RAINFALL & RIVER FLOW WEEKLY REPORT

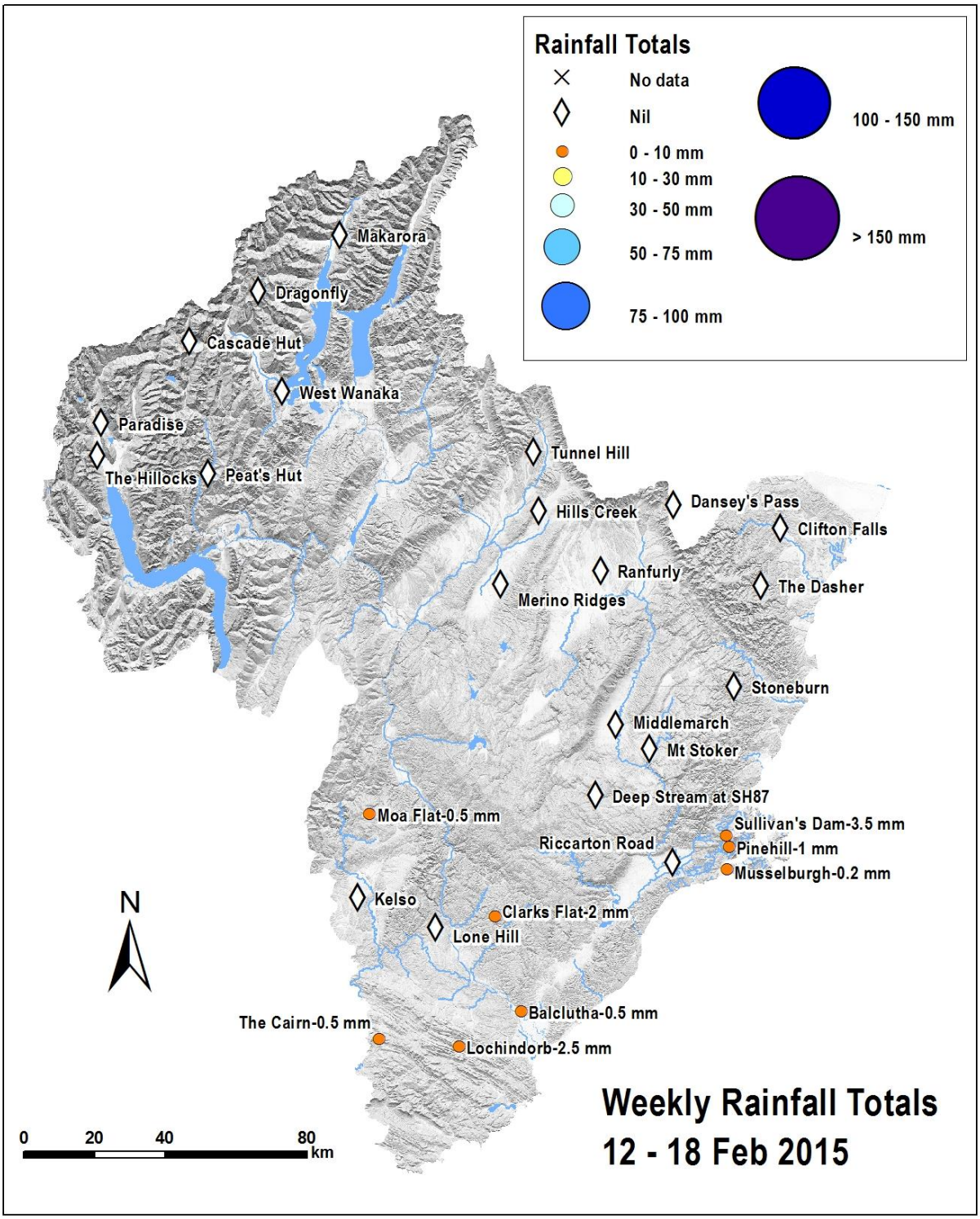
OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Thursday 12 February 2015 – Wednesday 18 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 18 February 2015**.**

Rainfall

Most rain gauges in the region recorded no rain last week. Very little rain was received in Dunedin and South Otago. Sullivan Dam had the most amount of rainfall, with only 3.5 mm recorded.



River Flows

Due to the rainfall pattern last week, flows in the main rivers of the Taieri and Manuherikia catchments were at below normal or well below normal levels.

