

May 2019

# Hawke's Bay Trends

RAINFALL  
TEMPERATURES  
RIVER FLOW  
GROUNDWATER & SOIL  
AIR QUALITY  
LONGER FORECAST

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

## May 2019

A deliciously balmy, sunny May topped off a warm and dry autumn. Rainfall was rationed to only a third of the region's average and, for the Heretaunga Plains at least, it's now been 3-4 months of below normal rainfall.

Solar radiation measurements were high compared to the last ten years and the often windy, warm conditions lifted evaporation levels above those in April. Soil moisture was static through the month and lagged normal May levels - typically it would go gangbusters at this time of year.

Our river flows were lower than normal across the whole region and groundwater levels weren't much chop either. Breezy, warm weather is sugar to clean air so the month's air quality was sweet as.

Kathleen Kozyniak  
Principal Scientist - Climate and Air



# SUMMARY

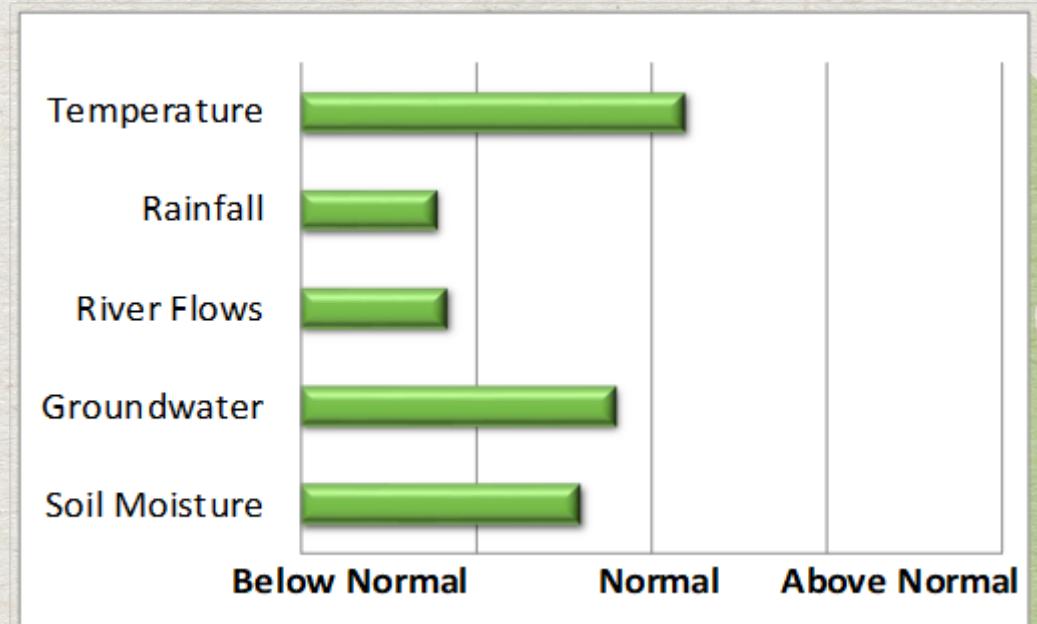
May 2019

Balmy and dry.

*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 forecast

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



source : NIWA

For more information  
[www.hcrc.govt.nz](http://www.hcrc.govt.nz)  
P: 06 835 9200

