

OCTOBER 2017

Hawke's Bay Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

TEMPERATURES
RAINFALL
RIVER FLOW
GROUNDWATER & SOIL
MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

HAWKE'S BAY | Environmental Science
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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October 2017

The region had near normal rainfall for the second month in a row, though once again that statement is deceptive. Whereas in September we were dry in the south and wet in the north, October evened out the tallies and shared the love by delivering a wet south and dry north. October river flows reflect the month's rainfall pattern, sitting well below normal in the far north and bulging in the far south. Groundwater levels seem about normal and there's still plenty of moisture in the soil for the time of year. Daytime temperatures had a warm north-cool south split, due to a sunshine deficit across the latter no doubt, but warm nights kept the region relatively free of pesky late frosts.

Longer Forecast

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation is in neutral mode but the signs point to a weak La Niña for the summer. The favoured weather pattern by the models is for anticyclones to sit southeast of the country steering a northeast flow over the region, which is very La Niña-like. This raises the chance of warmer conditions than usual and diminishes the chance of it being drier. We could see good spells of dry, fine weather interspersed with the occasional drenching.

Kathleen Kozyniak
Principal Scientist Climate & Air

The short summary - similar yet opposite to September and close to average overall.

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

November to January Forecast

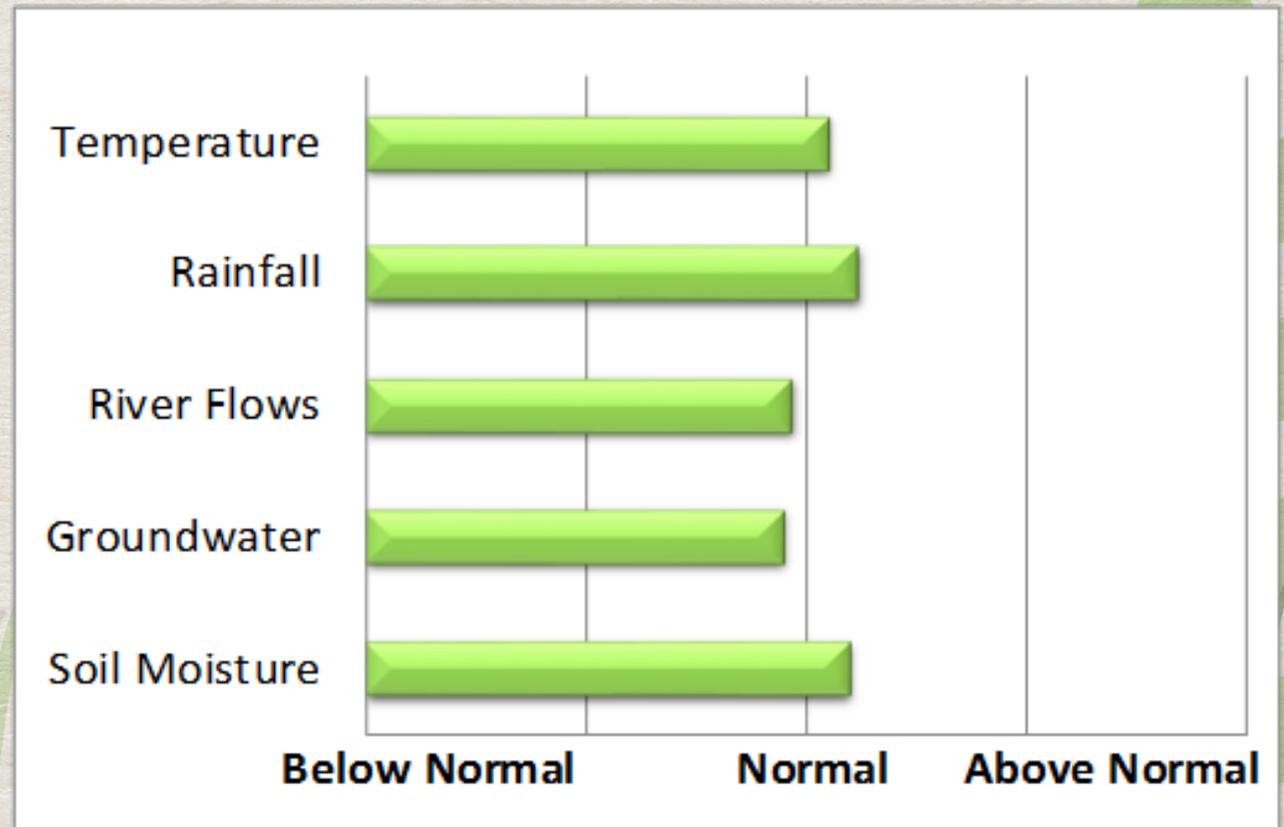
Temperature Above average
Rain Above or near normal
River flows Above normal
Soil moisture Above normal

(source : NIWA)

For more information

www.hbrc.govt.nz

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TEMPERATURES

Warm nights, average days.

Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: -0.1°C

Minimum Temperature: 0.7°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 17°C

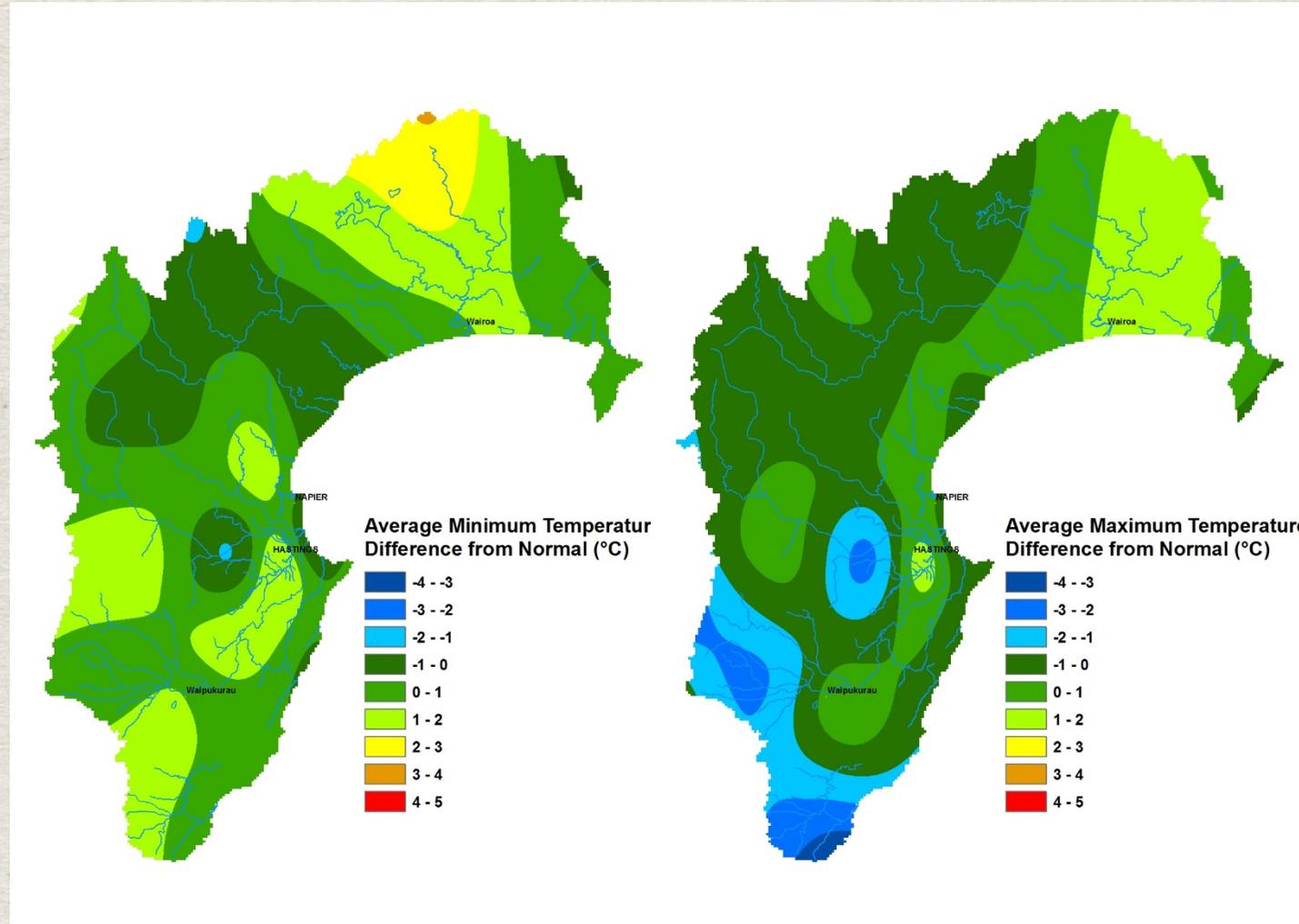
Mean Daily Minimum: 8°C

Highest Daily: 24.6°C

Location: Wairoa North Clyde EWS

Lowest Daily: -1.8°C

Location: Taharua



