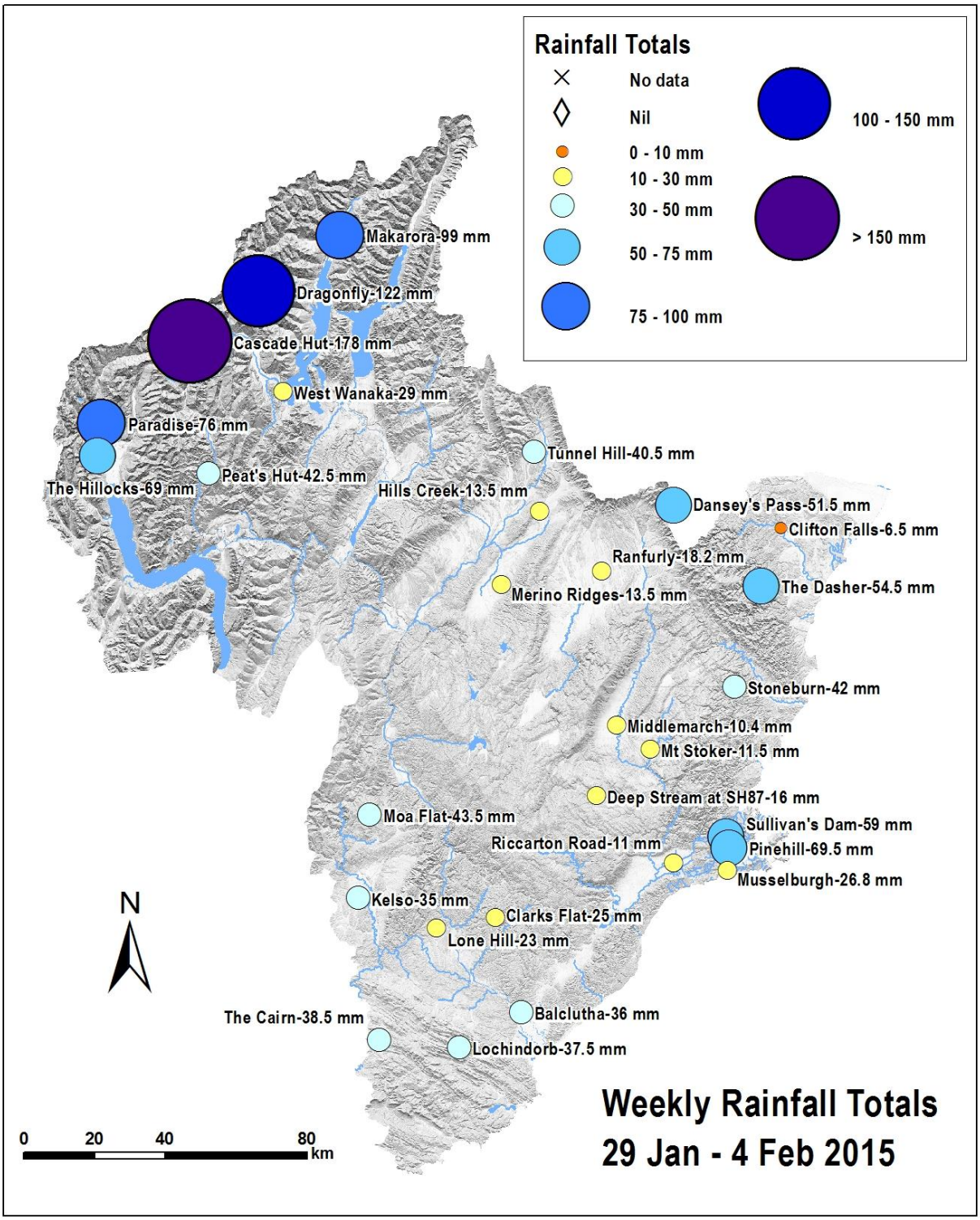
RAINFALL & RIVER FLOW WEEKLY REPORT
OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Thursday 29 January 2015 – Wednesday 4 February 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 4 February 2015**.**

Rainfall

Much more rainfall was received along the main divide compared to elsewhere in the region. Most gauges in the Taieri catchment recorded some rainfall below 20 mm. Cascade Hut received the most amount of rainfall for the week, with 178 mm recorded.



River Flows

Due to the rainfall last week, flows in the Kakanui River and Shag River were above normal. The Taieri River generally had relatively low flows due to the rainfall pattern.

