

# Hawke's Bay Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

APRIL 2024



TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI



## APRIL 2024

Like an old sponge, April hit us with plenty of dry vibes. It is the third consecutive month with less rain than we'd like. Across the region, only 44% of April's average rainfall was recorded. Southern, Northern Hawke's Bay and Tangoio got the short end of the rain stick, where recorded rainfall was only about a third of an average April's rainfall.

Another dry month kept soil moisture levels below median levels in some areas, particularly around the plains. Following last month, already healthy-looking northern sites experienced slight increases in soil moisture, reaching near or above median levels by the end of April due to sporadic rainfall. River flows were below normal across the region and groundwater levels followed suit with even more sites dipping into below normal.

Sunny Hawke's Bay came to town this month with those beautiful sunny autumn days. Daytime temperatures 0.9°C warmer than usual but fell within normal levels during the night. Likewise, air quality was good and no exceedances of PM10 were reported at any of our sites.

**Dr Nariefa Abraham-Bennet**  
Senior Climate Scientist

## SUMMARY April 2024

**Short summary** - Warm days, average nights, and another dry month.

### May to July Forecast

Temperature Above or near average  
Rain Near or below normal  
River flows Near or below normal  
Soil moisture Below normal

source : NIWA

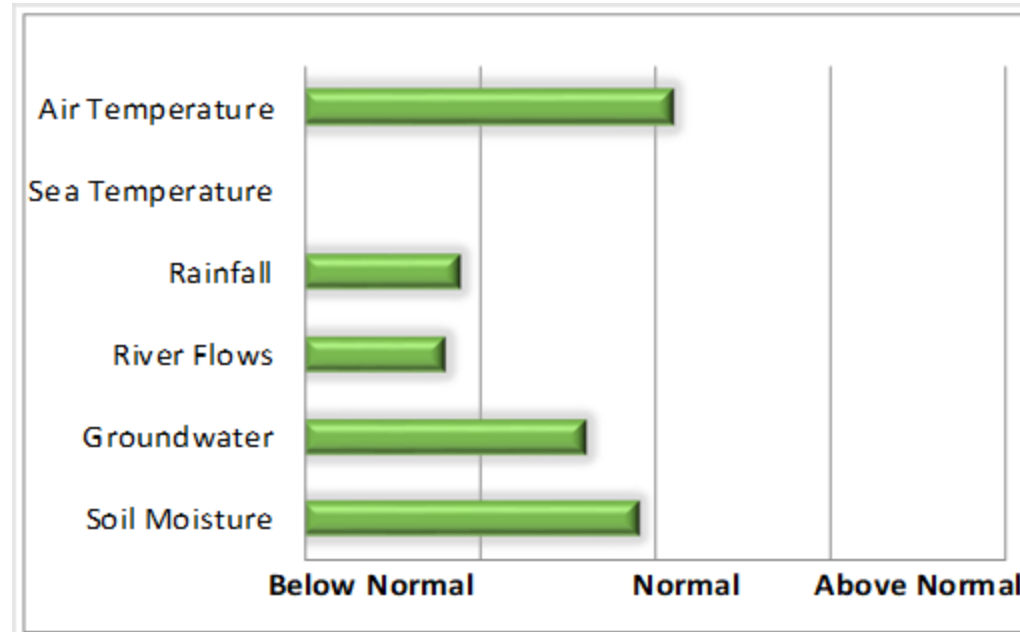
### Sea Surface Temperature

The average sea surface temperature (SST) for Hawke's Bay in April 2024 is unavailable due to the HBRC coastal water quality monitoring buoy HAWQi being removed for servicing.

### For more information

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

Ph: 06 835 9200



## RAINFALL

Below normal. No cloud to ground lightning strikes.

