

NOVEMBER 2012

HAWKE'S BAY

# trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT



with commentary  
from

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



  
**HAWKE'S BAY**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# NOVEMBER SUMMARY

## *Regional Council Science Summary*

It was dry again in most places (the third month in a row). Temperatures were also below par, but are creeping up.

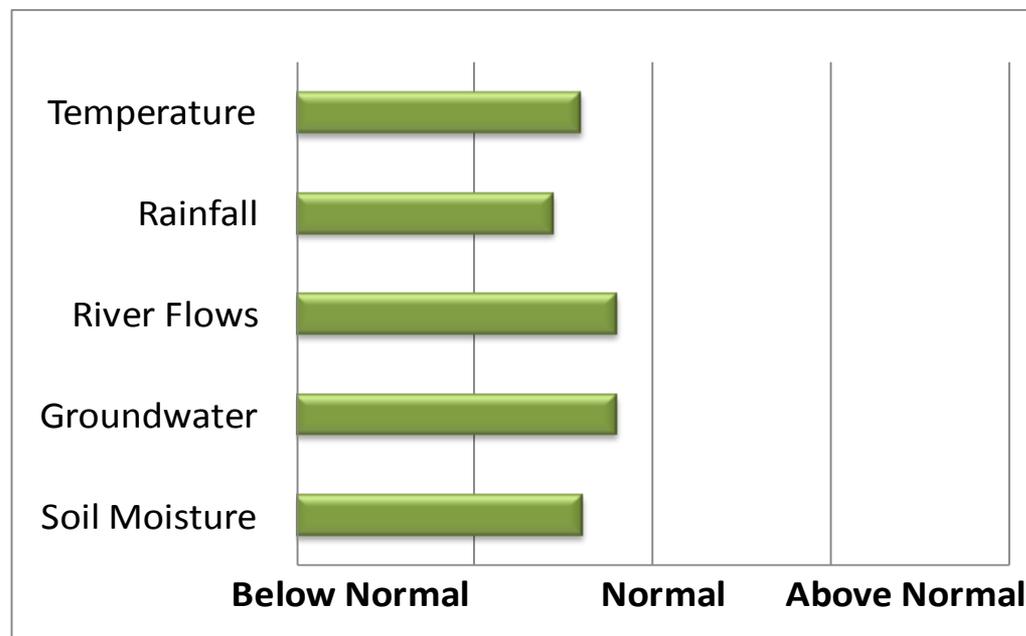
Too soon for togs and jandals?

This is a summary of the region's rainfall, groundwater, recreational water quality & soil moisture levels.

Data and images provided by MPI and HBRC.

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

06 835 9200



Summary information in this report reflects regional averages. Specific situations between catchments will vary. More in-depth information is available on Council's website.

## *December Forecast*

Temperature	Near average
Rain	Near to below normal
River flows	Below normal
Soil moisture	Below normal

source : Metservice/ NIWA

# TEMPERATURES

## *Below normal*

Not only below normal, we even had a couple of frosts in places.

### Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature:  $-1.0^{\circ}\text{C}$

