

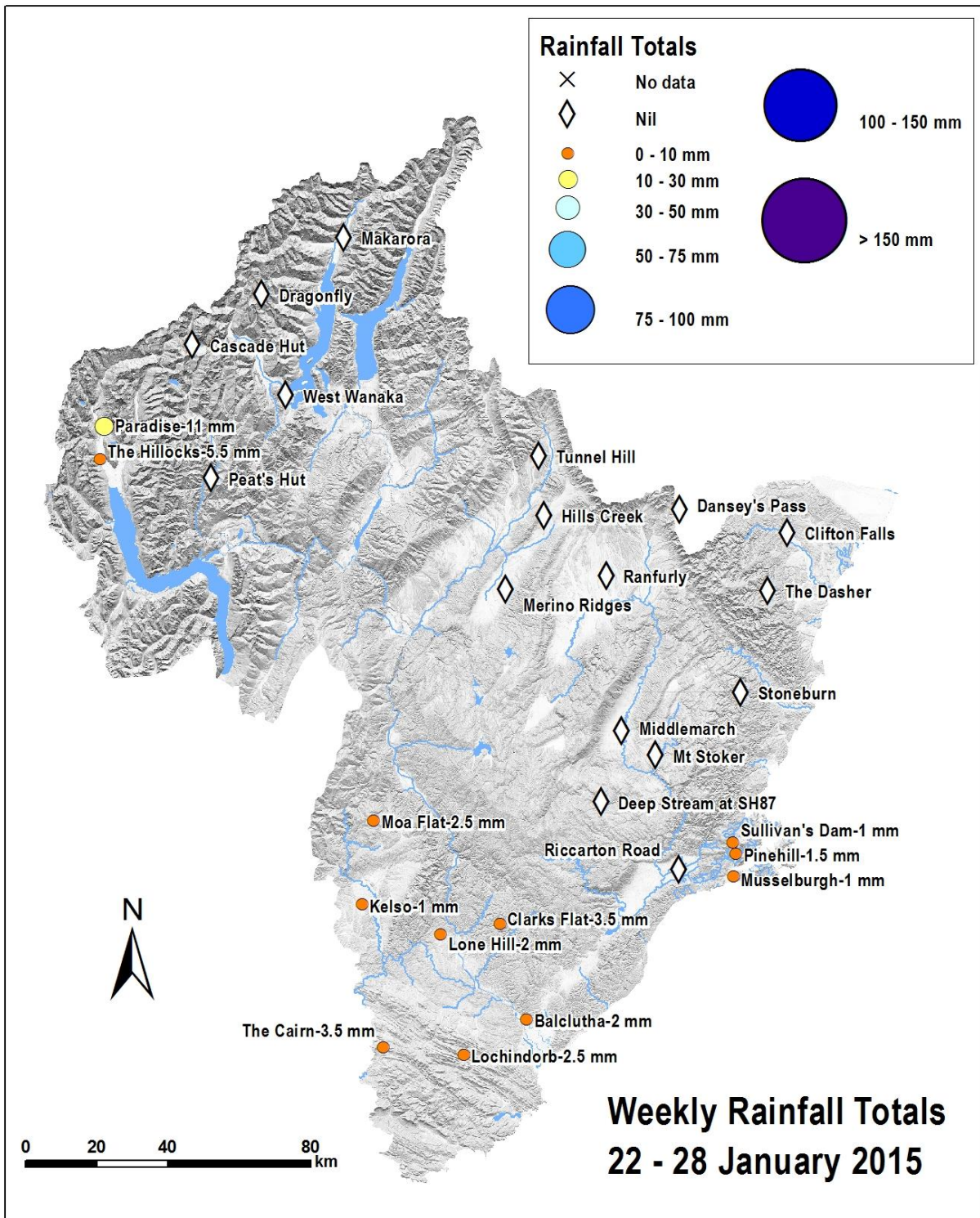
RAINFALL & RIVER FLOW W E E K L Y R E P O R T O T A G O R E G I O N A L C O U N C I L

Thursday 22 January 2015 – Wednesday 28 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 28 January 2015.