RAINFALL

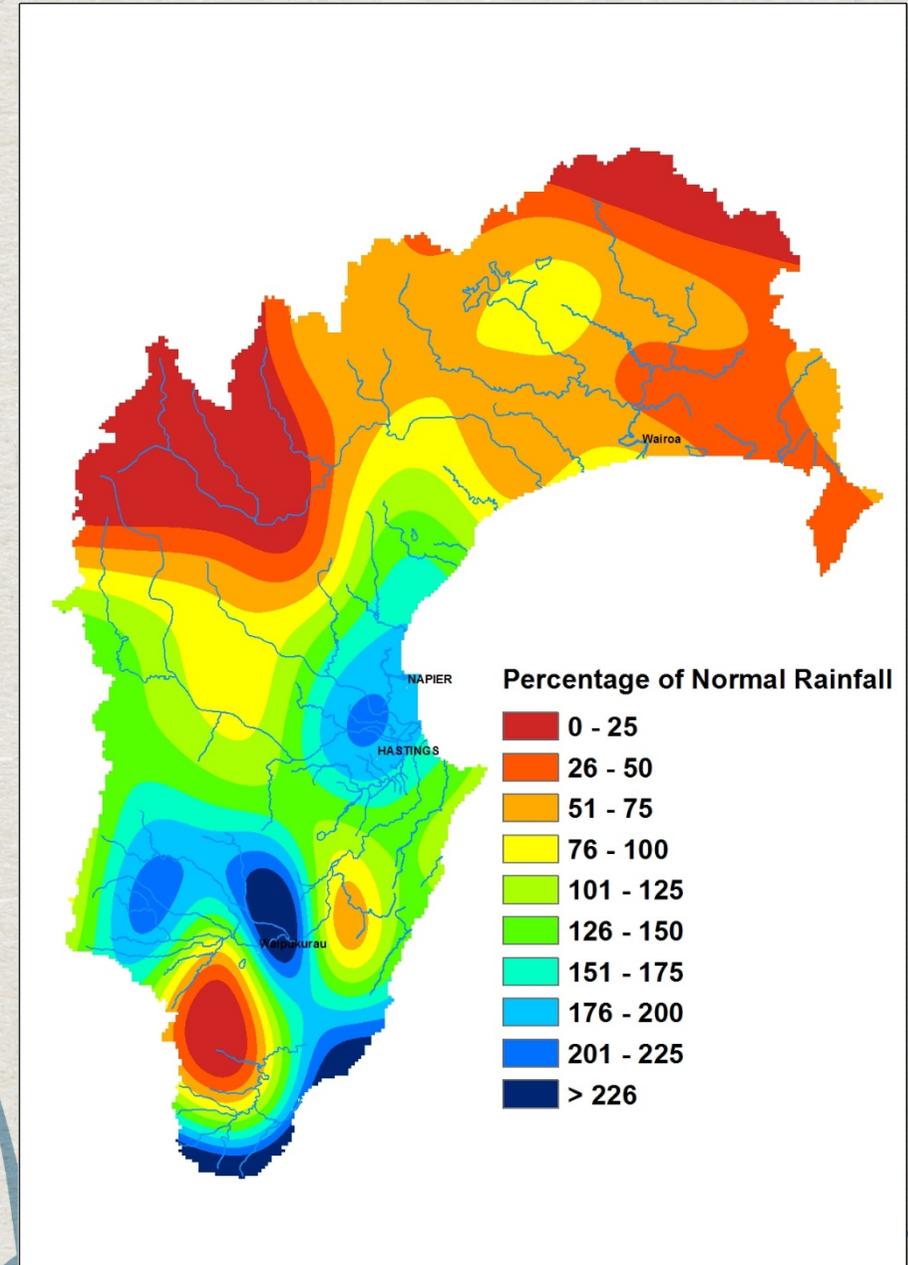
Wet in the south, dry in the north

Percentage of normal October rainfall
(30 year average)

For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	53%
Northern HB	55%
Tangoio	102%
Kaweka	94%
Ruahine	146%
Heretaunga Plains	158%
Ruataniwha Plains	173%
Southern HB	138%