Minimum Temperature:  $-1.3^{\circ}\text{C}$

Mean Daily Maximum:  $17.7^{\circ}\text{C}$

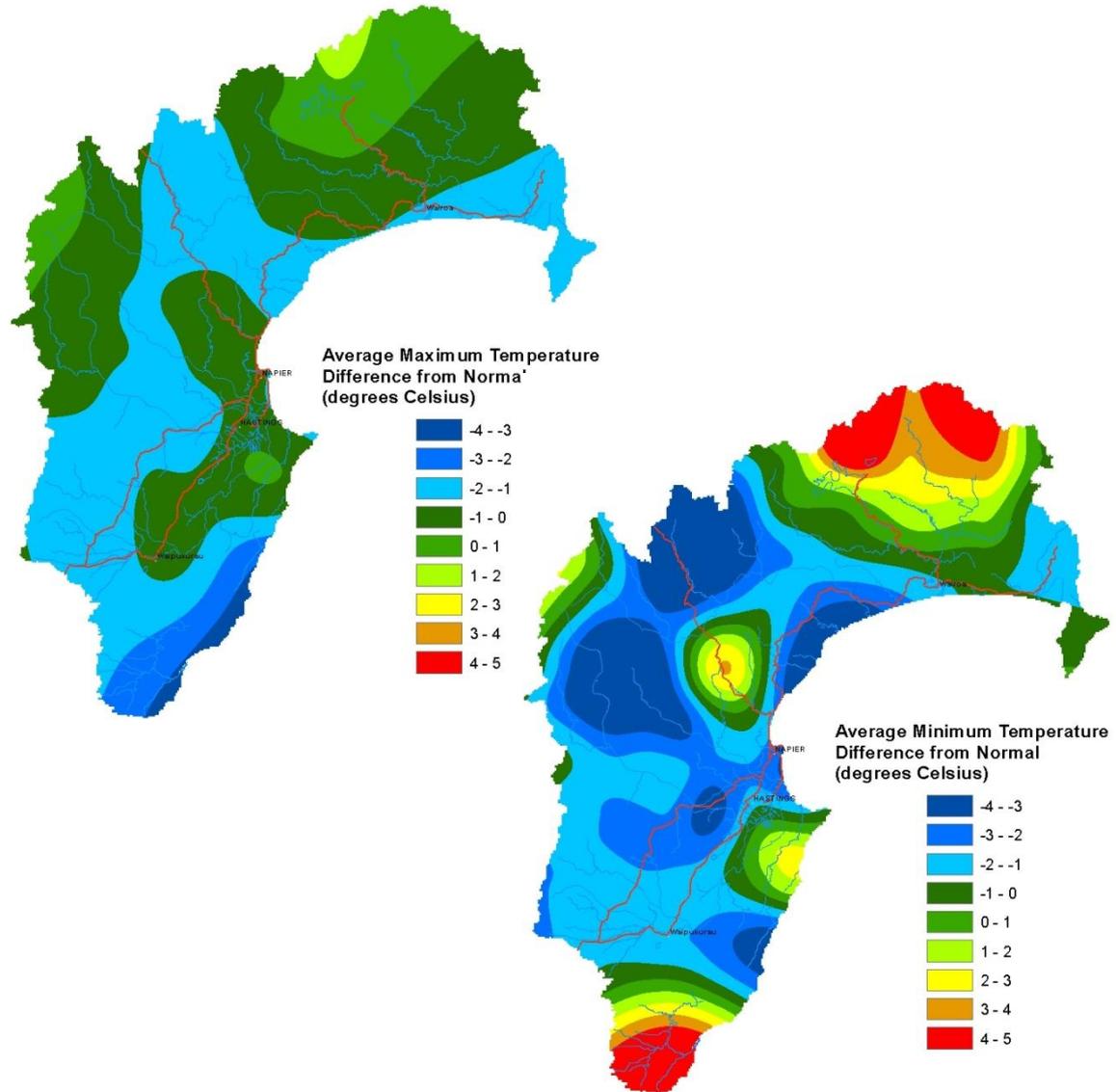
Mean Daily Minimum:  $7.6^{\circ}\text{C}$

Highest Daily:  $28.8^{\circ}\text{C}$

Location: Wairoa

Lowest Daily:  $-2.2^{\circ}\text{C}$

Location: Ngamatea





## *November Roundup*

Three months of low rainfall, cooler and windy weather is impacting on farms in central and eastern parts of the region. Pasture covers are lower than usual for this time of year.

Early lambs seem to have done well and stock is generally in good condition. But many farms will start to struggle to feed stock at desired levels. Lamb weaning weights are down and store lambs are being sold at prices well below budgeted levels.

Any killable cattle have been sold and reached target weights earlier than usual due to the good autumn.

Later sown summer feed crops have not established well and good rainfall is needed for these fodder crops to make a useful contribution to finishing lambs.

