

September 2018

Hawke's Bay Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

TEMPERATURES
RAINFALL
RIVER FLOW
GROUNDWATER & SOIL
LONGER FORECAST

HAWKE'S BAY | Environmental Science
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Kicking off October with a deluge has put us in a good position for the remainder of spring and hopefully summer, so that's positive. But it made for a bleak week of miserable weather. The lack of sun contributed to temperatures that for October were...okay. The month's river flows jumped out of their skins and both groundwater and soil moisture are about normal for the time of year. Now that it's spring, our air quality page (not the monitoring mind you) will nap and we look forward to our recreational water quality reporting in a couple of months and all the visions of summer it signals, like muck sweats and mosquitoes.

Kathleen Kozyniak
Principal Scientist Climate and Air



The short summary

We've had better. Very wet and average 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.

October to November

Temperature Near average

Rain Near normal

River flows Near or below normal

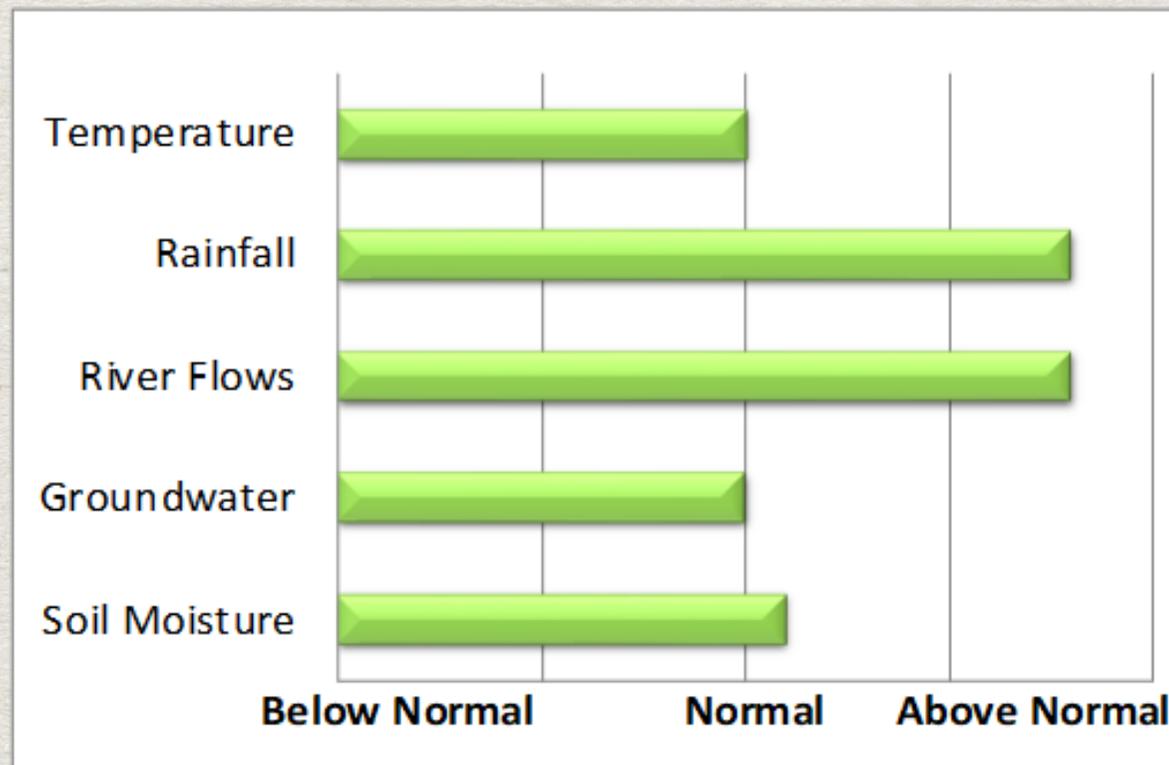
Soil moisture Near or below normal

(source : NIWA)

For more information

www.hbrc.govt.nz

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TEMPERATURES

Average for the time of year

Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: -0.25°C

Minimum Temperature: 0.27°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 15°C

