

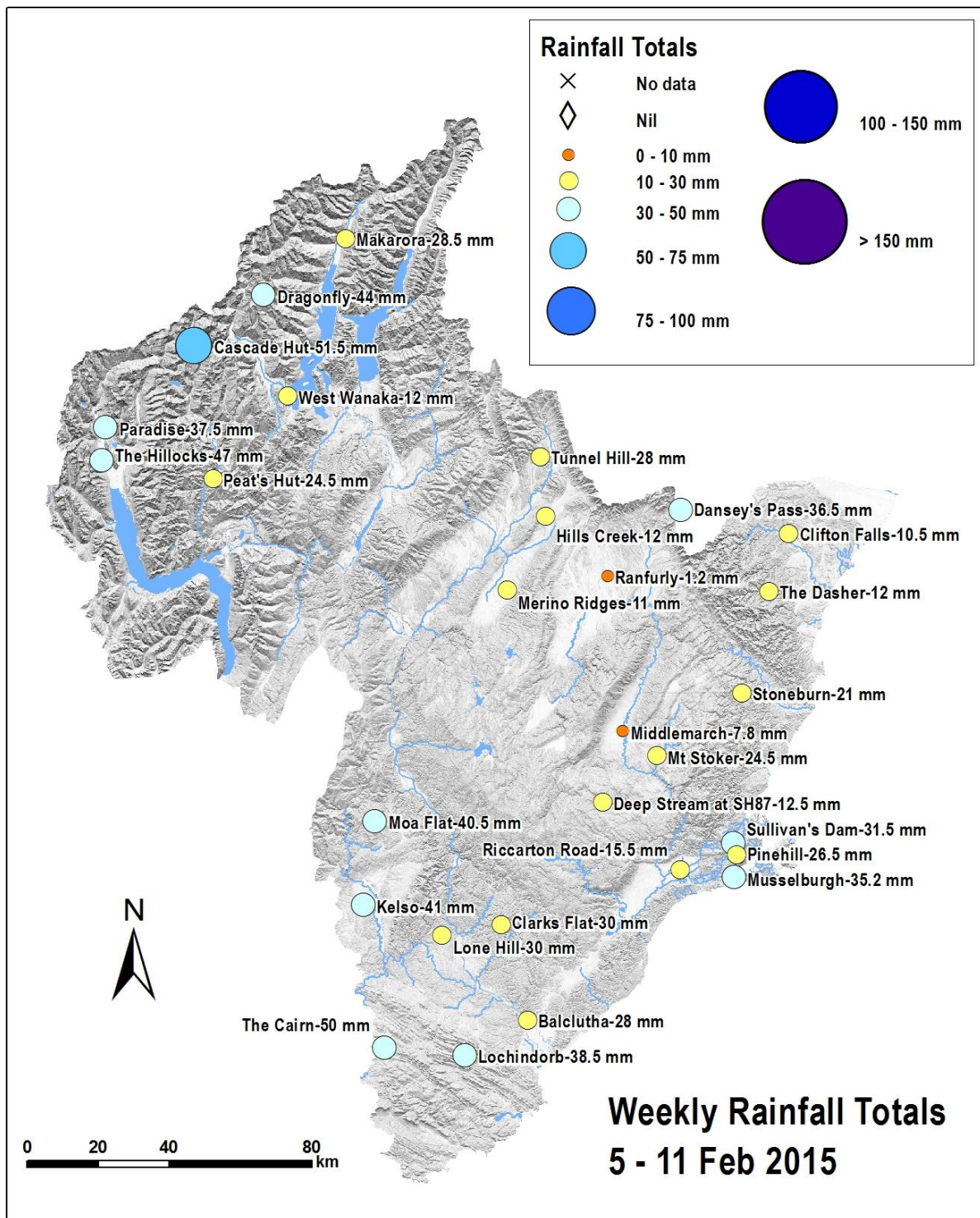
RAINFALL & RIVER FLOW W E E K L Y R E P O R T O T A G O R E G I O N A L C O U N C I L

Thursday 5 February 2015 – Wednesday 11 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 11 February 2015.

Rainfall

The Taieri catchment and North Otago received relatively small amount of rainfall compared to elsewhere in the region last week. Cascade Hut received the most amount of rainfall for the week, with 51.5 mm recorded. Only 1.2 mm of rain was received at Ranfurly.



River Flows

Flows in the Taieri River at Sutton and Manuherikia River were well below normal. The Taieri River generally had relatively low flows due to the rainfall pattern. Most of the rest flow recorders had above normal flows.

