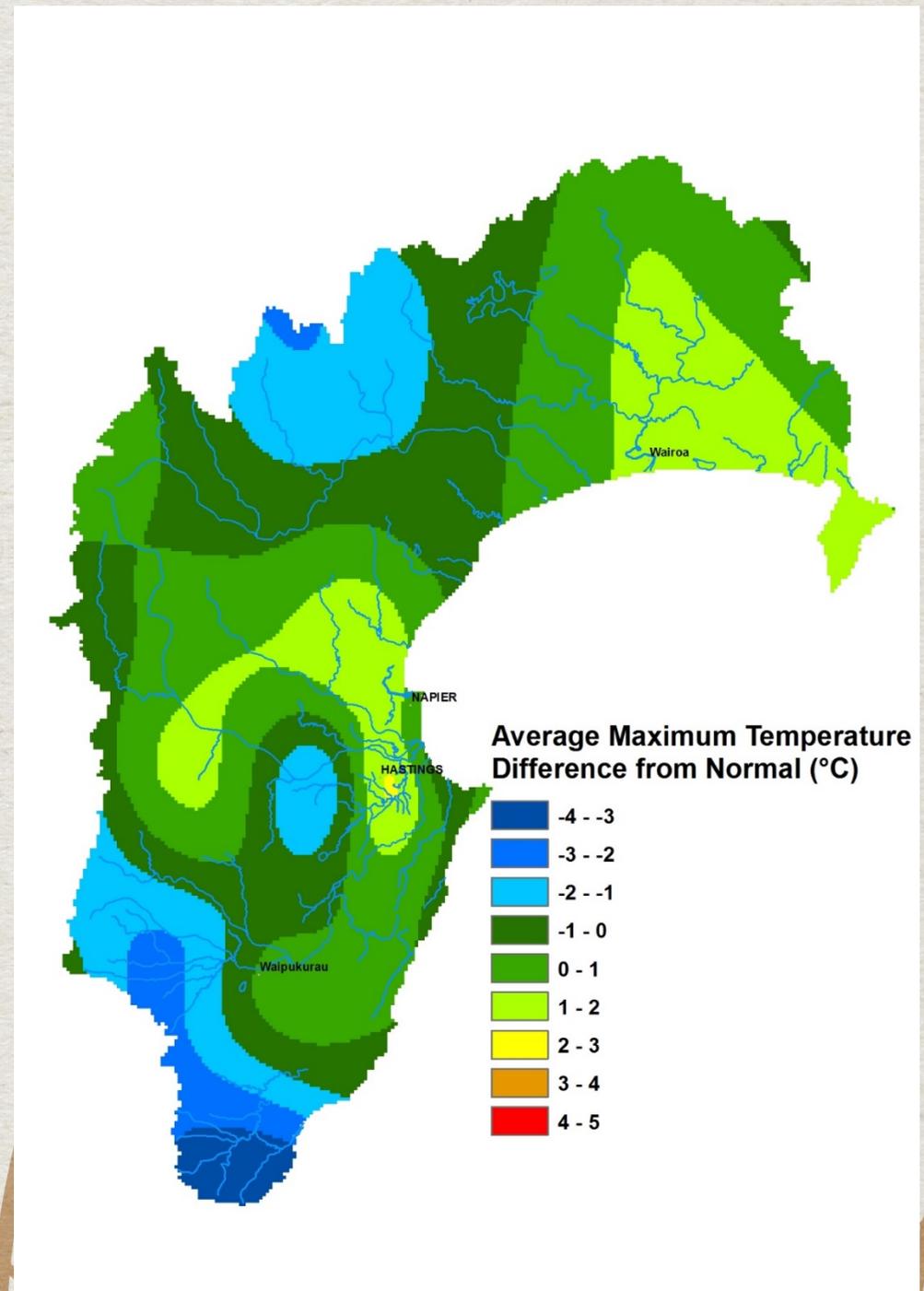
Mean Daily Minimum: 7°C

Highest Daily: 24.5°C

Location: Wairoa North Clyde EWS

Lowest Daily: -4.1°C

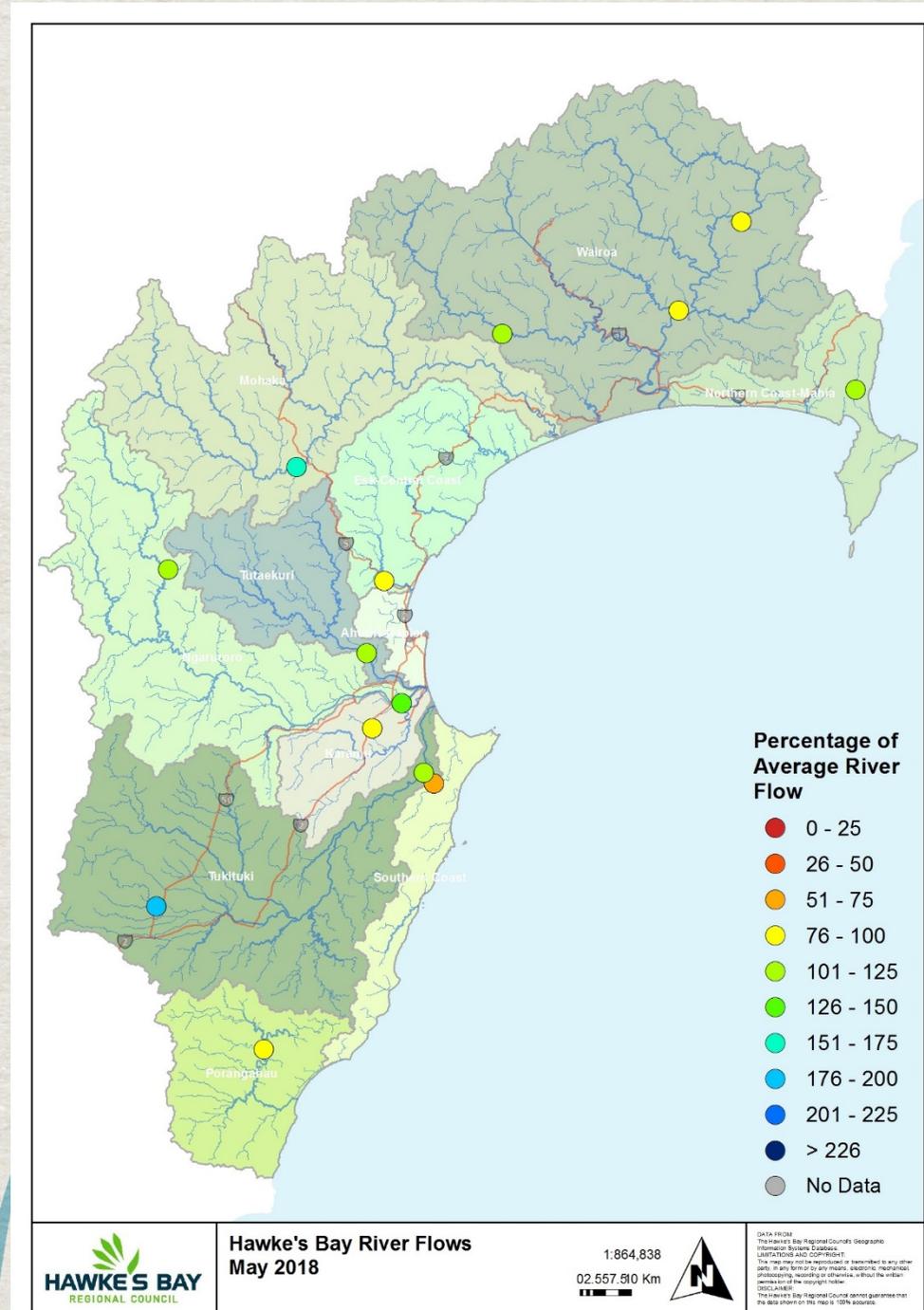
Location: Taharua



RIVER FLOW

Percentage of average May flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coastal	109%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	83%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	93%
Northern HB – Waiau River	117%
Mohaka	151%
Central Coastal	91%
Tūtaekuri	113%
Karamu	91%
Ngaruroro - Upper	124%
Ngaruroro - Lower	128%
Southern Coastal	51%
Ruataniwha Plains	184%
Tukituki	101%
Southern HB	89%
Hawke's Bay Region	109%



GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

Groundwater:

