

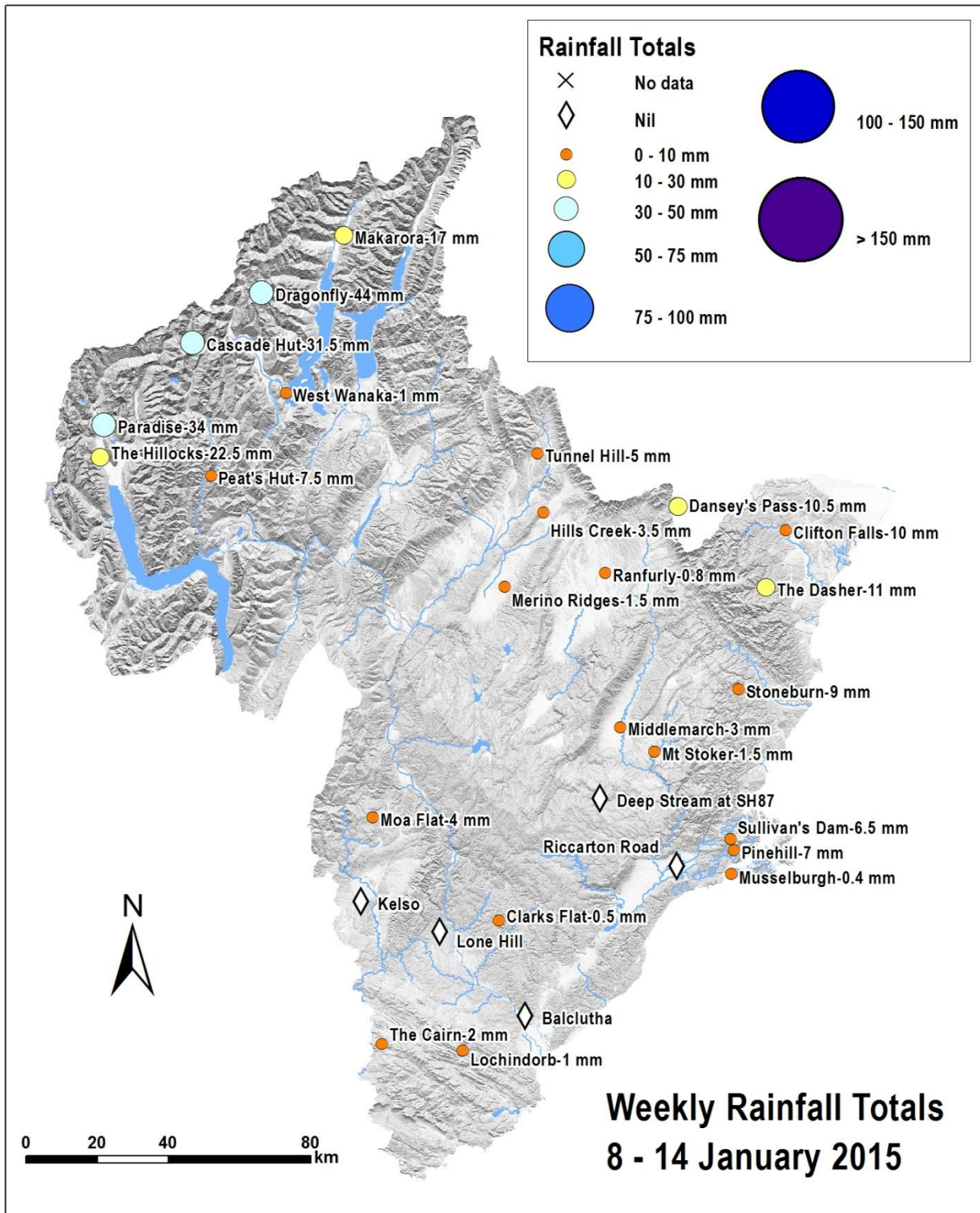
RAINFALL & RIVER FLOW W E E K L Y R E P O R T O T A G O R E G I O N A L C O U N C I L

Thursday 8 January 2015 – Wednesday 14 January 2015

Described below is the weekly rainfall totals recorded at selected rain gauges and the average weekly flow in Otago's main rivers for the week ending at midnight on 14 January 2015.