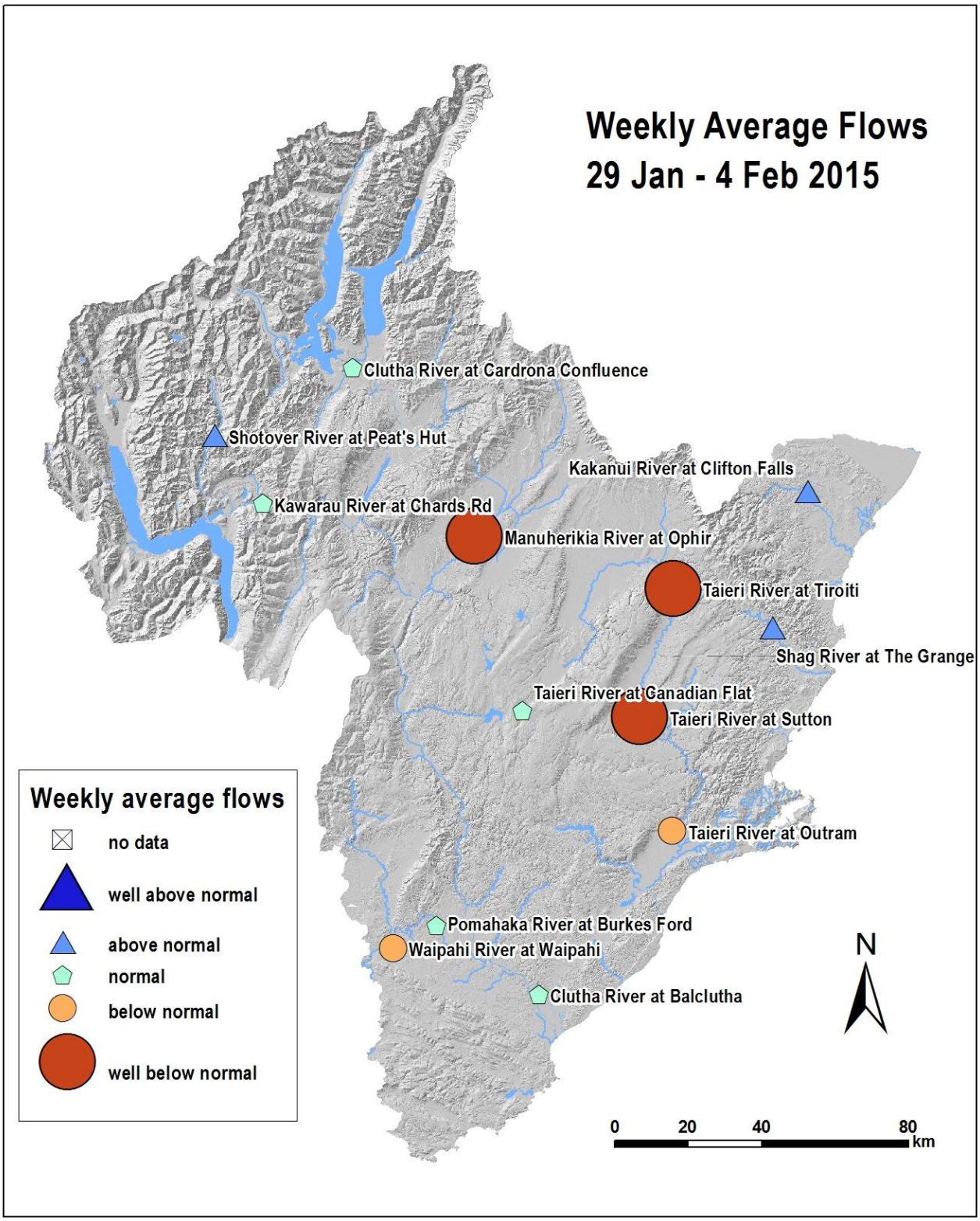


Table 1. River flow information for Otago's main rivers (all flows in cumecs, m^3/s)

River and Site Name	Weekly Average	Minimum	Maximum	State
Kakanui River at Clifton Falls	2.476	0.395	20.592	above normal
Shag River at The Grange	0.822	0.000	5.971	above normal
Taieri River at Canadian Flat	1.919	0.537	22.626	normal
Taieri River at Tiroiti	1.045	0.917	1.369	well below normal
Taieri River at Sutton	1.104	0.970	1.314	well below normal
Taieri River at Outram	3.438	1.594	11.534	below normal
Clutha River at Balclutha	515.205	313.465	716.599	normal
Waipahi River at Waipahi	0.670	0.354	1.961	below normal
Pomahaka River at Burkes Ford	6.636	2.564	40.062	normal
Manuherikia River at Ophir	1.762	1.352	2.301	well below normal
Clutha R. at Cardrona Confluence	286.986	237.748	338.274	normal
Kawarau River at Chards Rd	206.950	178.063	277.104	normal
Shotover River at Peat's Hut	24.721	13.176	78.990	above normal

Lake Levels

Water levels in Lake Wanaka and Lake Wakatipu were both normal for this time of year, Lake Hawea recorded well below normal water levels.