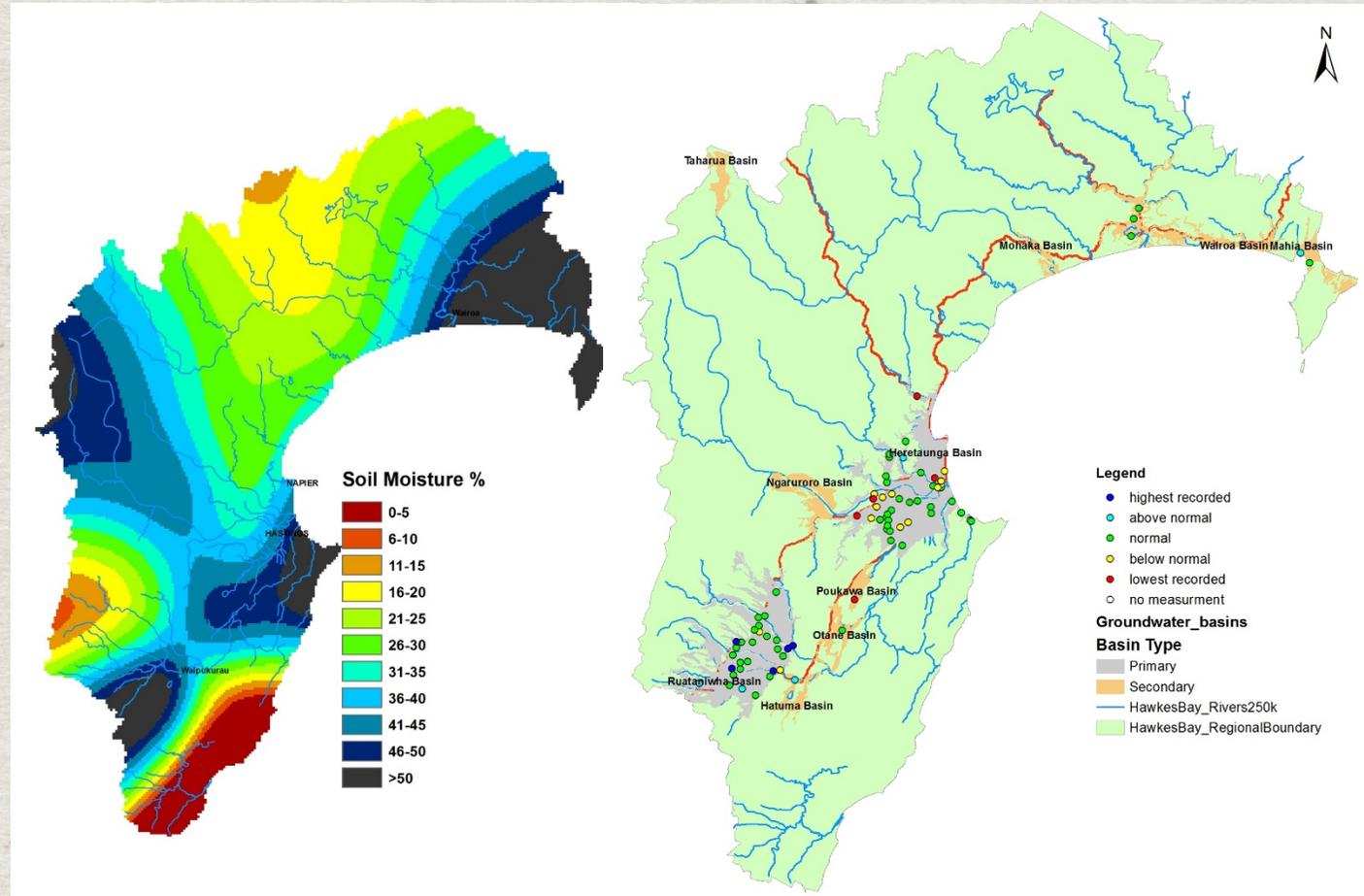
Heretaunga basin – Mostly normal water levels with a mix of below normal and some record low scattered around the Plains.