The dry conditions mean a high irrigation demand for vegetable and arable crops; non-irrigated crops are struggling.

The impacts of the October hail and frosts on fruit crops are becoming more apparent with significant damage on some individual orchards and varieties. Despite this, the region's pipfruit crop is expected to be average to good overall with fruit size normal.

Flowering in grapes is underway with growers hoping for dry, warm, breezy conditions over the next few weeks.

Gillian Mangin and Annette Carey  
Ministry for Primary Industries Policy, Hastings



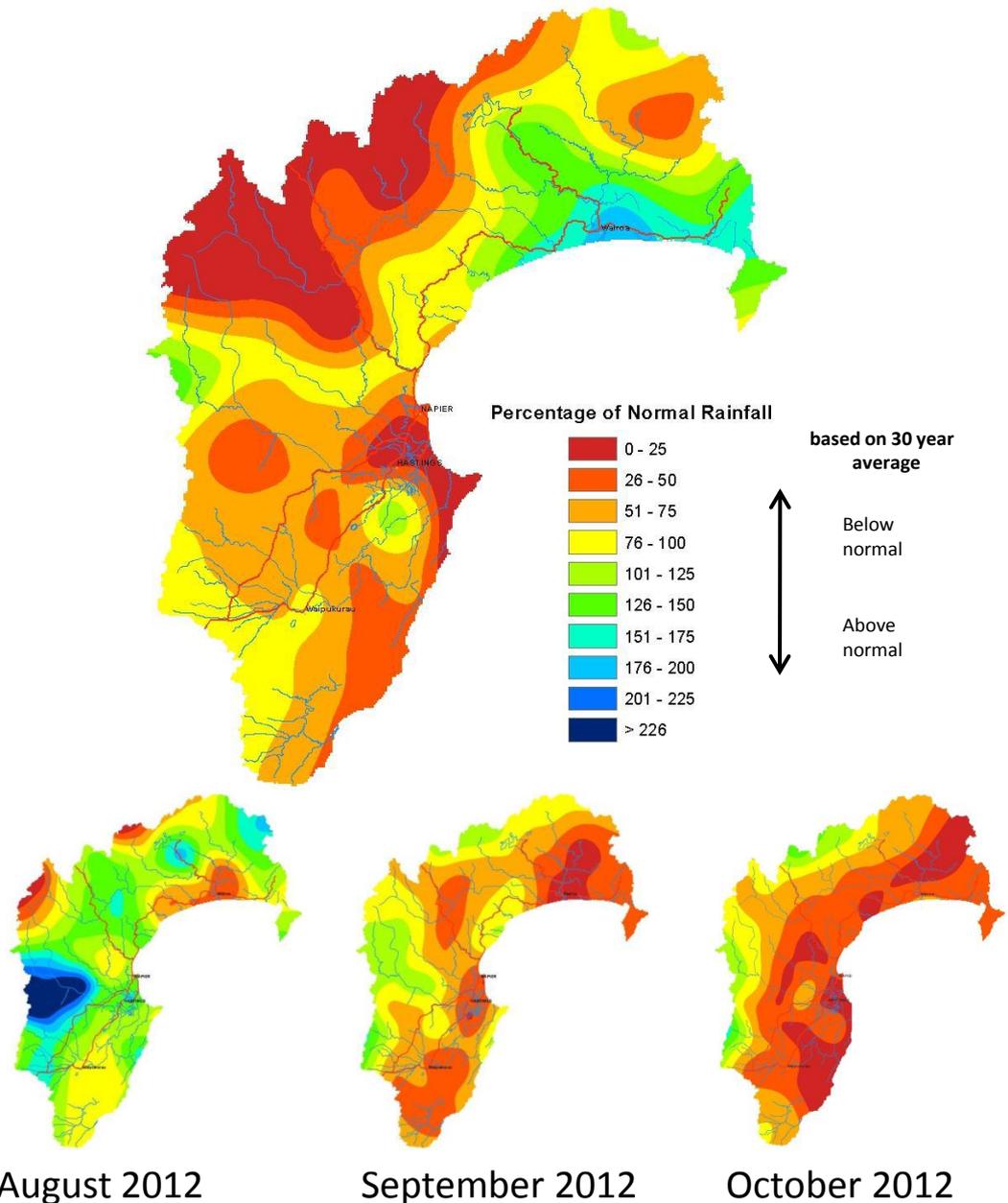
# RAINFALL

## *Below normal*

Mainly below normal, except in northern Hawke's Bay.