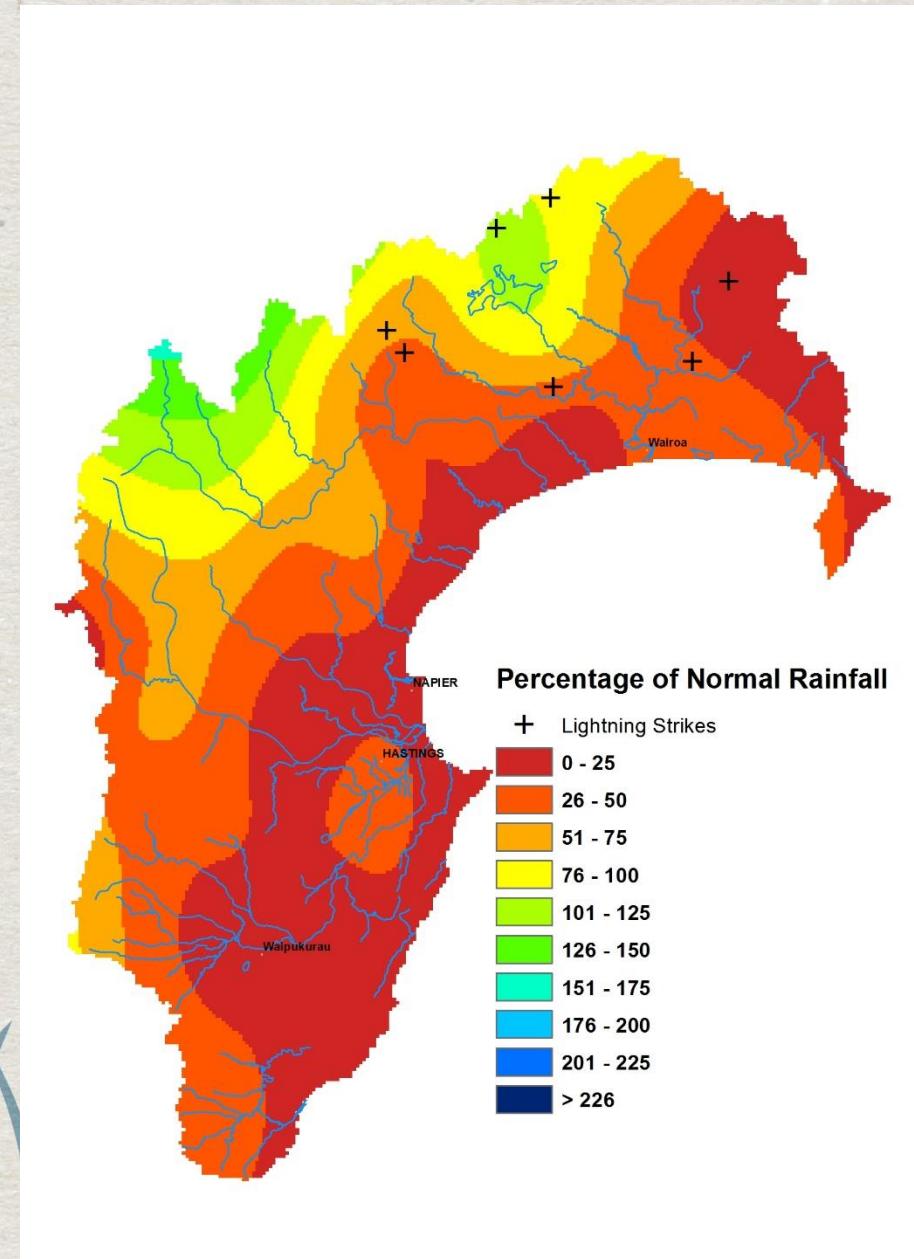
# RAINFALL

Well below normal and a dry autumn overall.

Percentage of normal May rainfall  
(30 year average)

For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	73%
Northern HB	31%
Tangoio	38%
Kaweka	56%
Ruahine	51%
Heretaunga Plains	21%
Ruataniwha Plains	22%
Southern HB	21%
<b>Hawke's Bay Region</b>	<b>39%</b>



# TEMPERATURES

Shorts weather if you braved some initial frosts.

## Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 2.0°C

Minimum Temperature: 0.1 °C

Mean Daily Maximum: 17°C

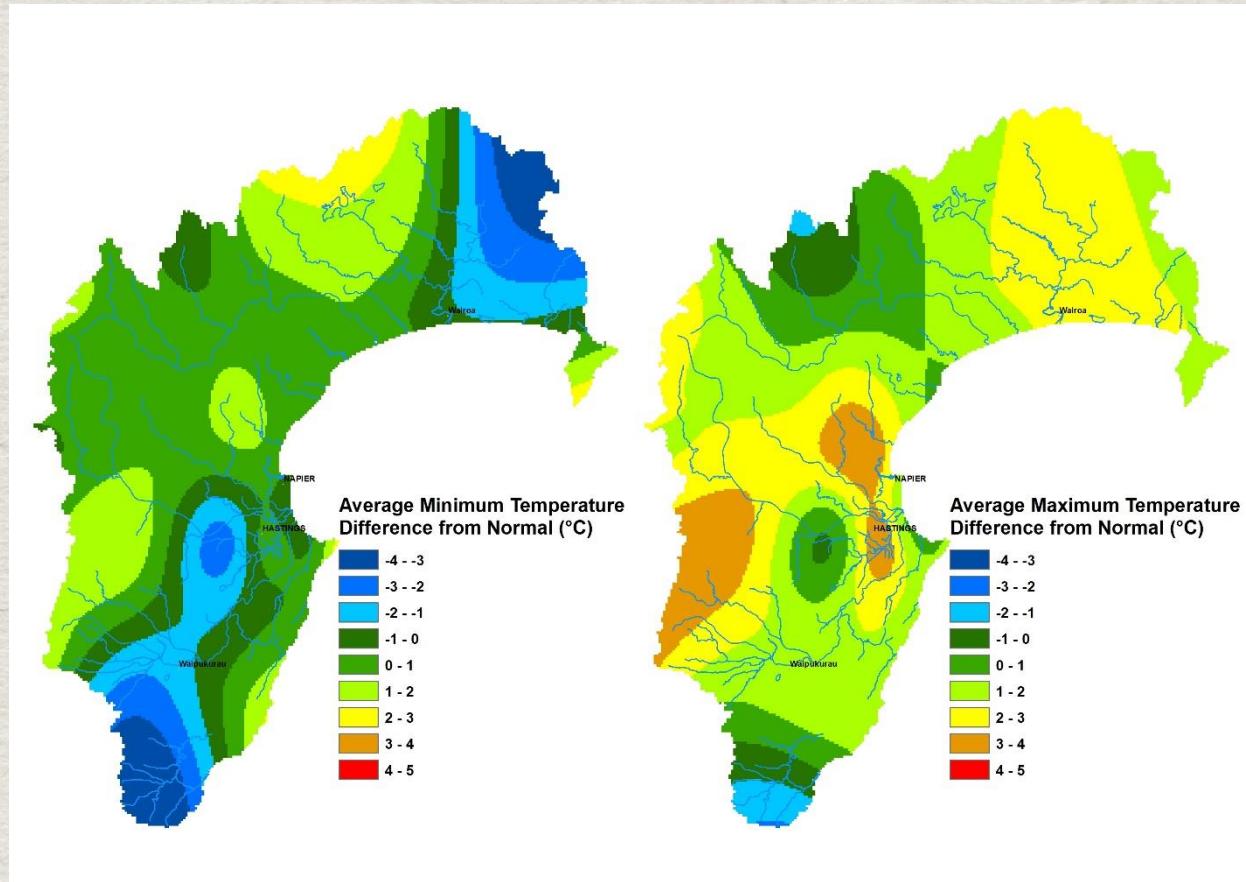
Mean Daily Minimum: 6°C

Highest Daily: 25.3°C

Location: Napier Aero AWS

Lowest Daily: -3.8°C

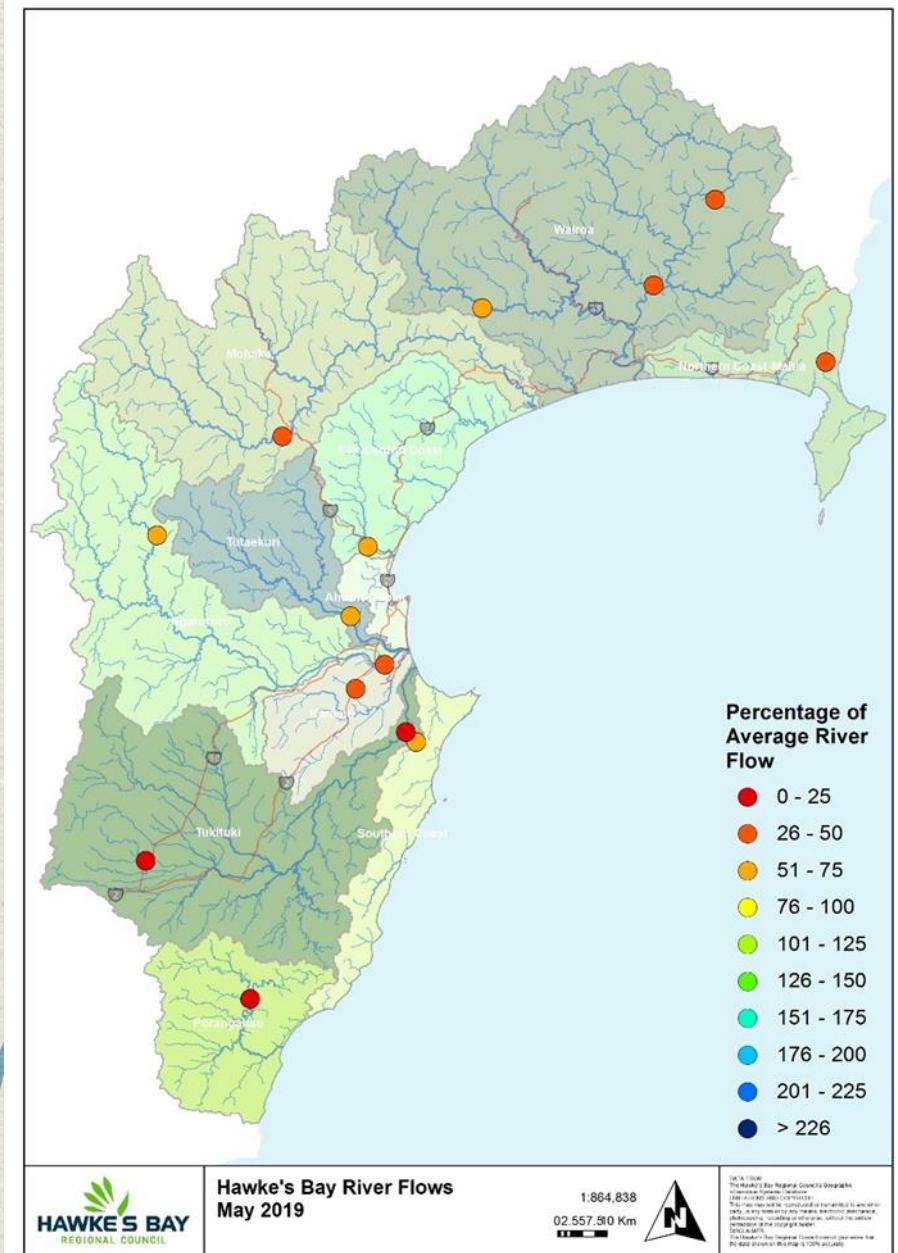
Location: Taharua and Bridge Pa



# RIVER FLOW

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

Northern Coast – Mahia	29%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	37%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	42%
Northern HB – Waiau River	55%
Mohaka	45%
Esk-Central Coast	63%
Tūtaekuri	52%
Karamu	50%
Ngaruroro - Kuripapango	72%
Ngaruroro - Chesterhope	39%
Southern Coast	51%
Tukituki – Tukipo River	13%
Tukituki – Tukituki River	22%
Porangahau	15%
<b>Hawke's Bay Region</b>	<b>42%</b>