Rainfall

It was quite dry in South Otago this week. Dragonfly had the most amount of rainfall, with 44 mm recorded. Most of gauges recorded below 10 mm, most of them in Central and East Otago.



River Flows

Most flow recorders had well below normal flows this week. Flows in the Kakanui River, Shag River, Manuherikia River, Taieri River, and Pomahaka River were well below normal. The rest measured below normal flows.

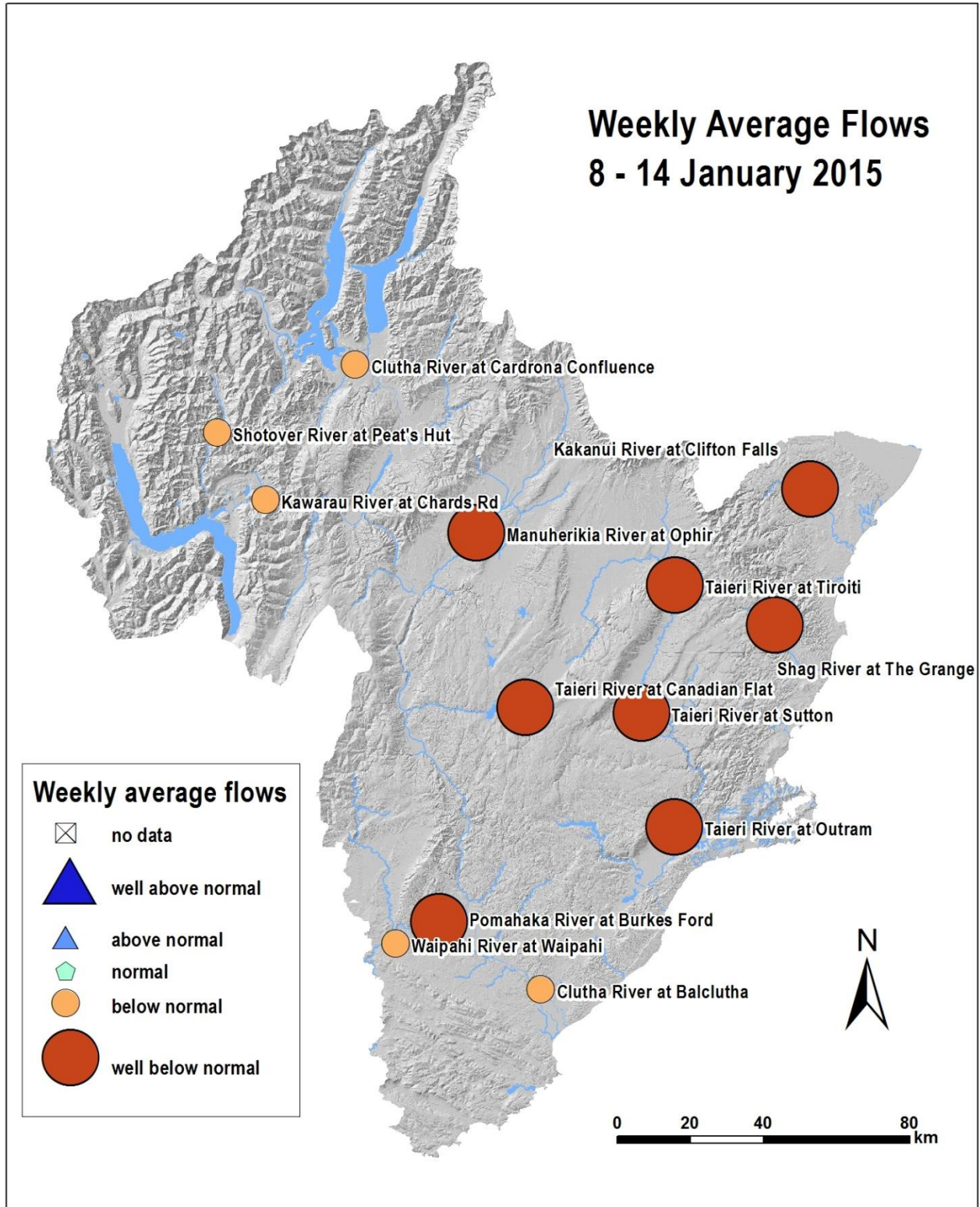


Table 1. River flow information for Otago's main rivers (all flows in cumecs, m³/s)