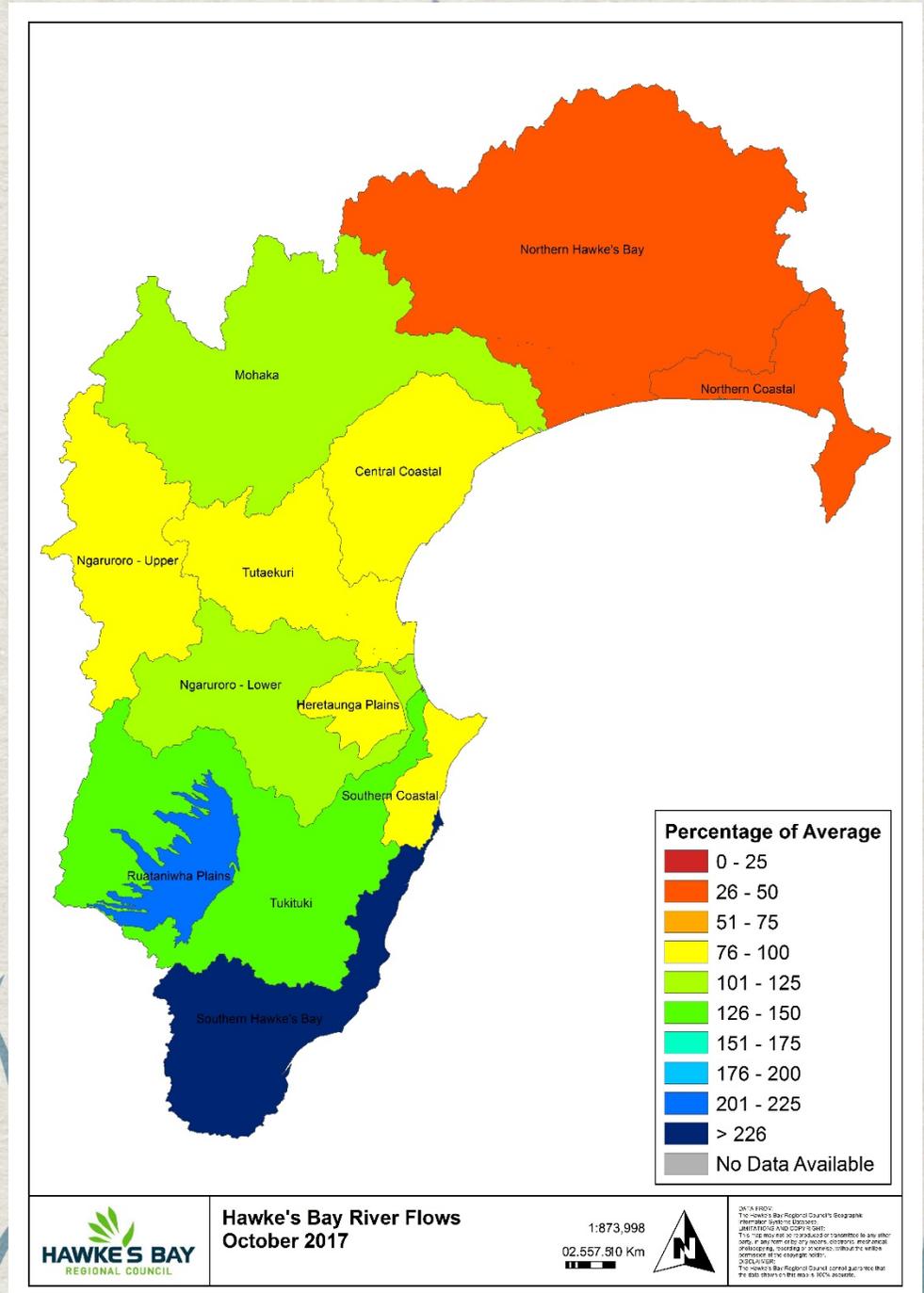
Hawke's Bay Region **115%**



RIVER FLOW

Percentage of average October flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coastal	35%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	47%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	39%
Northern HB – Waiau River	102%
Mohaka	118%
Central Coastal	91%
Tūtaekuri	94%
Heretaunga Plains	93%
Ngaruroro - Upper	79%
Ngaruroro - Lower	104%
Southern Coastal	80%
Ruataniwha Plains	215%
Tukituki	133%
Southern HB	250%
Hawke's Bay Region	106%