Rainfall

More than half number of gauges received no rain last week, most of them in the Taieri catchment, Central and North Otago. Paradise was the only gauge having weekly totals above 10 mm.



River Flows

Similar to the rainfall pattern, most flow recorders had well below normal flows this week. All the main rivers in the South Otago, North Otago, Manuherikia catchment, and Taieri catchment had well below normal flows. Flows in the Shotover River, Kawarau River, and the Clutha River at Balclutha were below normal.

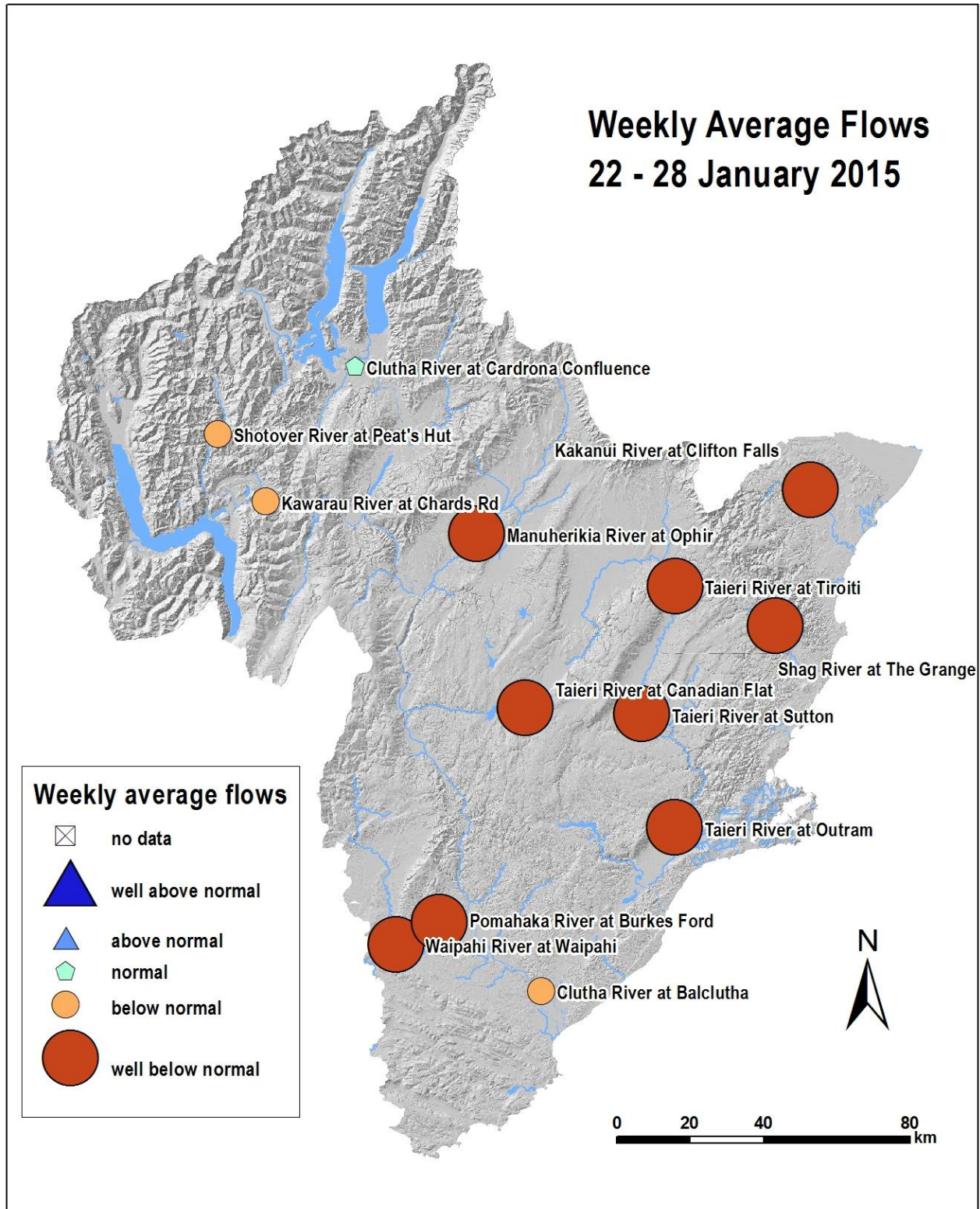


Table 1. River flow information for Otago's main rivers (all flows in cumecs, m³/s)

River and Site Name	Weekly Average	Minimum	Maximum	State
Kakanui River at Clifton Falls	0.457	0.326	0.587	well below normal
Shag River at The Grange	0.048	0.032	0.060	well below normal
Taieri River at Canadian Flat	0.670	0.528	0.961	well below normal
Taieri River at Tiroiti	1.021	0.925	1.161	well below normal
Taieri River at Sutton	1.063	0.970	1.218	well below normal
Taieri River at Outram	2.489	1.635	4.211	well below normal
Clutha River at Balclutha	522.989	329.591	749.073	below normal
Waipahi River at Waipahi	0.488	0.369	0.838	well below normal
Pomahaka River at Burkes Ford	3.336	2.680	5.516	well below normal
Manuherikia River at Ophir	1.690	1.451	2.428	well below normal
Clutha R. at Cardrona Confluence	280.061	248.028	314.544	normal
Kawarau River at Chards Rd	203.829	179.929	227.266	below normal
Shotover River at Peat's Hut	14.851	12.912	18.978	below normal