| River and Site Name | Weekly Average | Minimum | Maximum | State |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| Kakanui River at Clifton Falls | 0.509 | 0.406 | 0.814 | well below normal |
| Shag River at The Grange | 0.063 | 0.050 | 0.078 | well below normal |
| Taieri River at Canadian Flat | 0.826 | 0.749 | 0.922 | well below normal |
| Taieri River at Tiroiti | 0.999 | 0.885 | 1.202 | well below normal |
| Taieri River at Sutton | 1.079 | 0.961 | 1.166 | well below normal |
| Taieri River at Outram | 2.267 | 2.033 | 2.510 | well below normal |
| Clutha River at Balclutha | 461.811 | 319.931 | 624.270 | below normal |
| Waipahi River at Waipahi | 0.816 | 0.643 | 1.563 | below normal |
| Pomahaka River at Burkes Ford | 3.742 | 3.487 | 4.345 | well below normal |
| Manuherikia River at Ophir | 1.782 | 1.451 | 1.980 | well below normal |
| Clutha R. at Cardrona Confluence | 256.761 | 214.130 | 290.582 | below normal |
| Kawarau River at Chards Rd | 188.295 | 178.259 | 200.720 | below normal |
| Shotover River at Peat's Hut | 16.051 | 13.256 | 28.132 | below normal |

Lake Levels

Water levels in Lake Hawea, Lake Wanaka, and Lake Wakatipu were all below normal for this time of year.

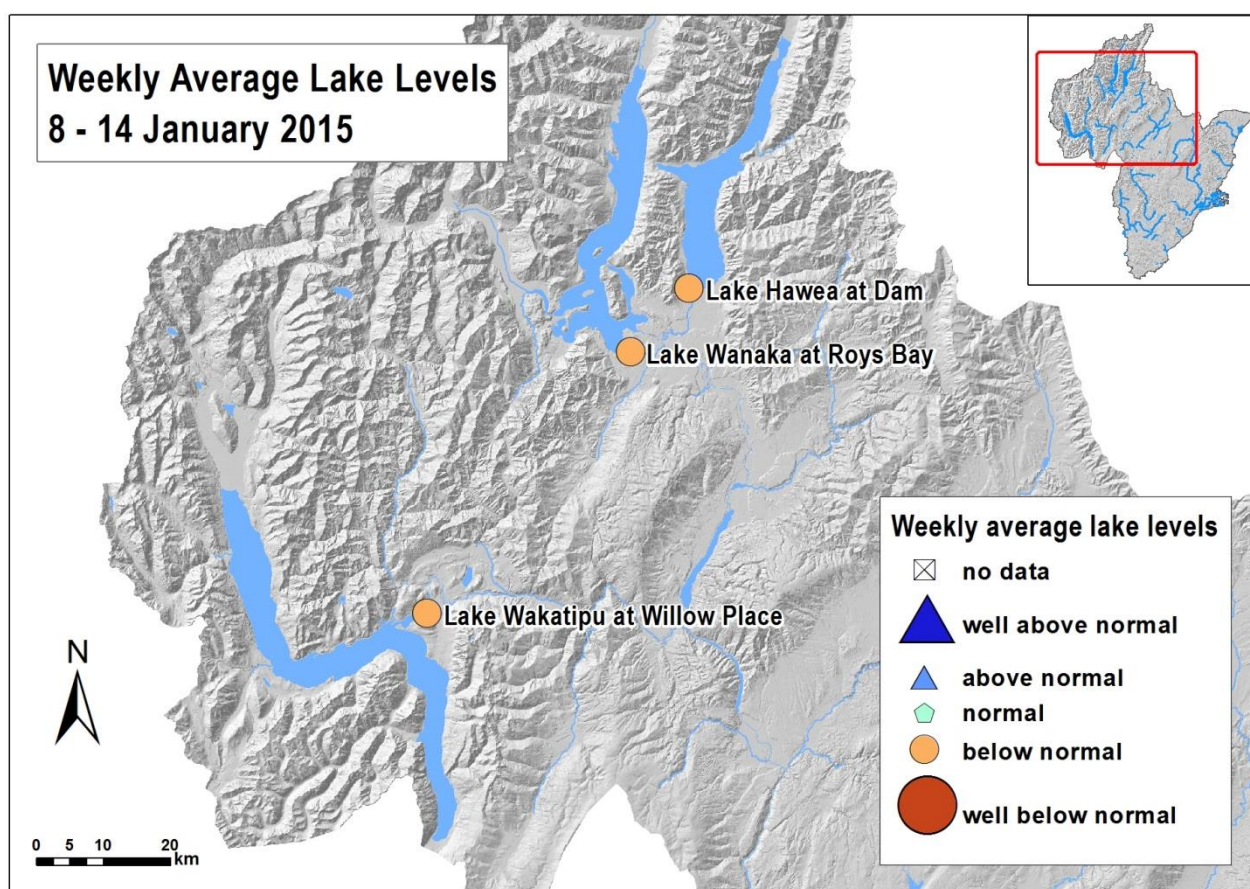
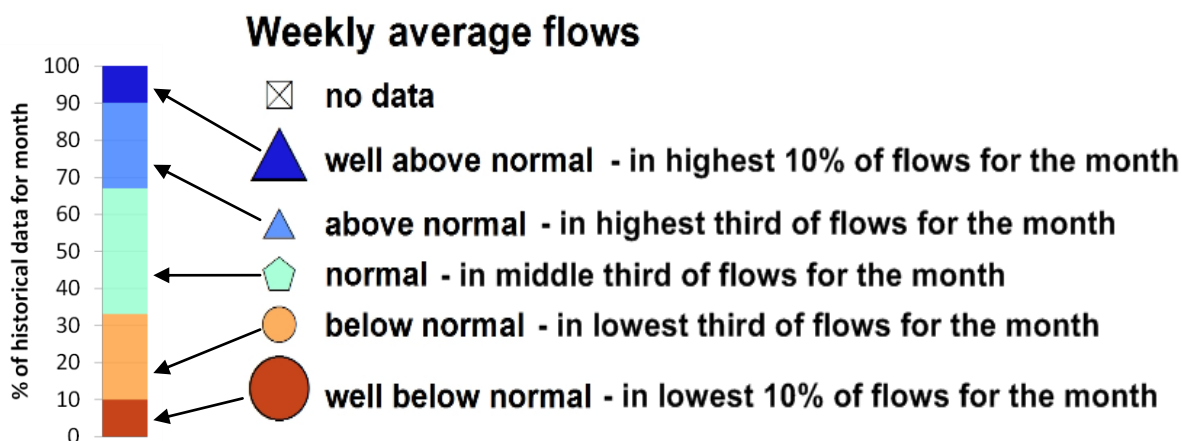