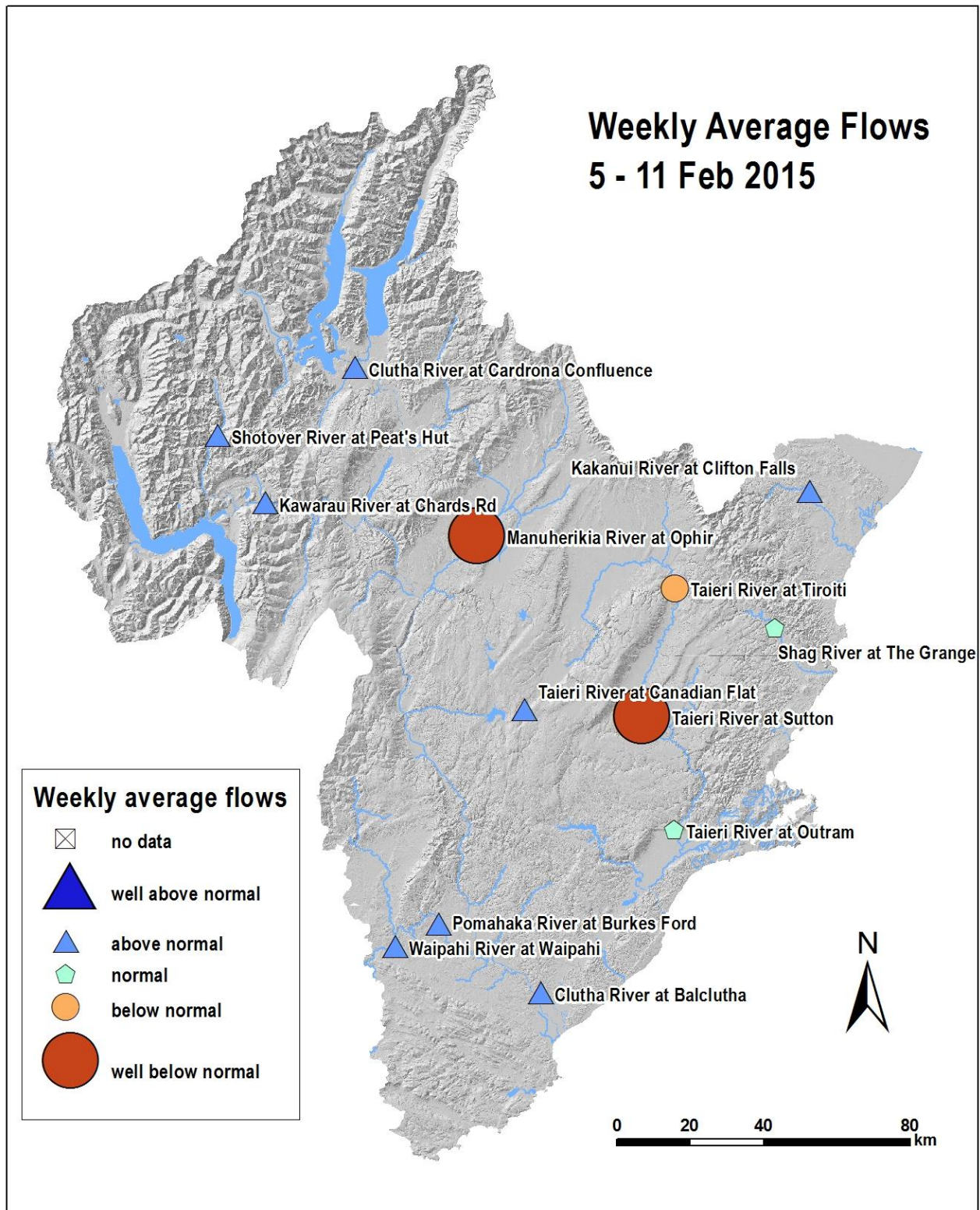


Table 1. River flow information for Otago's main rivers (all flows in cumecs, m³/s)

River and Site Name	Weekly Average	Minimum	Maximum	State
Kakanui River at Clifton Falls	1.906	1.115	4.797	above normal
Shag River at The Grange	0.419	0.191	0.976	normal
Taieri River at Canadian Flat	5.014	1.616	39.081	above normal
Taieri River at Tiroiti	1.294	1.007	2.095	below normal
Taieri River at Sutton	1.290	1.072	1.738	well below normal
Taieri River at Outram	6.374	4.211	13.577	normal
Clutha River at Balclutha	605.705	380.243	741.496	above normal
Waipahi River at Waipahi	2.116	1.027	3.942	above normal
Pomahaka River at Burkes Ford	22.618	9.385	67.998	above normal
Manuherikia River at Ophir	1.731	1.299	2.678	well below normal
Clutha R. at Cardrona Confluence	282.022	244.918	314.544	above normal
Kawarau River at Chards Rd	249.229	228.148	345.104	above normal
Shotover River at Peat's Hut	23.797	16.982	93.388	above normal