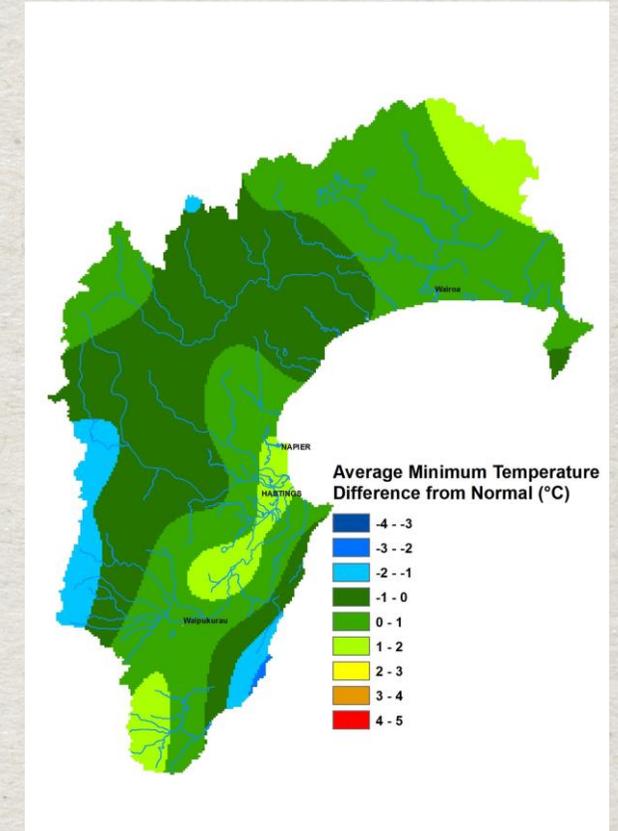
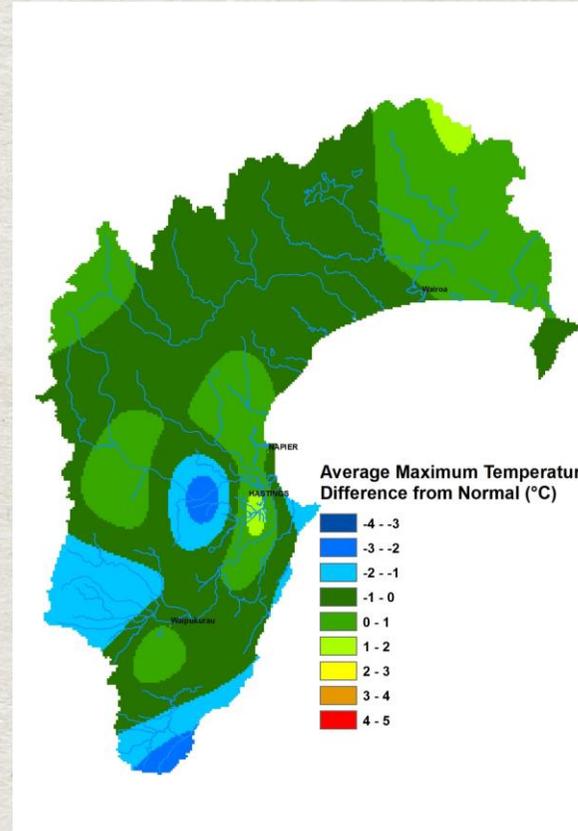
Mean Daily Minimum: 6°C