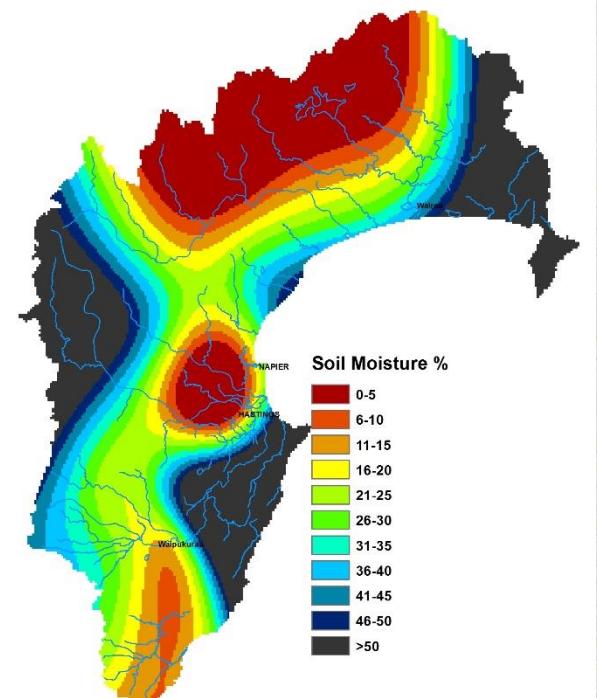
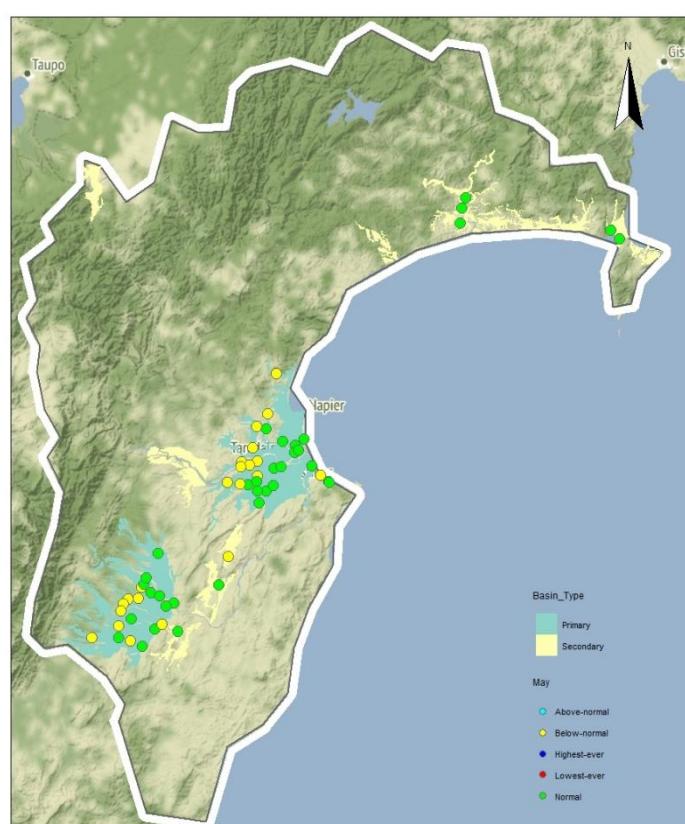
# GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

## Groundwater:

**Heretaunga basin:** Normal to below normal levels.

**Ruataniwha basin:** Normal to below normal levels.

**Soil Moisture:** Near or below normal



# AIR QUALITY

All clear, no exceedances.