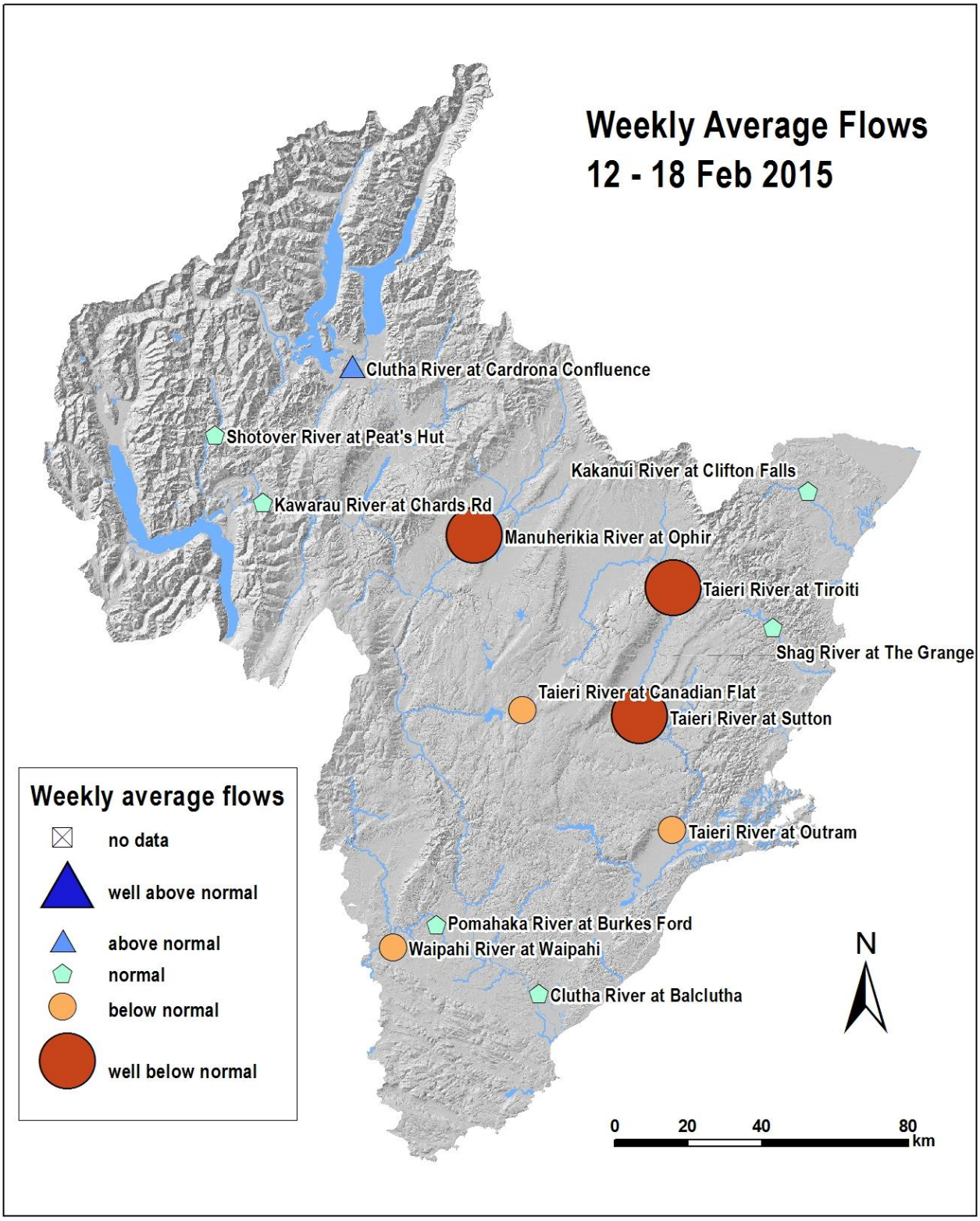


Table 1. River flow information for Otago's main rivers (all flows in cumecs, m^3/s)

River and Site Name	Weekly Average	Minimum	Maximum	State
Kakanui River at Clifton Falls	0.860	0.637	1.330	normal
Shag River at The Grange	0.293	0.209	0.586	normal
Taieri River at Canadian Flat	1.140	0.883	1.616	below normal
Taieri River at Tiroiti	1.208	1.057	1.628	well below normal
Taieri River at Sutton	1.248	1.177	1.456	well below normal
Taieri River at Outram	3.489	2.626	5.139	below normal
Clutha River at Balclutha	573.131	427.979	658.063	normal
Waipahi River at Waipahi	0.657	0.447	1.196	below normal
Pomahaka River at Burkes Ford	7.249	4.581	13.208	normal
Manuherikia River at Ophir	1.636	1.010	2.285	well below normal
Clutha R. at Cardrona Confluence	313.652	231.304	351.469	above normal
Kawarau River at Chards Rd	213.549	188.485	243.858	normal
Shotover River at Peat's Hut	14.584	12.394	17.640	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.