Percentage of normal November rainfall (30 year average) for areas within the region:

Waikaremoana	75%
Northern HB	125%
Tangoio	66%
Kaweka	69%
Ruahine	69%
Heretaunga Plains	50%
Ruataniwha Plains	66%
Southern HB	59%
<b>Hawke's Bay region</b>	<b>72%</b>



August 2012

September 2012

October 2012

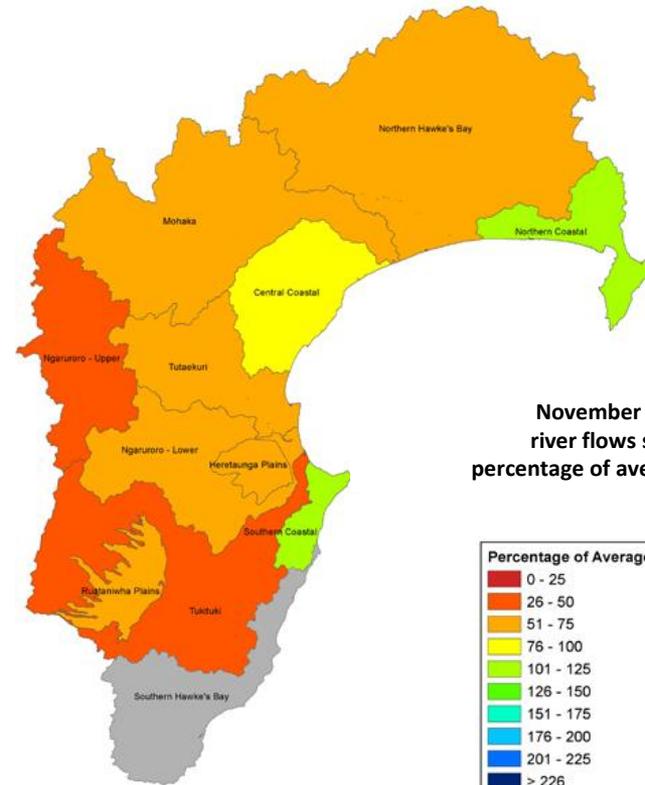
# RIVER FLOWS

## *Near to below normal*

A mix of normal, mid and low flows across the region.

Percentage of normal November flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coastal	112%
Northern HB	53%
Mohaka	51%
Central Coastal	77%
Tutaekuri	52%
Heretaunga Plains	59%
Ngaruroro-Upper	49%
Ngaruroro-Lower	57%
Southern Coastal	105%
Ruataniwha Plains	75%
Tukituki	42%
Southern HB	%