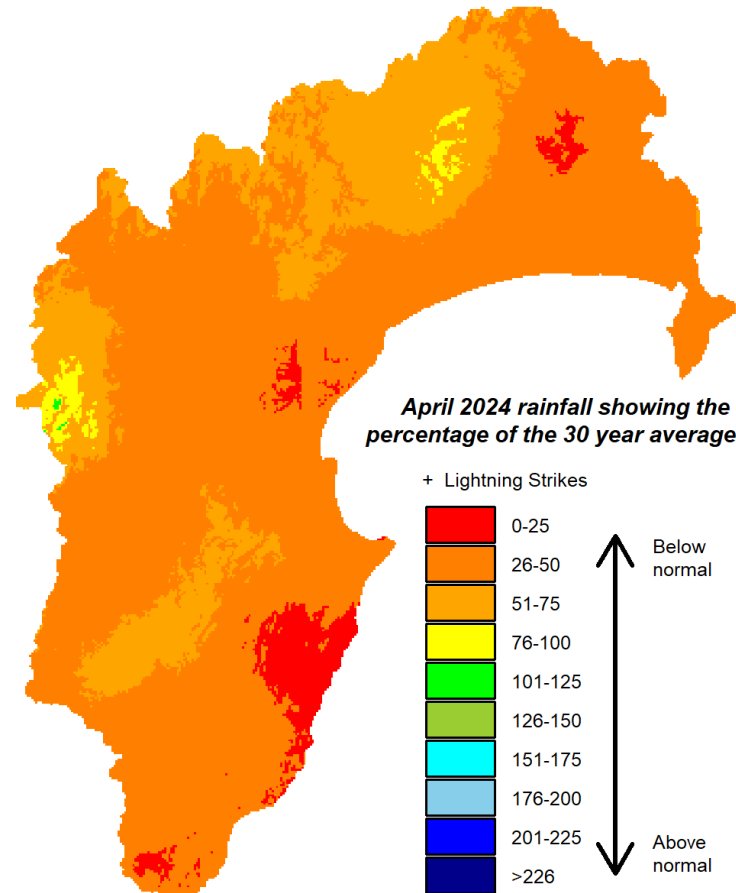
*Lightning counts come from the Blitzortung.org lightning network to which HBRC contributes.*

Percentage of normal April rainfall  
(30 year average)

### For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	57%
Northern HB	35%
Tangoio	38%
Kaweka	55%
Ruahine	46%
Heretaunga Plains	48%
Ruataniwha Plains	43%
Southern HB	28%
<b>Hawke's Bay Region</b>	<b>44%</b>

For a more detailed rainfall report click [here](#)  
and for a five-year monthly summary click [here](#).



## AIR TEMPERATURES

**Temperatures** – Warm days, average nights.

Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 0.9°C

Minimum Temperature: 0°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 18.6°C

