

November 2018

# Hawke's Bay Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

TEMPERATURES  
RAINFALL  
RIVER FLOW  
GROUNDWATER & SOIL  
LONGER FORECAST

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

**HAWKE'S BAY**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

## November 2018

Spring was bookended by very wet months and the solid dry spell in between didn't prevent the season notching up above normal rainfall overall. Rather than the expected low pressures to the east of us and a pick-up of westerlies for November, low pressures were all over us and we sucked in a whole lot of easterly.

The result - inclement but mostly welcome November weather after more than sixty days of barely a sprinkle in some places. The often lumpy spread of heavy showers meant rivers flows ended the month with mixed results but together averaged out to normal for the time of year.

Soil moisture rocketed, whereas groundwater levels still dragged the chain of a dry October. Temperatures were fair during the day, frost-free and about 1 degree warmer after dark and possibly why small weeds turned into trifids overnight.

**Kathleen Kozyniak**  
Principal Scientist Climate and Air



## The short summary

Short summary – showers, showers, showers and warm nights

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

### **December to February**

Temperature    *Near or above average*

Rain              *Near normal*

River flows     *Near or below normal*

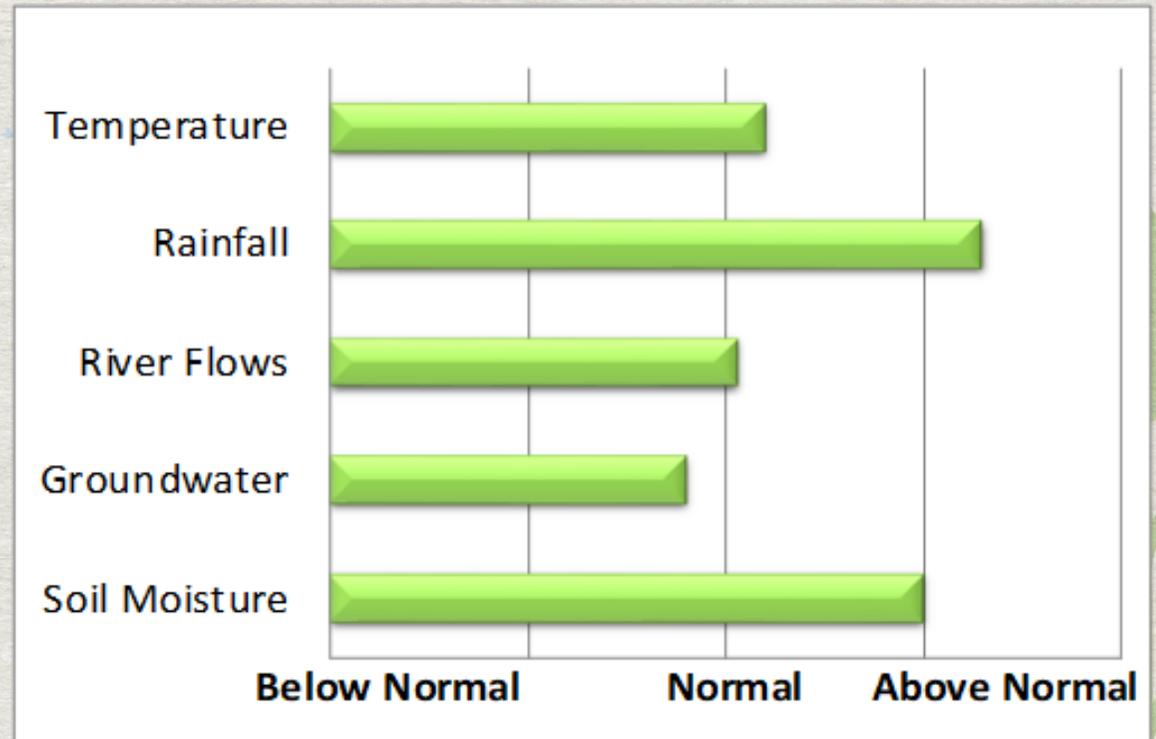
Soil moisture    *Near or below normal*

*(source : NIWA)*

**For more information**

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

**P: 06 835 9200**



# RAINFALL

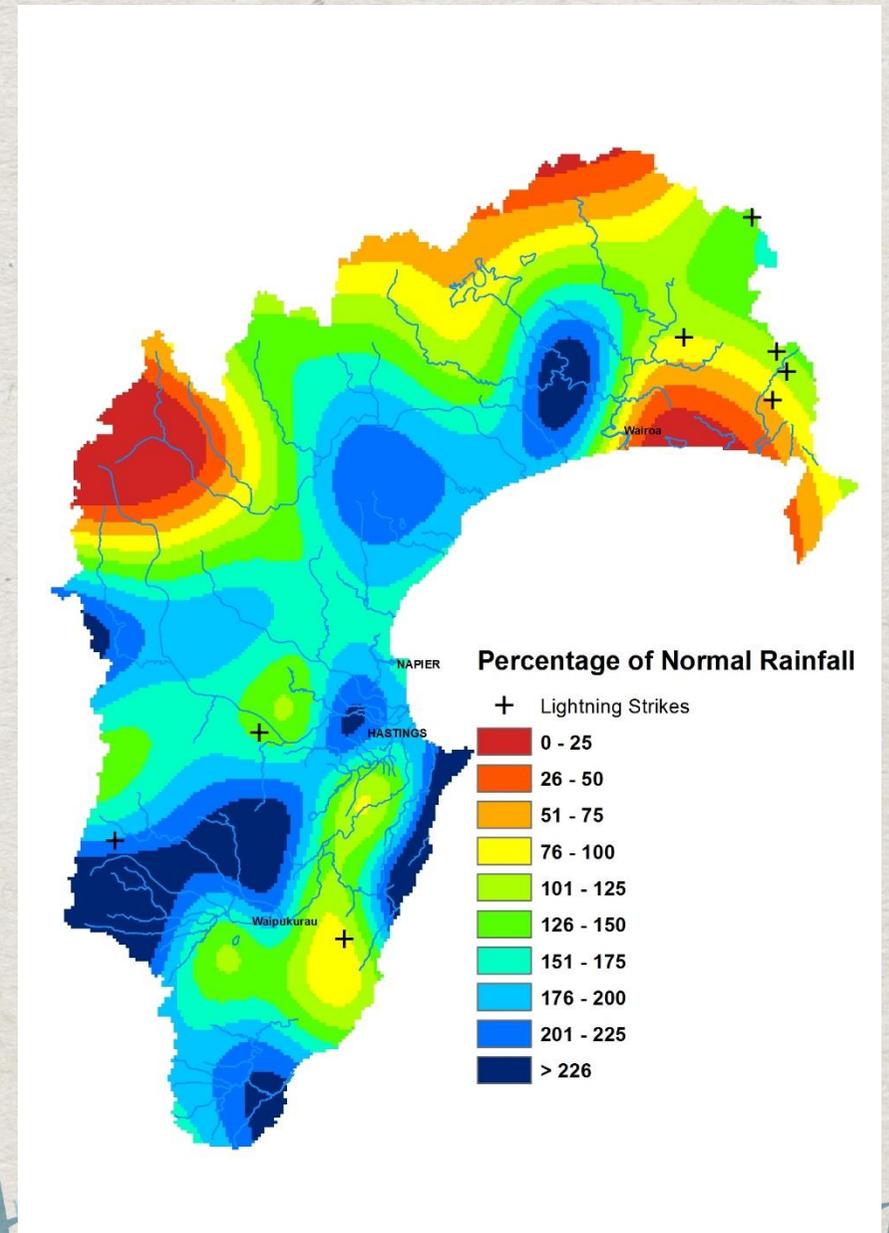
Well above average across the region. Eight lightning strikes (cloud to ground).

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

Percentage of normal November rainfall  
(30 year average)

## For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	114%
Northern HB	137%
Tangoio	187%
Kaweka	151%
Ruahine	188%
Heretaunga Plains	170%
Ruataniwha Plains	188%
Southern HB	182%
<b>Hawke's Bay Region</b>	<b>165%</b>



# TEMPERATURES

Cooler than usual nights.

## Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature:  $-0.06^{\circ}\text{C}$