Highest Daily: 25.8°C

Location: Wairoa, North Clyde Ews

Lowest Daily: -5.1°C

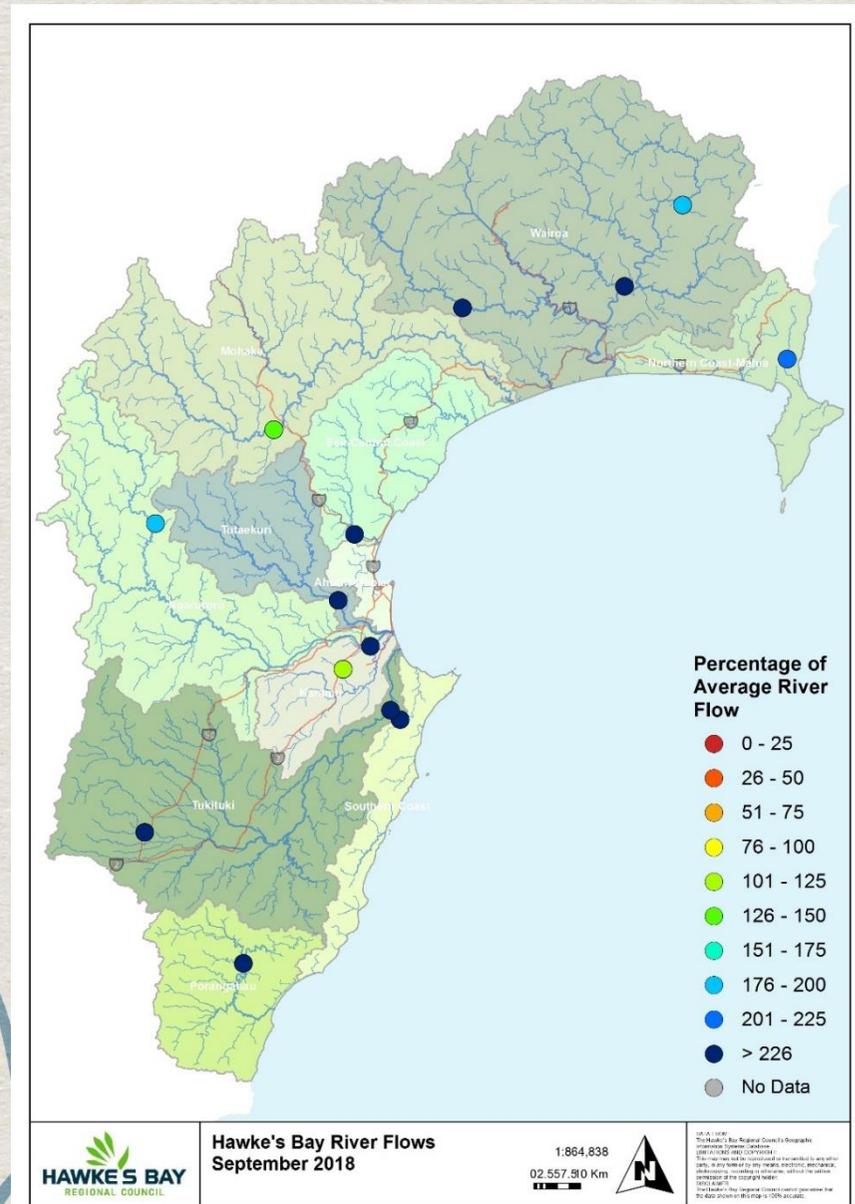
Location: Taharua



RIVER FLOW

Percentage of average September flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coastal	220%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	189%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	275%
Northern HB – Waiau River	356%
Mohaka	142%
Central Coastal	319%
Tūtaekuri	254%
Karamu	123%
Ngaruroro - Upper	191%
Ngaruroro - Lower	265%
Southern Coastal	414%
Ruataniwha Plains	243%
Tukituki	277%
Southern HB	357%
Hawke's Bay Region	259%



GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

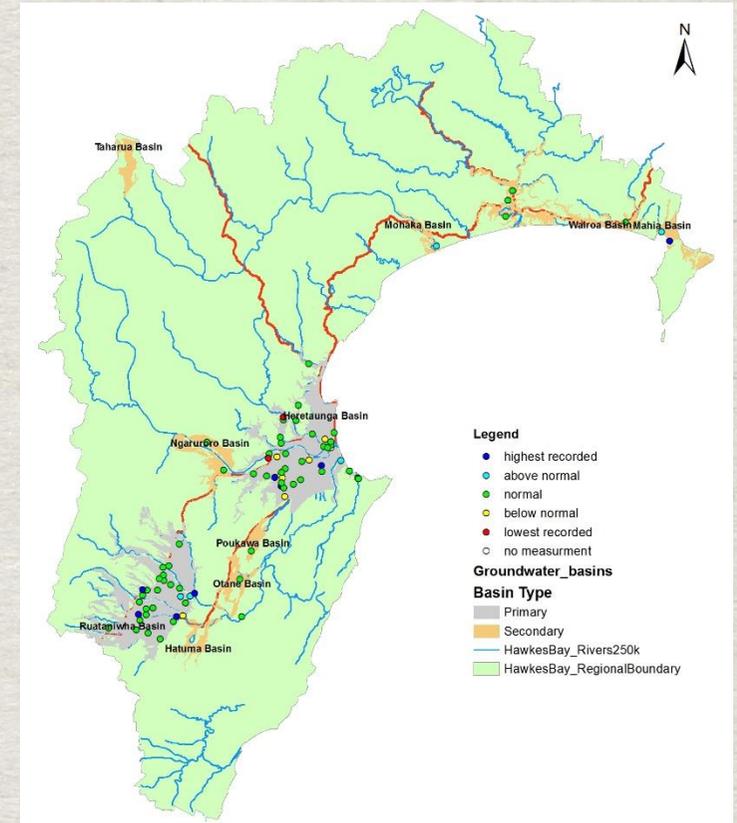
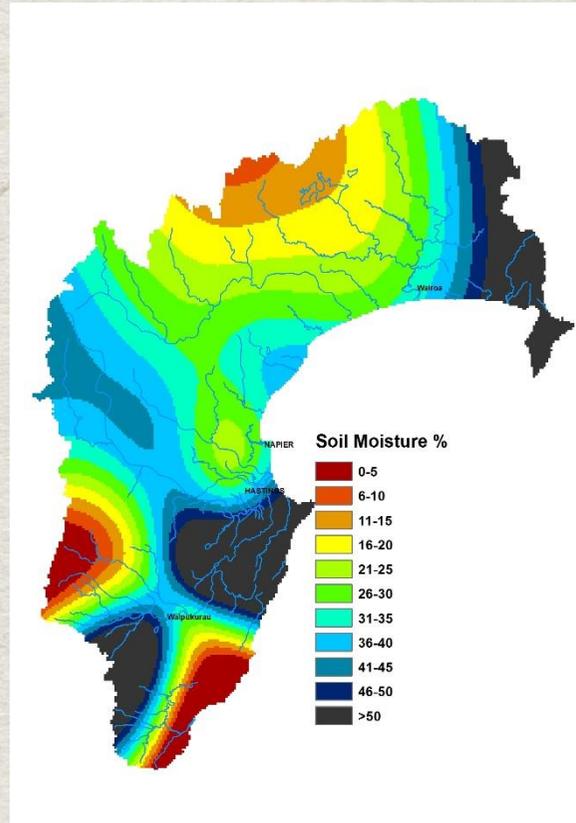
Groundwater:

Heretaunga basin: Mostly below normal levels.

Ruataniwha basin: Mostly normal and above normal levels.

Secondary basins: Mostly normal and above normal levels.

Soil Moisture: Normal or above normal



LONGER FORECAST

Measures of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) are inching towards an El Niño event but not with great gusto so the next few months may see it develop with limited strength.

Climate models indicate that spells of reasonably settled weather and onshore winds could be on the cards rather than a spring of rampant westerlies – not that a good westerly blast won't happen on occasions. Anticyclones are expected over most of the country and pressures lower to the northeast.

Generally the picture is for normal temperatures and below normal or normal rainfall for the region, the latter possible (particularly for those in the Wairoa area) if we get those onshore winds and have the odd brush with a low tracking from the north.

However our headwaters might rue diminished spill over rain that a good moist westerly can bring.

MPI comment for September

Following a run of good weather for lambing in July and August, conditions took a turn for the worse in the first week of September with the extended wet and cold period taking a significant toll on lambs born at the time. This week-long storm also affected flowering and pollination of some summerfruit crops.

The upside of the significant rainfall in early September is that ground water has been replenished and most farm dams and water tanks are full. Soil moisture levels are good across the region, with soils wetter than normal in some places. Pasture growth has started to pick up.

Dairy farmers are enjoying an excellent spring, with good milk production and cow condition, and feed crops sown and emerging well.

Some cooler spells of weather in September mean that flowering on apple orchards is running behind last year (which was an early season) and closer to normal timing for the region. Good bloom is being reported with growers hoping for settled, warm and sunny weather into October to help with pollination and fruit set.

Gillian Mangin and Annette Carey