Lake Levels

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

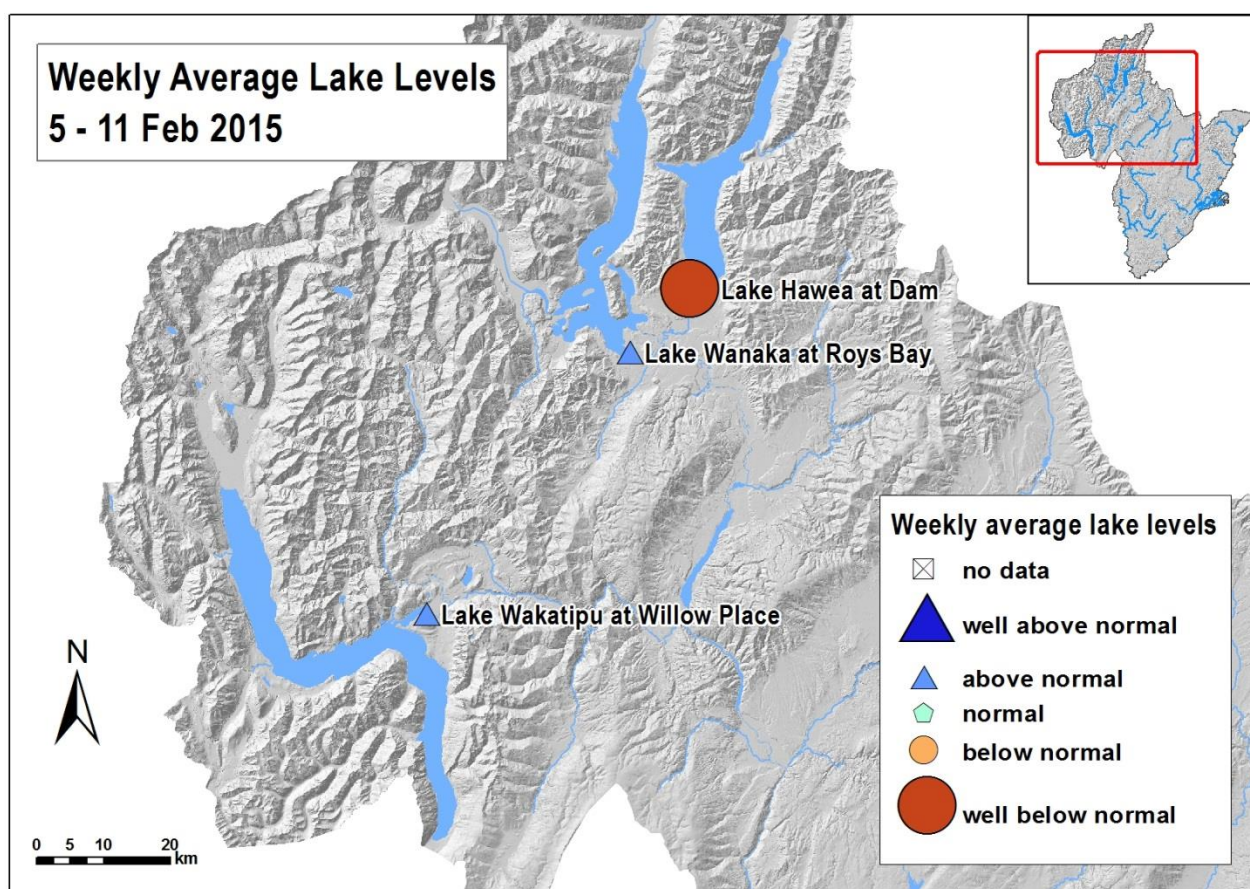
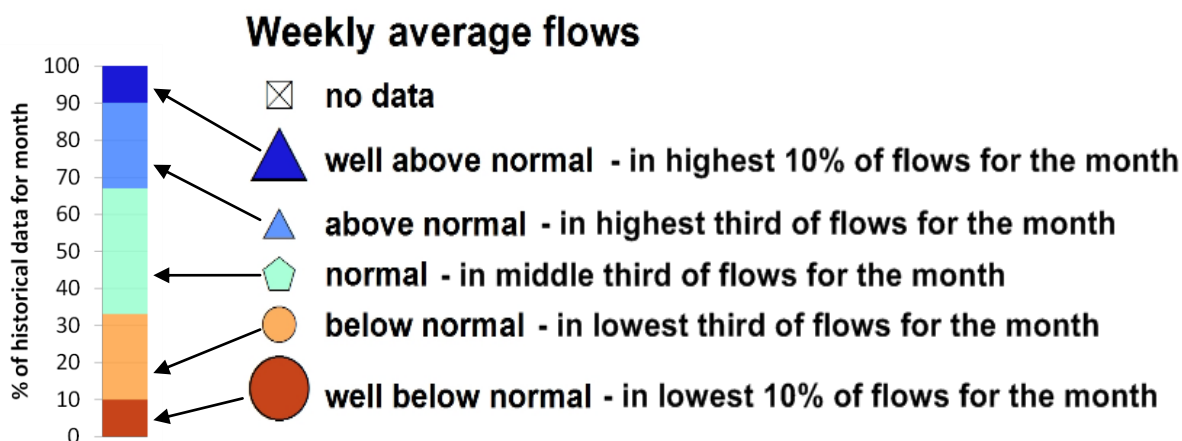


Table 2. Lake Levels information for Otago’s main Lakes (all levels in metres, m)

Site Name	Weekly Average	Minimum	Maximum	State
Lake Wanaka at Roys Bay	277.453	277.391	277.535	above normal
Lake Hawea at Dam ¹	342.846	342.811	342.887	well below normal
Lake Wakatipu at Willow Place	310.039	309.99	310.095	above 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.