Minimum Temperature:  $0.97^{\circ}\text{C}$

Mean Daily Maximum:  $19^{\circ}\text{C}$

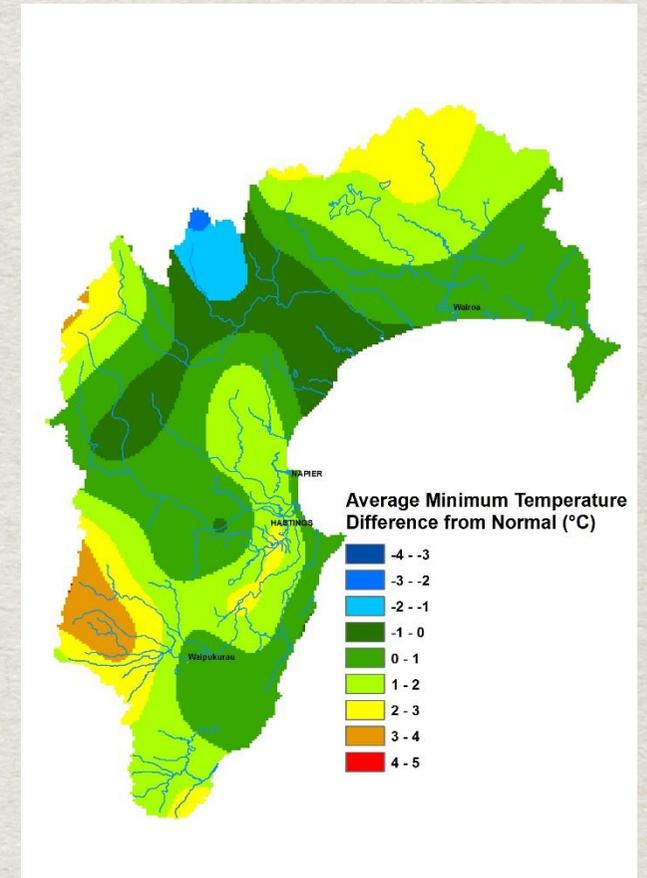
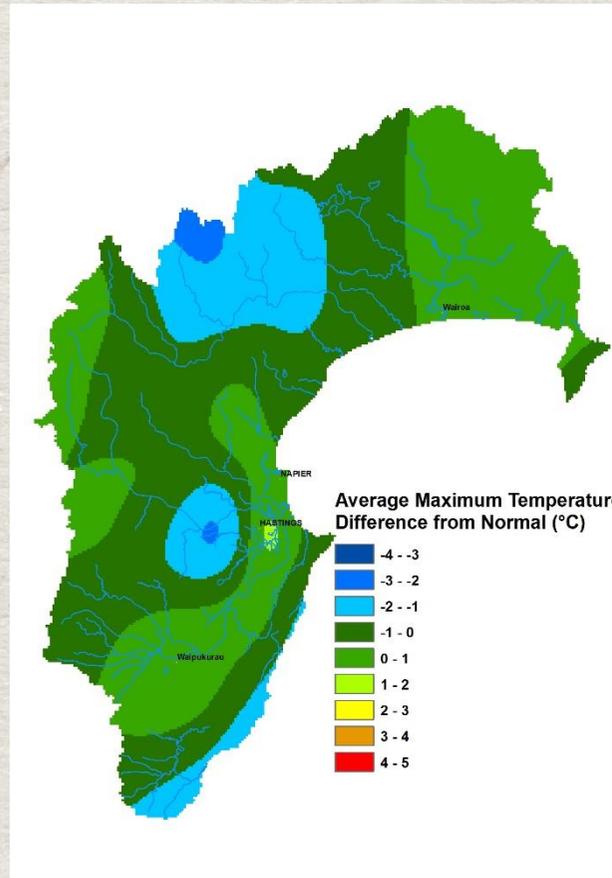
Mean Daily Minimum:  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$