**Figure 1:** PM10 levels in the Napier, Hastings and Awatoto airsheds during May2019.

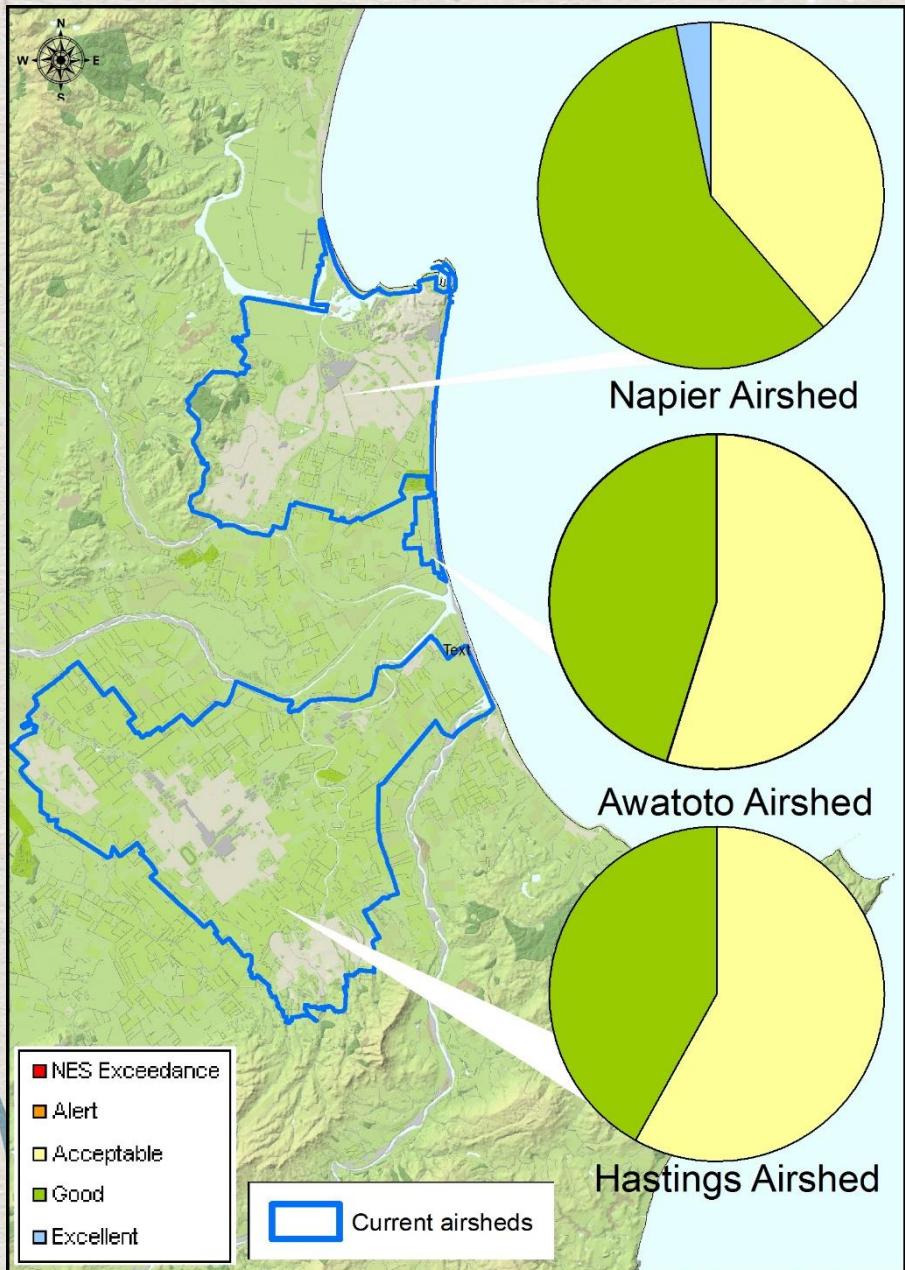
## PM10 exceedances:

The National Environmental Standard (NES) for particulate matter (PM10) of 50 micrograms per cubic metre (24 hour average) was not exceeded in the Napier, Hastings and Awatoto airsheds in May 2019.

The monitoring sites are located at:

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

Further information is available at [www.hbrc.govt.nz](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz)



## LONGER FORECAST

A weak El Niño persists and is likely to do so over the winter before fizzling out. The Bay's sea surface temperatures are warmer than usual again but are expected to be around average in the next few months.

Winter rainfall is favouring normal or below normal totals. Higher than average pressures are expected to lie to the west of the country and lower pressures to the east, hinting at some southerly flicks in the wind to remind us it is winter after all.

**Kathleen Kozyniak**  
**Principal Scientist - Climate and Air**



Farmers have generally been enjoying the warm and dry start to winter. However, with low soil moisture in many areas, farmers are hoping the weather doesn't turn cold (or too wet) before rain can lift pasture covers.

Stock is in good condition and pasture utilisation is very good. However, while there is a green tinge, pasture growth has stalled in the southern half of the region due to the lack of moisture. Strong nor'westerly winds in recent weeks haven't helped. Some sheep and beef farmers are pushing stock to clean up rank pasture, which will be beneficial in spring.

Dairy farmers with irrigation are using it sparingly so as not to drop ground temperatures too much. Feed crops have done well and the surplus feed conserved in spring and summer is being fed out.

Farmers in dry areas who rely on finishing trading animals over winter, or who lamb early, are taking action such as quitting some finishing stock at lighter weights than normal to ensure they can farm through.

Lamb prices are very strong despite the deteriorating feed conditions. This is due to a shortage of livestock and expectations for future lifts in processors' schedule prices. Beef prices remain steady.

Many sheep farmers are apprehensive about what scanning will show given there may have been sub-clinical facial eczema. However, ewe prices are good and they can afford to cull a little harder if required.

Gillian Mangin and Annette Carey