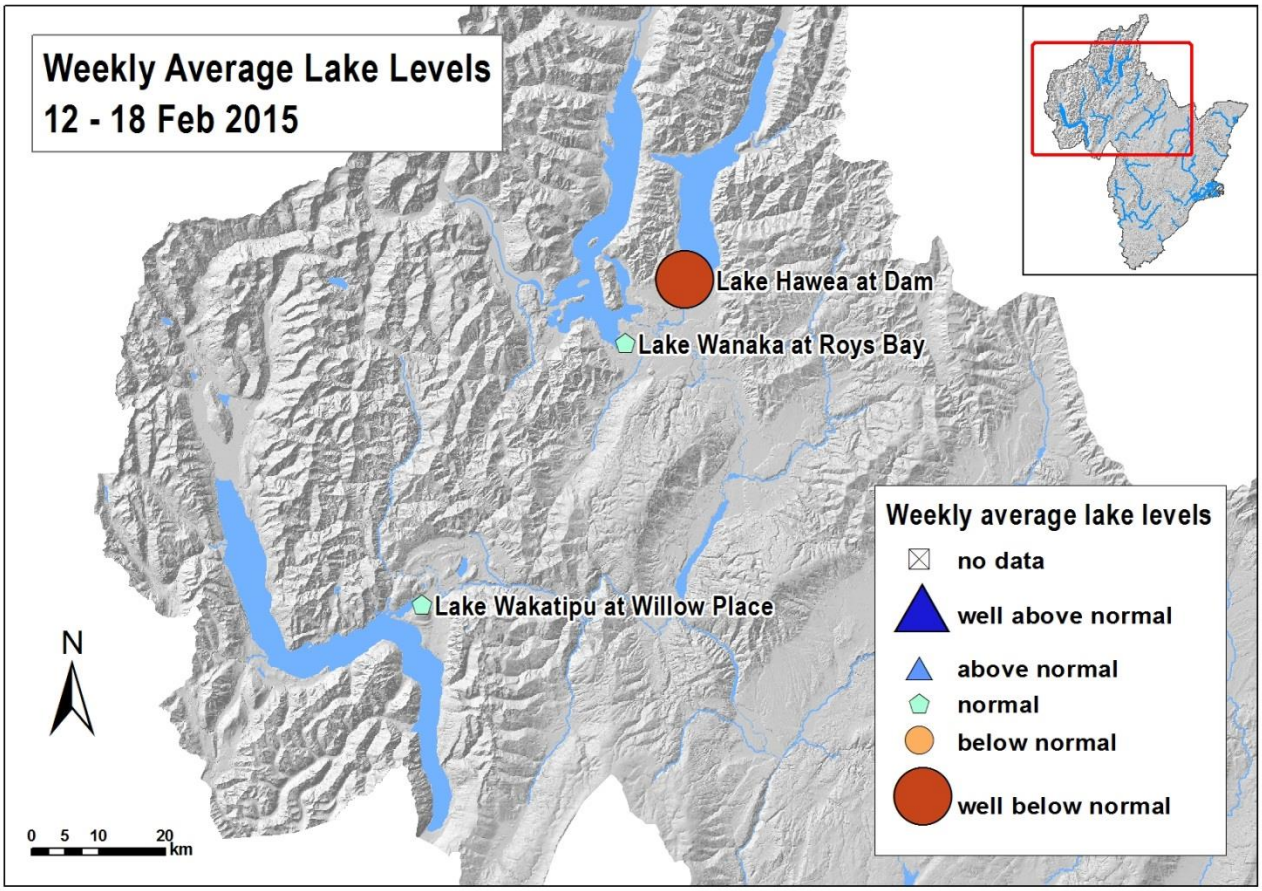
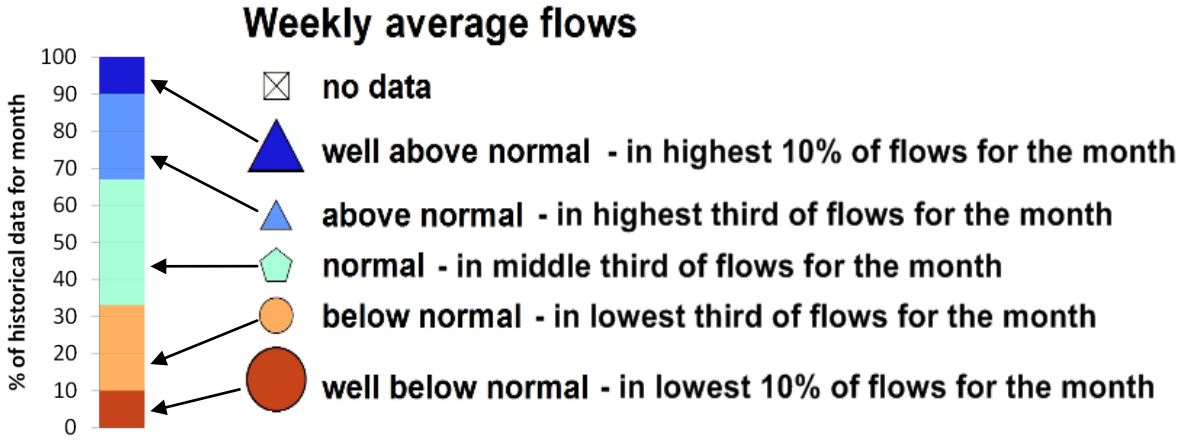


Table 2. Lake Levels information for Otago's main Lakes (all levels in metres, m)

Site Name	Weekly Average	Minimum	Maximum	State
Lake Wanaka at Roys Bay	277.232	277.089	277.392	normal
Lake Hawea at Dam[1]	342.678	342.428	342.859	well below normal
Lake Wakatipu at Willow Place	309.967	309.873	310.064	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.