Highest Daily:  $29.5^{\circ}\text{C}$

Location: Waipukurau Climate,  
Hastings AWS

Lowest Daily:  $0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$

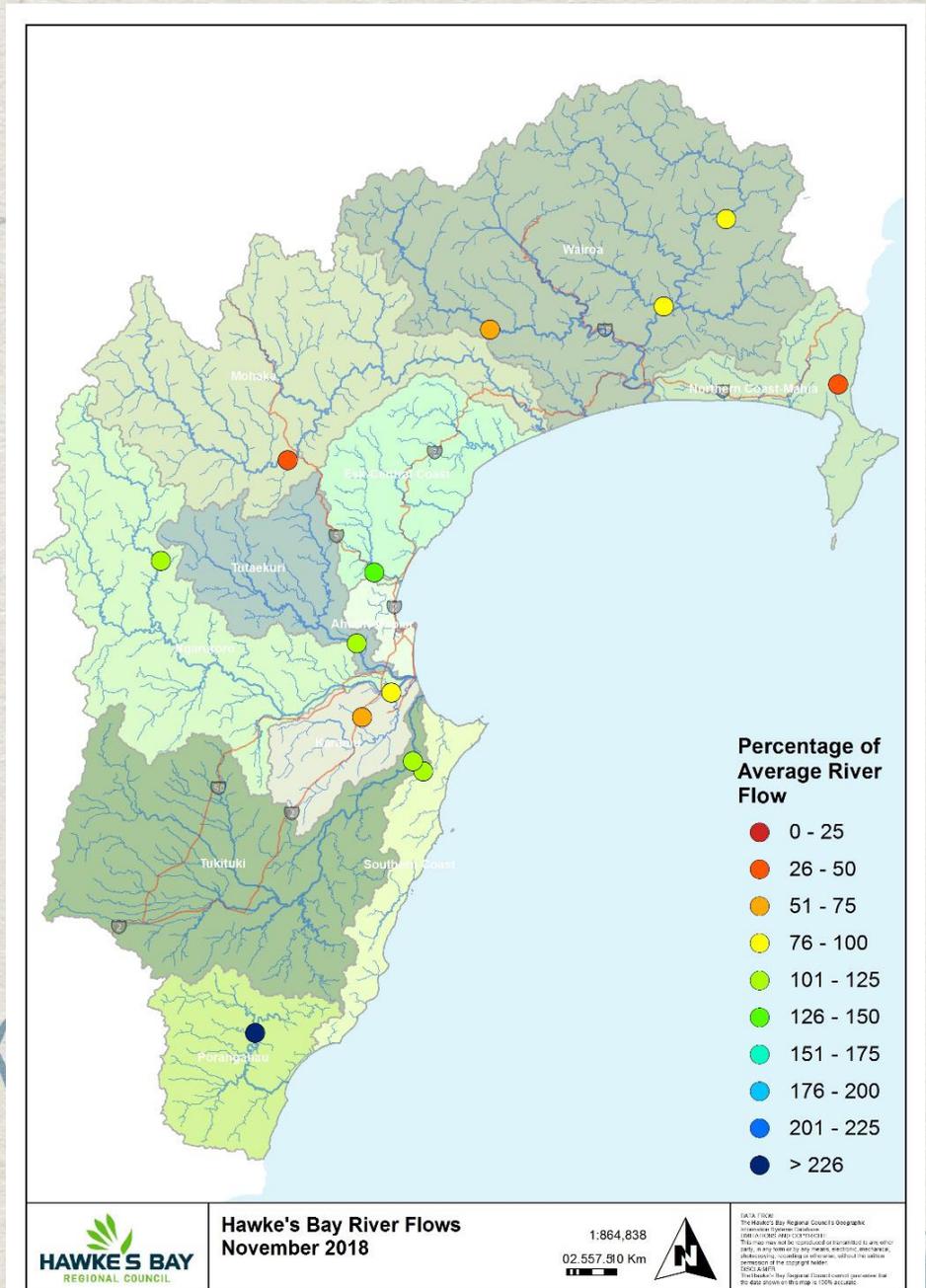
Location: Taharua



# RIVER FLOW

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

Northern Coastal	49%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	80%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	89%
Northern HB – Waiau River	65%
Mohaka	38%
Central Coastal	135%
Tūtaekuri	101%
Karamu	75%
Ngaruroro - Upper	106%
Ngaruroro - Lower	76%
Southern Coastal	120%
Ruataniwha Plains	NA
Tukituki	121%
Southern HB	293%
<b>Hawke's Bay Region</b>	<b>104%</b>



# GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

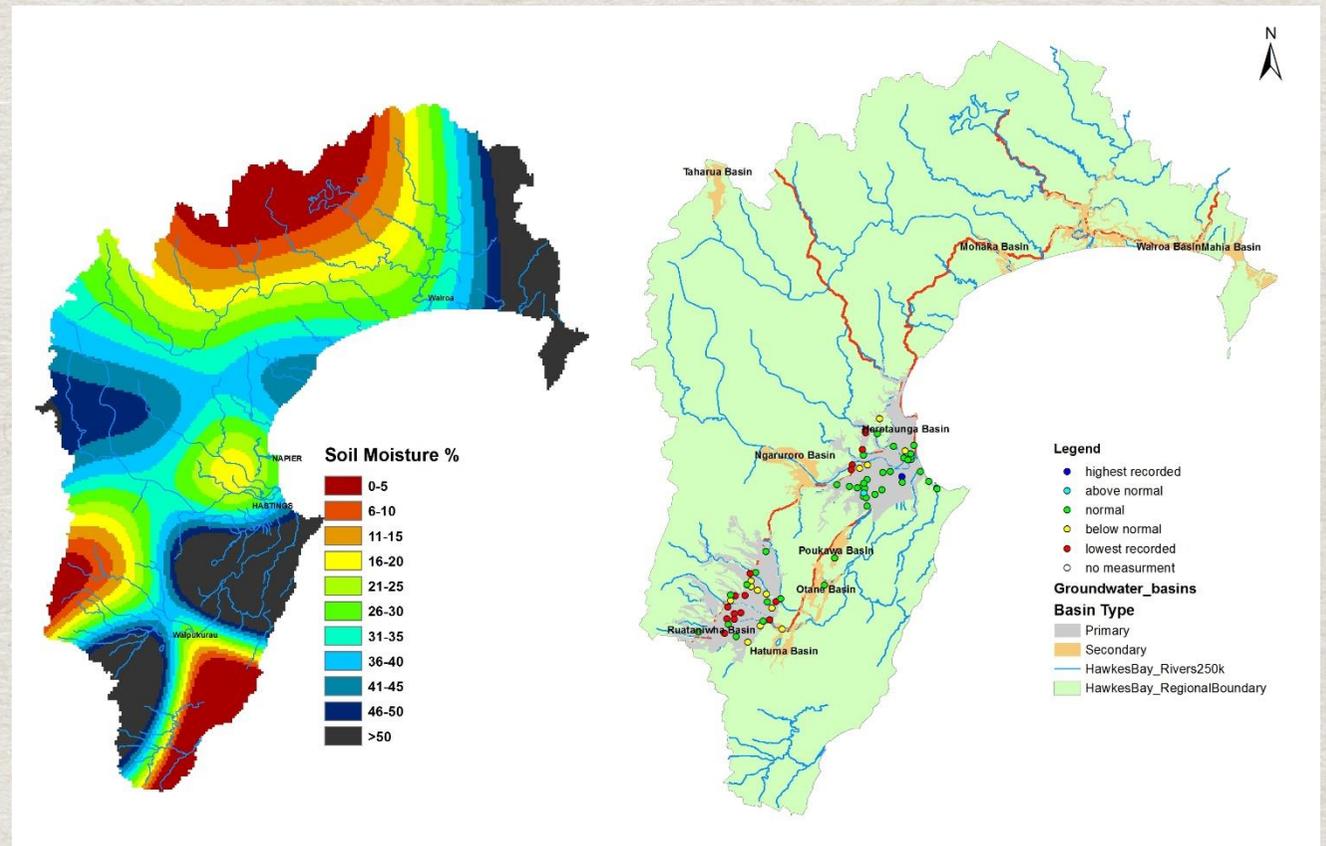
## Groundwater:

**Heretaunga basin:**  
Mostly normal levels.

**Ruataniwha basin:**  
A mix of normal, below normal and record lows

**Secondary basins:** Mostly normal and below normal levels.

**Soil Moisture:** Normal or above normal



## LONGER FORECAST

We haven't reached El Niño status yet as the atmosphere and ocean indicators of an event aren't in sync. Thoughts are that we are on the cusp and it could possibly extend into autumn.

The weather still looks unsettled over the near term, while over the three month period rainfall totals look about normal and temperatures likewise or warmer than usual.

Pressures are expected to be higher over central New Zealand for the period but possibly centred south of us giving us an onshore tilt to the wind.

Have a good Christmas everyone!



Rain in the last 10 days of November has seen a dramatic turnaround on many pastoral farms, particularly in the southern half of the region. With very little rain for 6 weeks following the heavy rain event in early September, farmers were becoming increasingly concerned about the season ahead. Some decided not to risk sowing fodder crops normally needed to better finish stock, particularly lambs, over summer. Crops got away better in the north of the region but a little slowly as it was not consistently warm.

The recent rain has lifted pasture growth rates and pasture quality moving into summer. It has also been very good for crop establishment, although some paddocks have become too wet for machinery. There is plenty of clover around which will be good for bees as well as livestock.

Changeable weather over spring and a lack of a spring flush of pasture growth restricted lamb growth rates and resulted in some farmers delaying lamb weaning. Now with the recent rain, farmers have the option to finish lambs at heavier weights. This, combined with fewer lambs coming forward due to the impact of the early September storm, is likely to maintain schedule prices. Those selling prime lambs and cull ewes recently have enjoyed very good prices. Prices for store cattle also lifted following the rain.

Milk production on dairy farms has picked up and is now well ahead of last year. Good quantities of silage are being made.

Ripening berry and summer fruit crops have been impacted by the frequent and heavy rain. Grape growers are anticipating a growth flush with most soils now close to field capacity, and are putting plans in place to manage canopy growth.

Weather conditions over pollination were favourable for apple orchards. Frequent thunderstorms with hail potential in the latter half of November have had fruit growers nervous. There have been some minor hail events but no reports of any significant damage.

Gillian Mangin and Annette Carey