Lake Levels

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

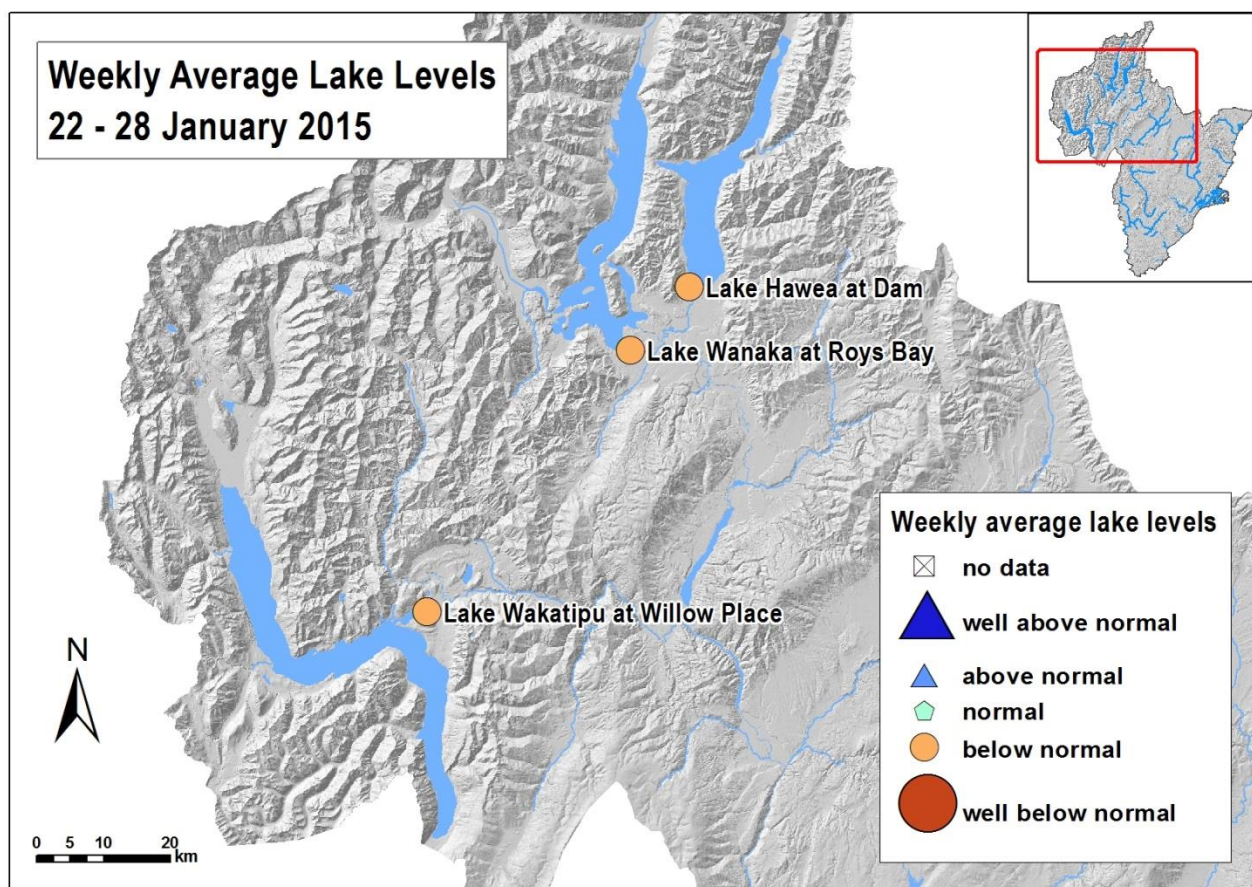
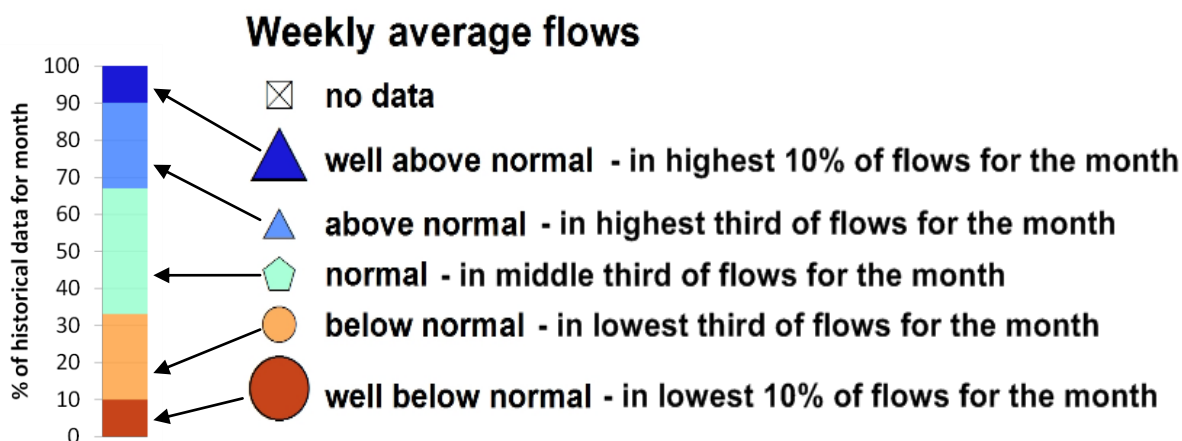


Table 2. Lake Levels information for Otago’s main Lakes (all levels in metres, m)

Site Name	Weekly Average	Minimum	Maximum	State
Lake Wanaka at Roys Bay	277.378	277.215	277.527	below normal
Lake Hawea at Dam ¹	343.022	342.942	343.078	below normal
Lake Wakatipu at Willow Place	309.934	309.84	310.012	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

Information for this report is provided by the Otago Regional Council, National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research Ltd, Environment Canterbury and Trustpower Limited.

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.

Otago Regional Council, 70 Stafford Street, Private Bag 1954, Dunedin.
Phone: (03) 474 0827, Fax: (03) 479 0015, Website: www.orc.govt.nz

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