November 2012  
river flows show  
percentage of average



September 2012



October 2012

# GROUNDWATER & SOIL

## GROUNDWATER LEVELS

### *Heretaunga basin*

Normal water levels east of Hastings, mainly below normal to the west

### *Ruataniwha basin*

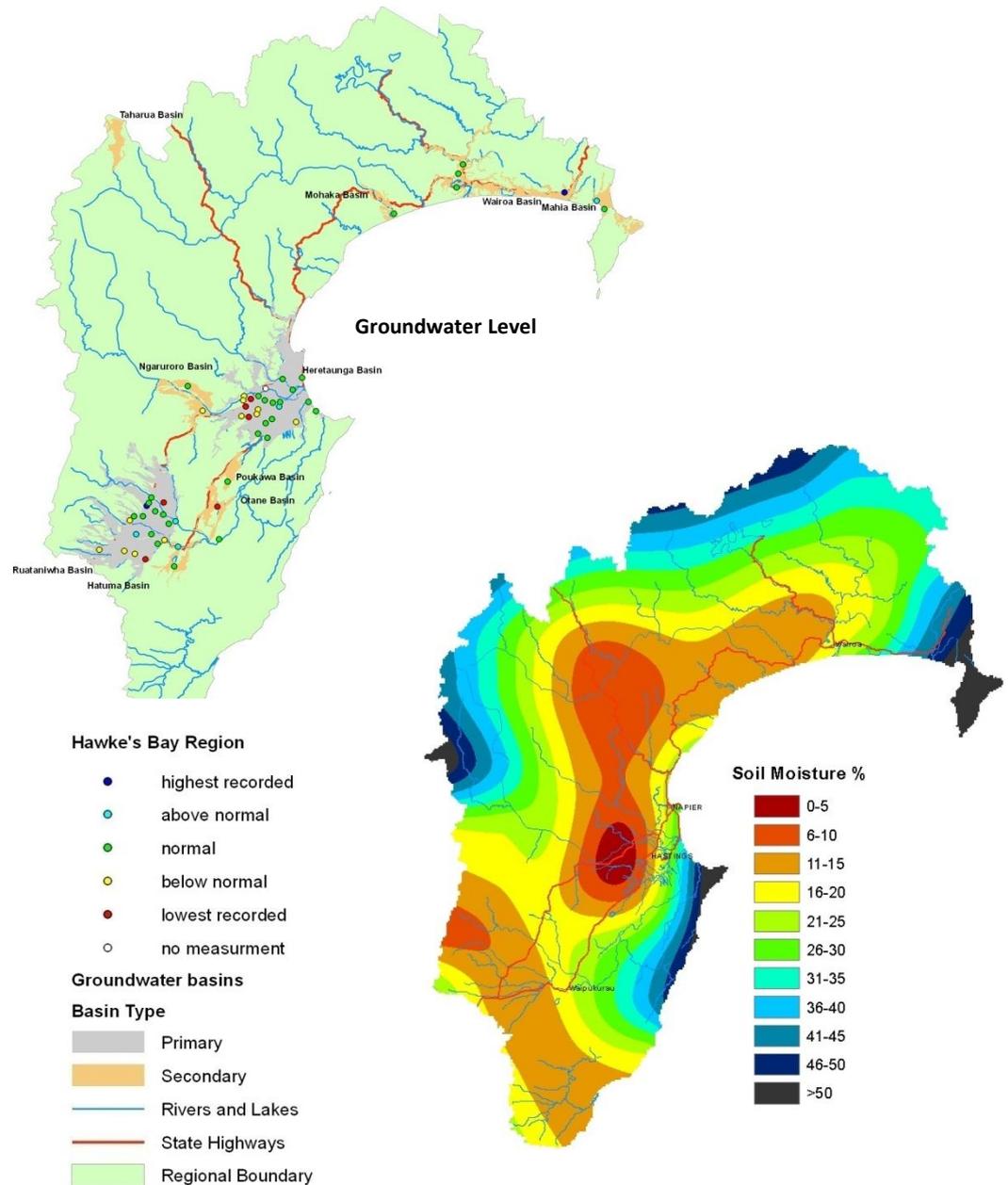
It was normal in the north and below normal in the south

### *Secondary basins*

Mostly normal to above normal

## SOIL MOISTURE

Near to below normal  
(compared to the last 5 years)



# RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY

## *It's Swimming Time!*

The summer monitoring programme began on 5 November.

The first month of the programme showed great results all over the region. Both fresh and salt water locations had low counts of bacteria.

There was poor result at Mahia Beach, where the monitoring site is next to the boat ramp.

Water quality at 'very good' sites is generally suitable for contact recreation. Good and Fair sites are generally suitable, except after heavy rain. Poor/ Very Poor sites are likely to have ongoing issues with water quality and aren't recommended for contact recreation.