GROUNDWATER & SOIL

Groundwater Levels

Heretaunga Basin

Mainly normal water levels

Ruataniwha Basin

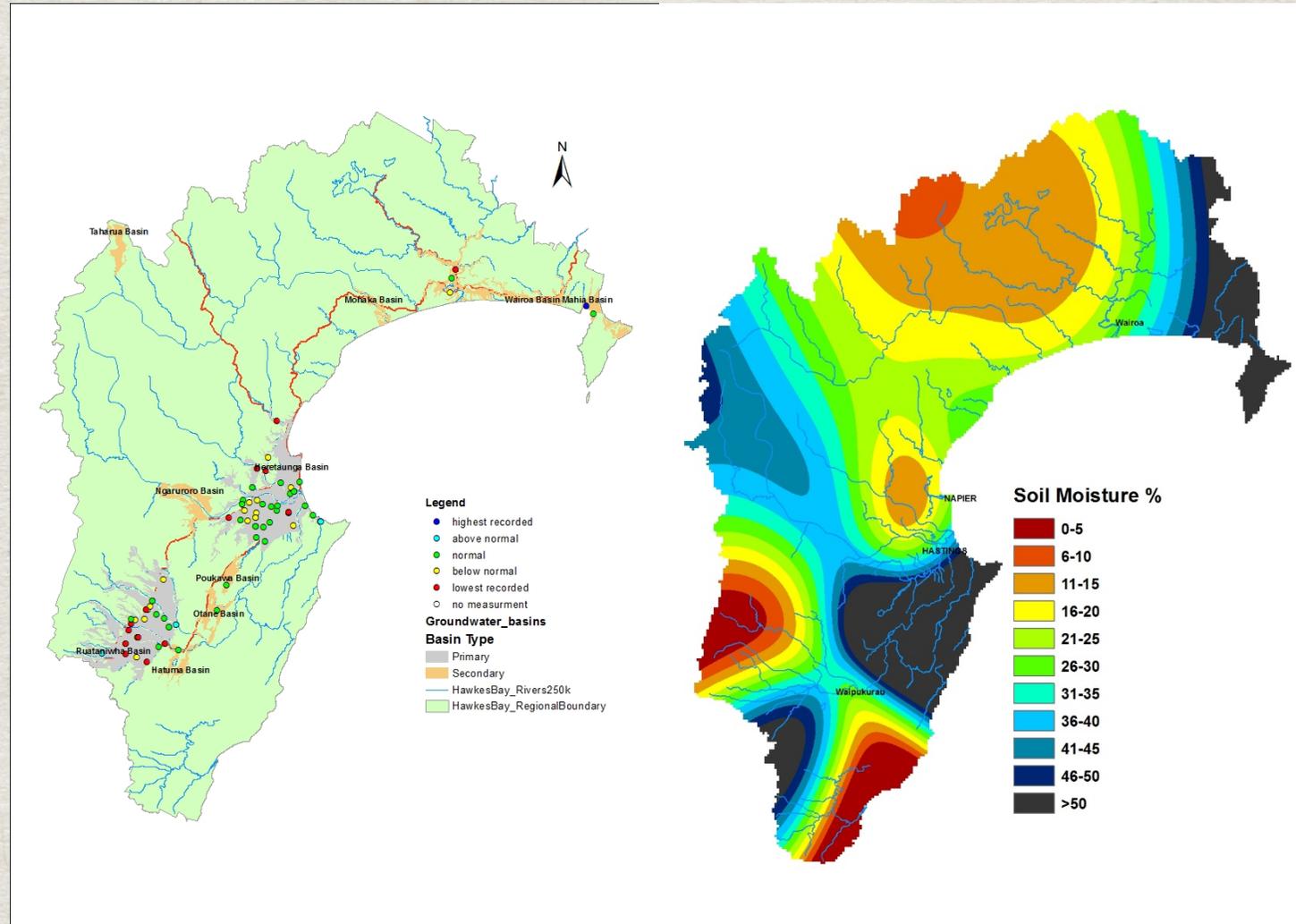
Mainly normal and below normal water levels, some below normal

Secondary Basins

Mainly normal and above normal water level conditions

Soil Moisture

Above normal



MPI comment for October 2017

Spring is going well in terms of production on pastoral farms. Above average soil temperatures, and soil moisture levels boosted by the early October rainfall, particularly in the southern half of the region, maintained pasture growth. Crops sown early in the month benefited from the improvement in surface soil moisture.

As usual for this time of year, farmers welcome any rainfall to maintain pasture, crop and livestock growth rates and help set their farms up for summer.

With better than average lambing percentages sheep and beef breeding farms are well positioned to take advantage of good demand, and prices better than recent years, for both lambs and cull ewes. Store cattle prices also firmed during the month as pasture covers increased, despite a reduction in export beef schedules.

Mating is underway on dairy farms and summer fodder crops are in and growing.

The season for fruit crops continues to track ahead of last year, and closer to normal timing for the region. Grape vines are growing well helped by good soil moisture levels and no damaging frosts. Grape growers will be hoping for warm dry breezy weather from mid-November when flowering gets underway.