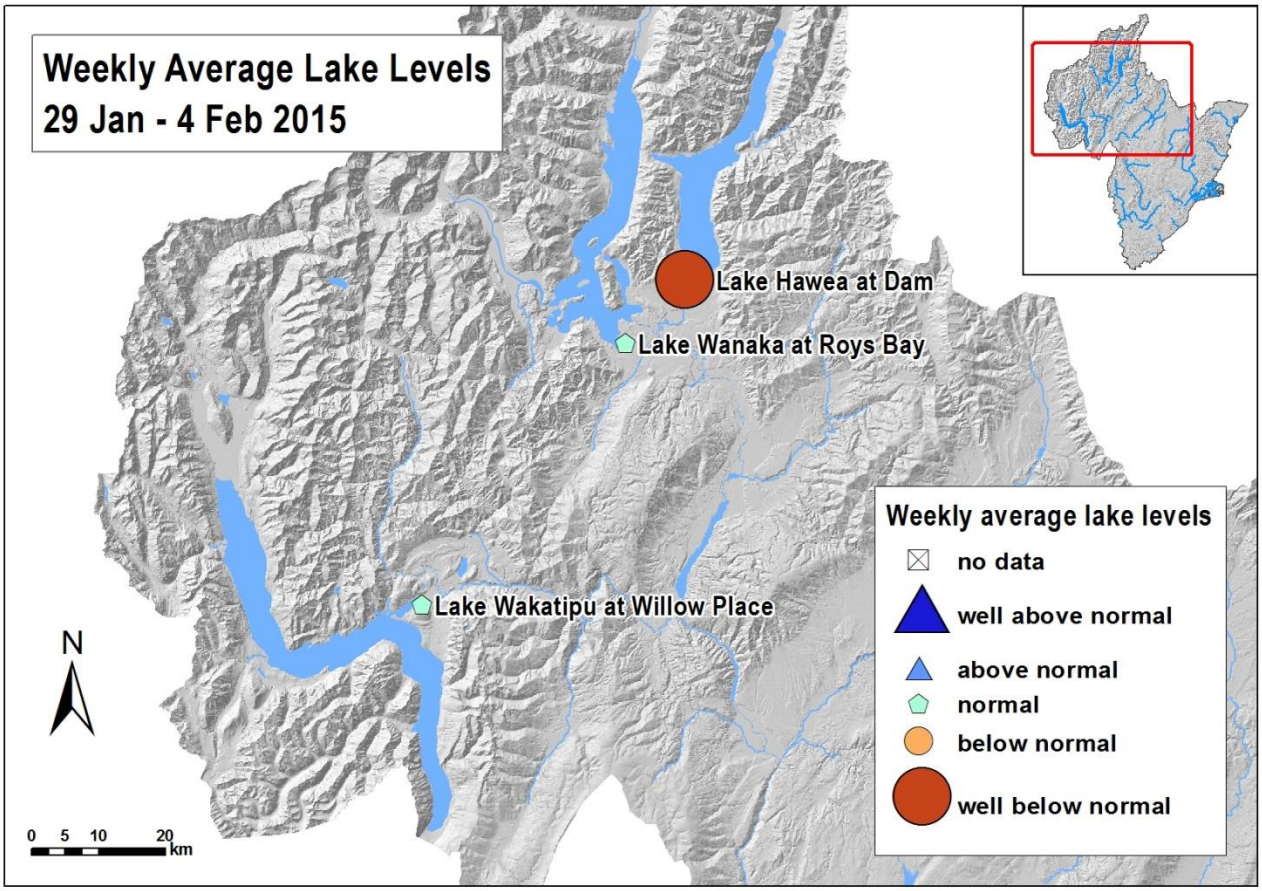
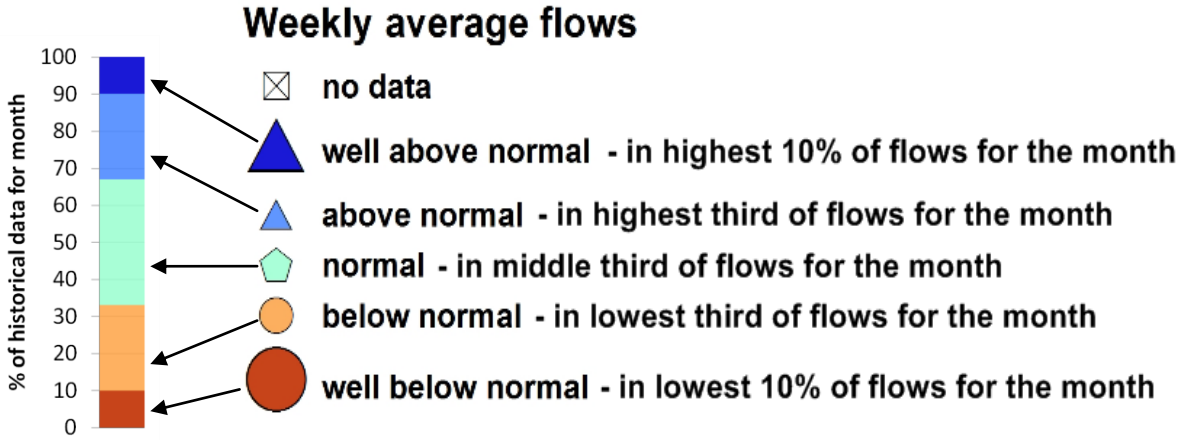


Table 2. Lake Levels information for Otago's main Lakes (all levels in metres, m)

Site Name	Weekly Average	Minimum	Maximum	State
Lake Wanaka at Roys Bay	277.27	277.128	277.543	normal
Lake Hawea at Dam[1]	342.868	342.794	342.942	well below normal
Lake Wakatipu at Willow Place	309.896	309.832	310.044	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.

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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.