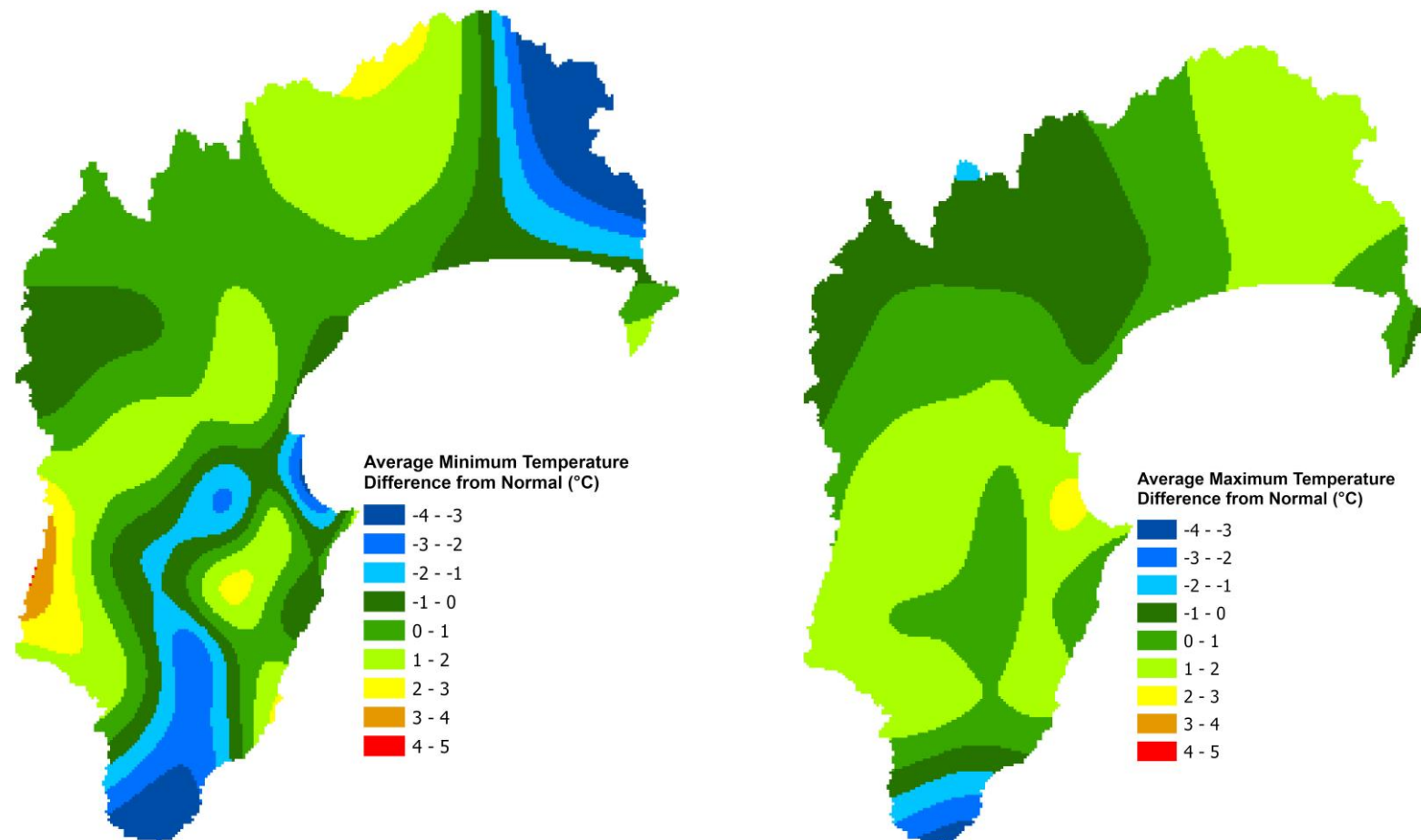
Mean Daily Minimum: 8.2°C

Highest Daily: 28.9 °C

Location: Waipukurau Climate

Lowest Daily: -2.6 °C

Location: Taharua Climate

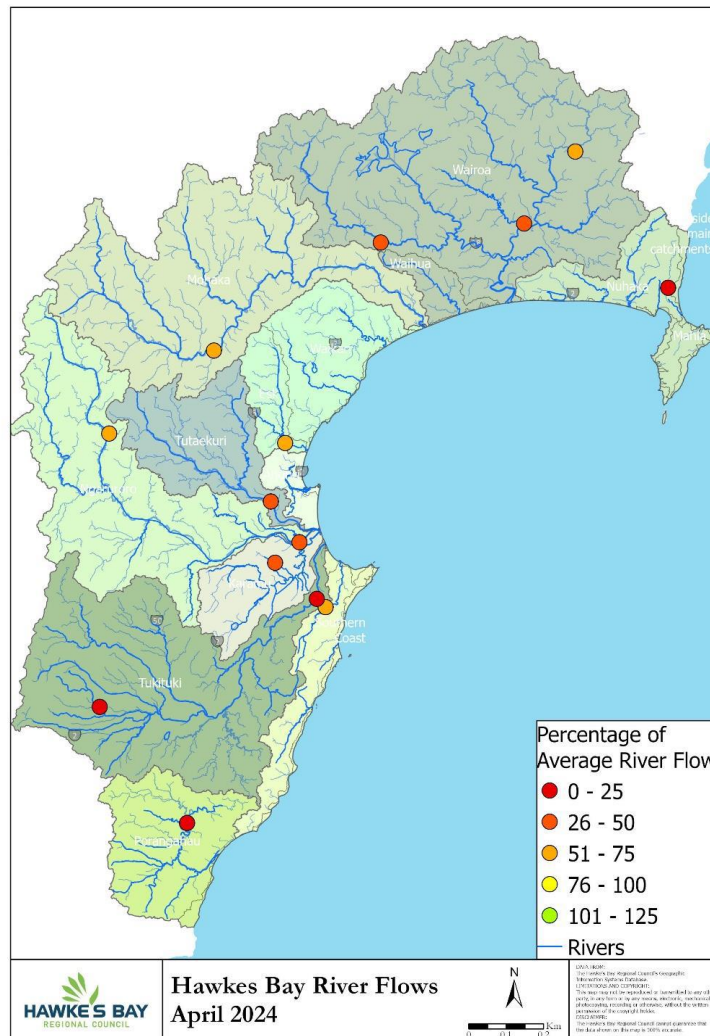


## RIVER FLOW

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

Northern Coast – Mahia	20%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	53%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	34%
Northern HB – Waiau River	47%
Mohaka	59%
Esk-Central Coast	61%
Tūtaekuri	45%
Karamu	44%
Ngaruroro – Kuripapango	55%
Ngaruroro – Chesterhope	33%
Southern Coast	67%
Tukituki – Tukipo River	14%
Tukituki – Tukituki River	22%
<u>Porangahau</u>	<u>1%</u>
<b>Hawke's Bay Region</b>	<b>40%</b>

For a more detailed river flow report click [here](#).





## GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

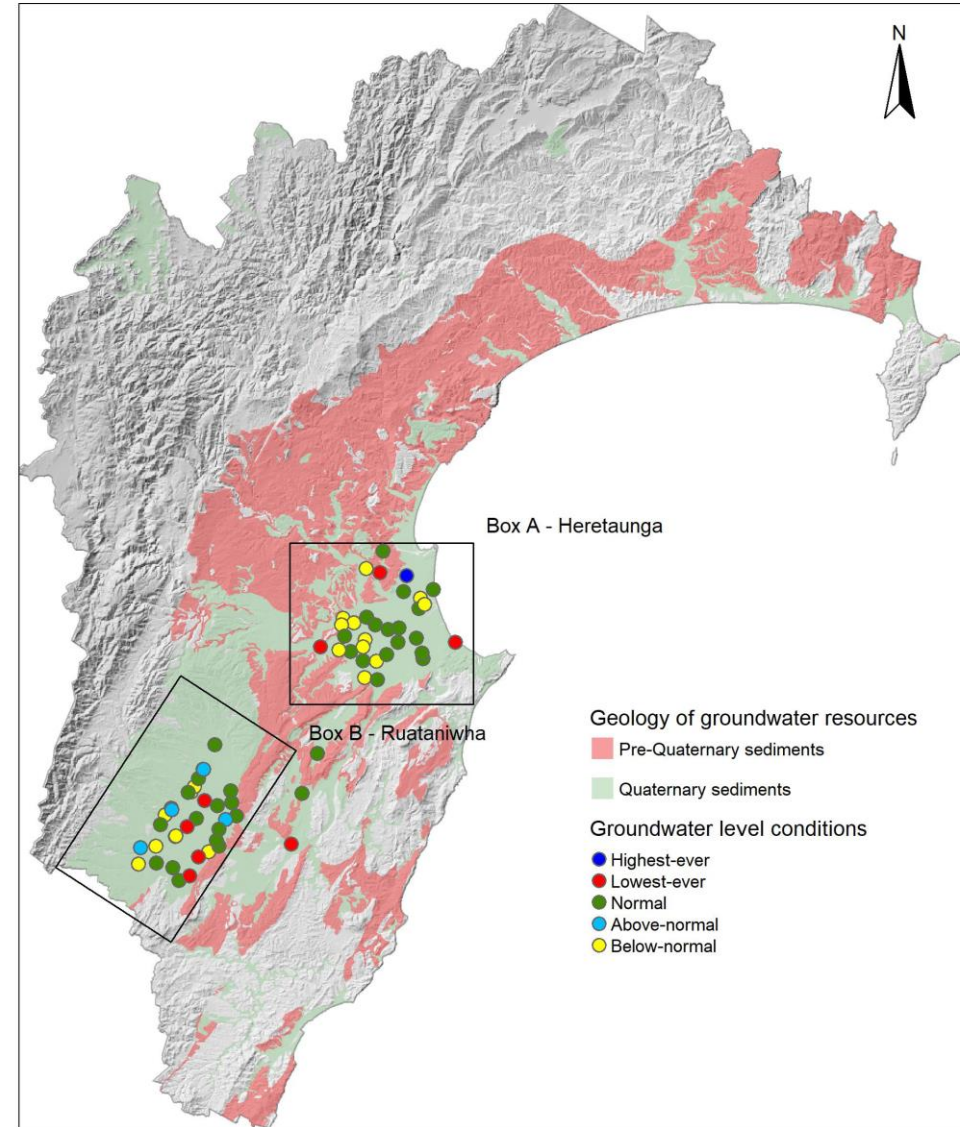
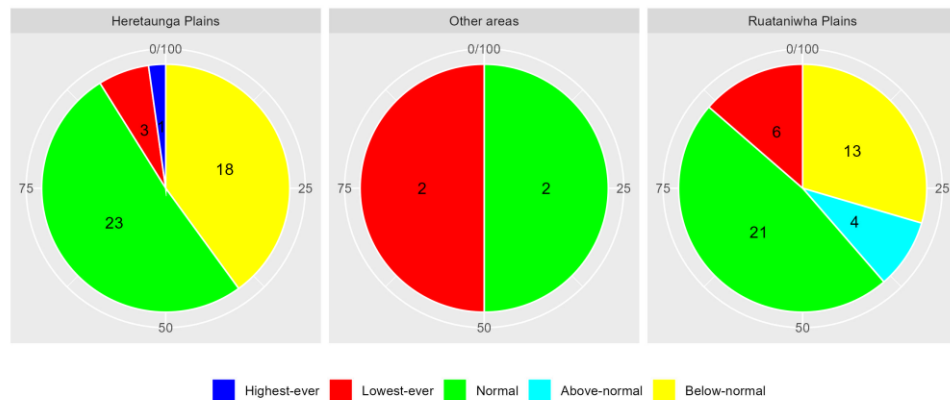
**Soil Moisture:** Near or below average.