Table 2. Lake Levels information for Otago’s main Lakes (all levels in metres, m)

| Site Name | Weekly Average | Minimum | Maximum | State |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|--------------|
| Lake Wanaka at Roys Bay | 277.299 | 277.226 | 277.393 | below normal |
| Lake Hawea at Dam ¹ | 343.078 | 343.049 | 343.112 | below normal |
| Lake Wakatipu at Willow Place | 309.855 | 309.795 | 309.898 | below normal |

Weekly average flow/lake level classes

To give a better representation of how the weekly average flows and lake levels compares to our historical records, we use flow/lake level classes. Take the average flow class as an example, if a flow falls in the middle third of the historical flow recorded for that month we’ve called it a “normal” flow. If it falls in the top third of flows we call it “above normal” and likewise if in the bottom third, then “below normal”. If it is in the top or bottom 10% of flows then we change this to “well above” or “well below”, respectively. The divisions of flow are somewhat arbitrary but they do give a better indication of the state of the river than was previously reported. We use the word “normal” because using “average” for both the weekly flow and the historical average flow can be confusing and we’ve used it descriptively not definitively.



Acknowledgement

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Further Information

For more information on rainfall and river flows in the Otago Region use the Water Info flow phone and website service. Tel:0800 426 463 or go to www.orc.govt.nz/waterinfo
 To request flow or rainfall data email environmental.info@orc.govt.nz

Mailing list

This report is available online or by email. To update your contact details on our mailing lists, please email: environmental.info@orc.govt.nz, or tel: 0800 474 082.

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¹ Fluctuations in Lake Hawea’s water level are due to the regulation of outflows, i.e., the water levels are not naturalised.