Ruataniwha basin – Mostly normal and above normal water levels

Secondary basin – Mostly normal water levels

Soil Moisture

Near or above normal



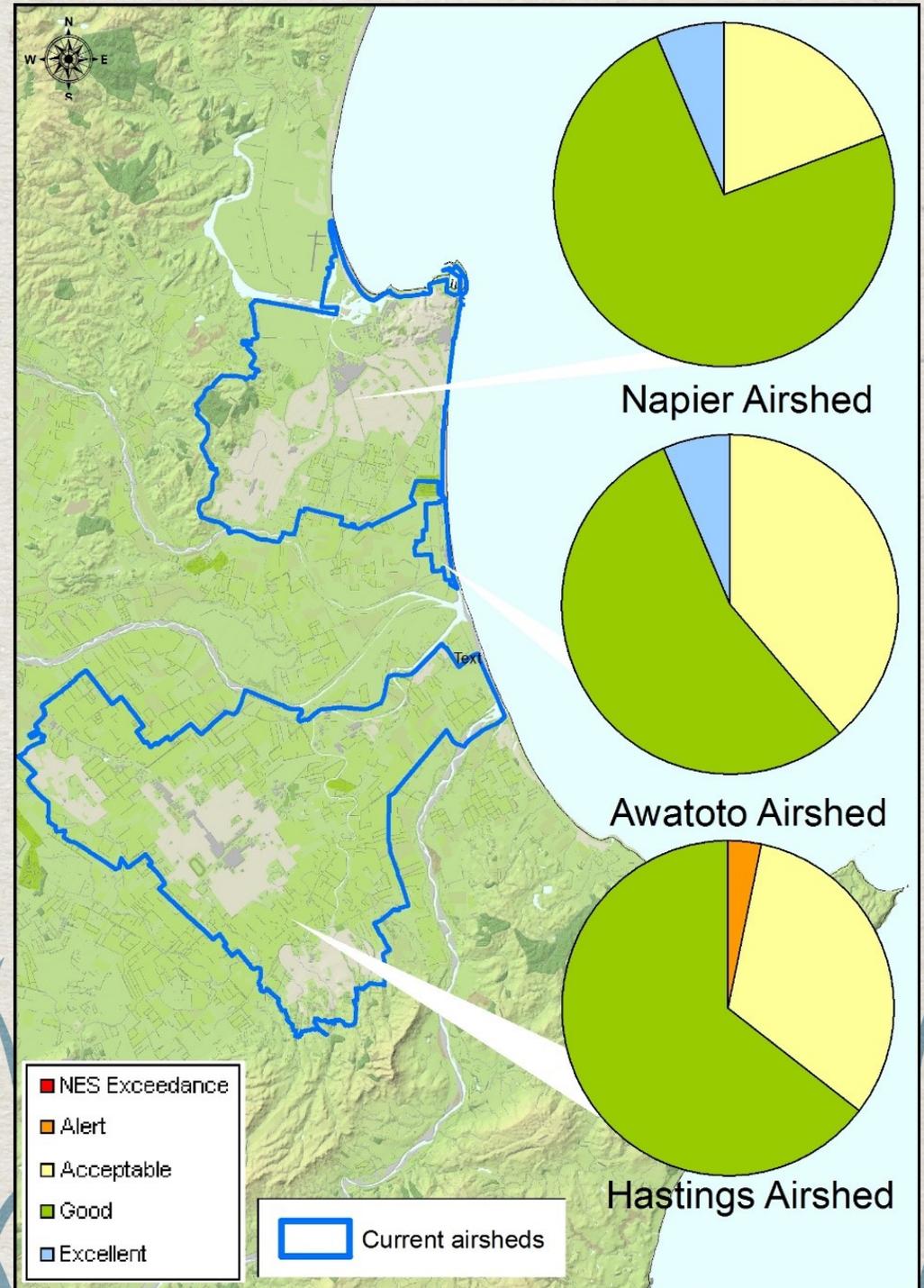
A good start, no problems

PM₁₀ exceedances:

The National Environmental Standard (NES) for particulate matter (PM₁₀) of 50 micrograms per cubic metre (24 hour average) was not exceeded in the Awatoto, Napier and Hastings airsheds in May 2018.

The monitoring sites are located at:

- Marewa Park in the Napier airshed.
- St Johns College in the Hastings airshed.
- Waitangi Road in the Awatoto airshed.



LONGER FORECAST

We're still in ENSO neutral mode, i.e. neither El Niño or La Niña, and that should persist through winter. Over spring and summer we may find ourselves still in neutral conditions or the models' favoured alternative of an El Niño. Watch this space to see how the model forecasts and conditions unfold over the next few months. Lower than normal sea level pressure is expected over the country over the next few months suggesting spells of unsettled weather and rainfall near or above normal. The dominant wind flow varies from month to month changing from easterly to westerly to northerly or northeasterly. Temperatures should hold up around the winter average.