For a more detailed soil moisture report click [here](#).

### Current state of Groundwater levels:

This report compares groundwater levels in April with historic readings to evaluate current conditions. To assess these conditions, we have grouped groundwater levels at each well relative to their monthly percentiles.

Groundwater levels measuring between their monthly minimum and 25th percentile are considered below-normal, groundwater levels measuring between the 25th and 75th percentiles are classed as normal, and groundwater levels measuring between the 75th-maximum are considered above-normal. Wells with less than 5 years of record are excluded from the analysis.



## AIR QUALITY

**Air Quality:** All okay. No exceedances

**Figure 1:** PM<sub>10</sub> levels in the Napier, Hastings and Awatoto airsheds during April 2024.

### PM<sub>10</sub> exceedances:

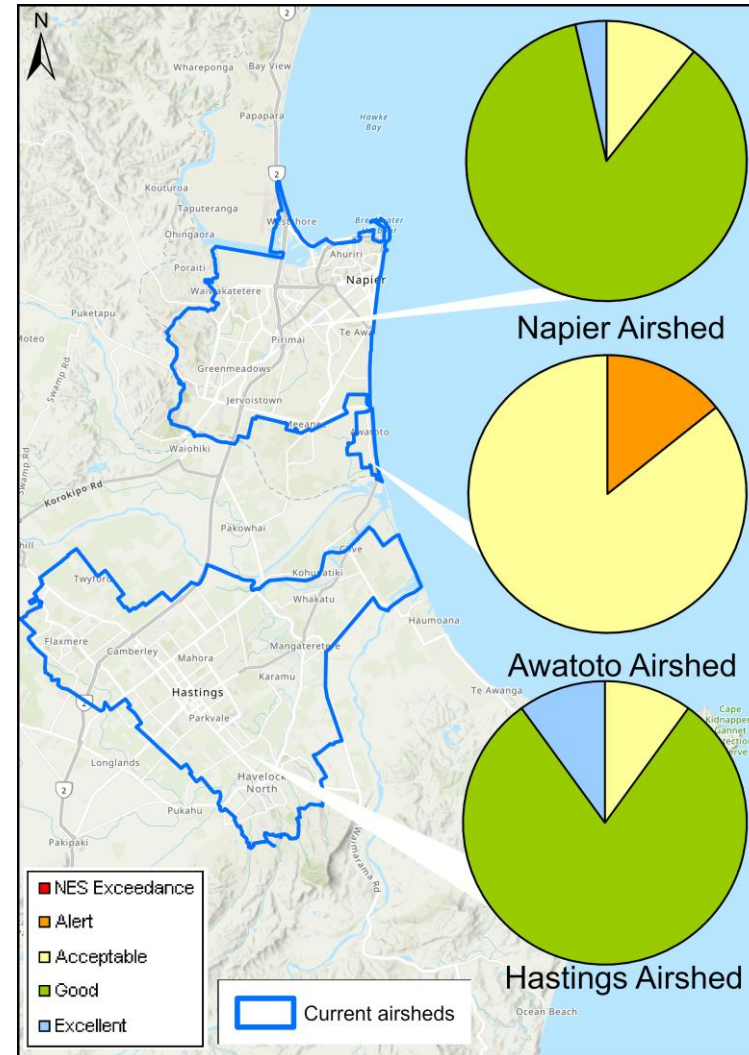
The National Environmental Standard (NES) for particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) of 50 micrograms per cubic metre (24-hour average) was not exceeded in the Awatoto, Napier or Hastings airsheds during April 2024.

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.

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

For a more detailed air quality report click [here](#).





## LONGER FORECAST

We may be heading into neutral ENSO (El Niño-Southern Oscillation) conditions, but the ghost of El Niño will influence our weather patterns for a wee while yet. A westerly wind regime is still expected to be prevalent based on higher-than-normal sea level pressures over northern New Zealand and lower than normal south of the country.

It's a set up that isn't too different to the past few months. That includes sea surface temperatures which remain about normal for the time of year around Hawke's Bay's coast. Therefore, the outlook doesn't change drastically either. Rainfall is likely to be below or near normal and temperatures near or above normal. The latter will flip flop between chilly and balmy spells as the westerlies seesaw between a southern and northern tilt.

It's a case of keeping both your shorts and puffer jacket handy in your wardrobe.

**Dr Kathleen Kozyniak**  
**Team Leader Air and Land Science**