RAINFALL & RIVER FLOW WEEKLY REPORT

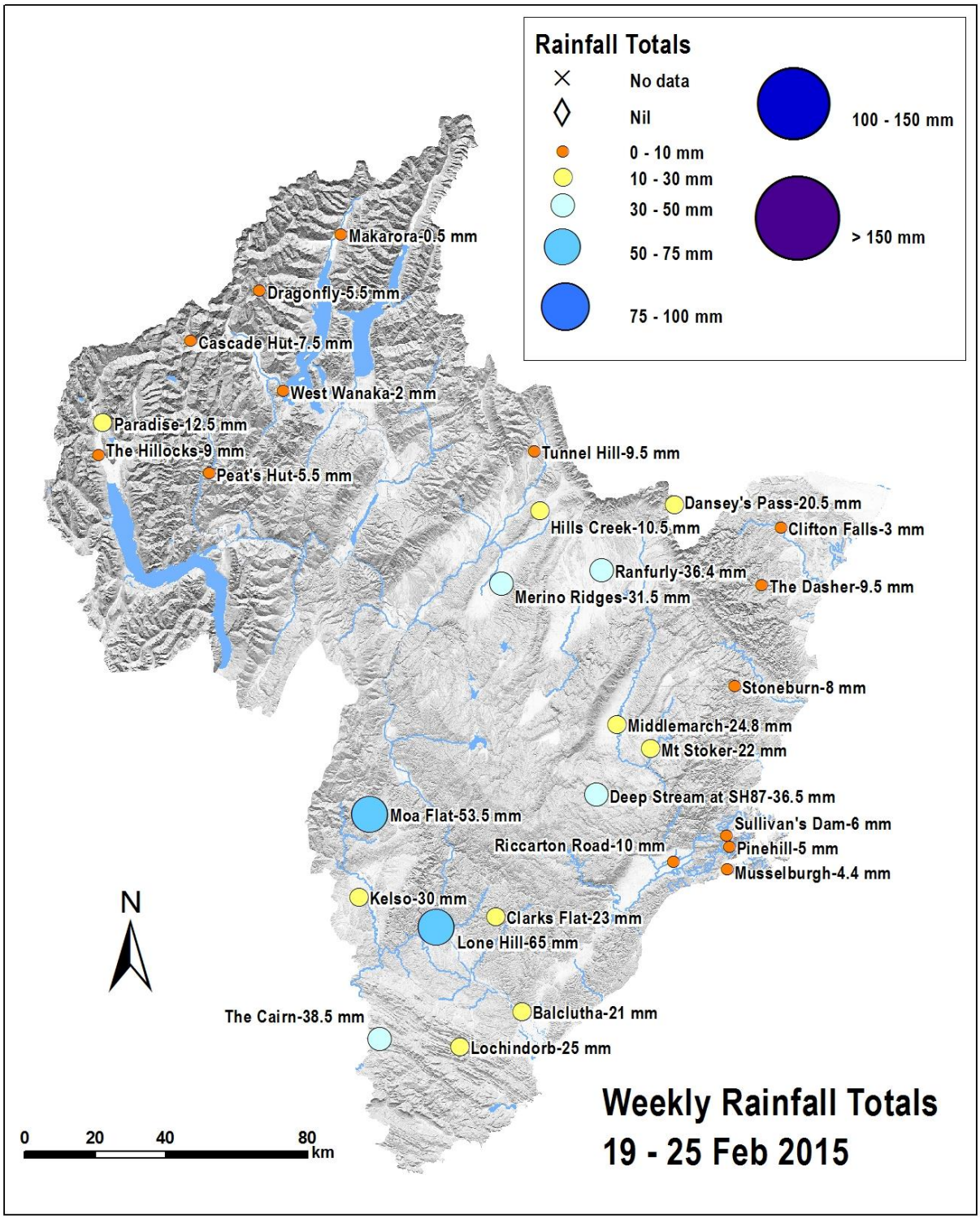
OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Thursday 19 February 2015 – Wednesday 25 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 25 February 2015**.**

Rainfall

South Otago received more rain than elsewhere in the region last week. Lone Hill had the most amount of rainfall, with 65 mm recorded. Makarora only recorded 0.5 mm.



River Flows

Flows in the Taieri River, Manuherikia River, Shag River, and Kakanui River were generally below normal or well below normal. The Clutha River at Cardrona Confluence was the only site having above normal flows.

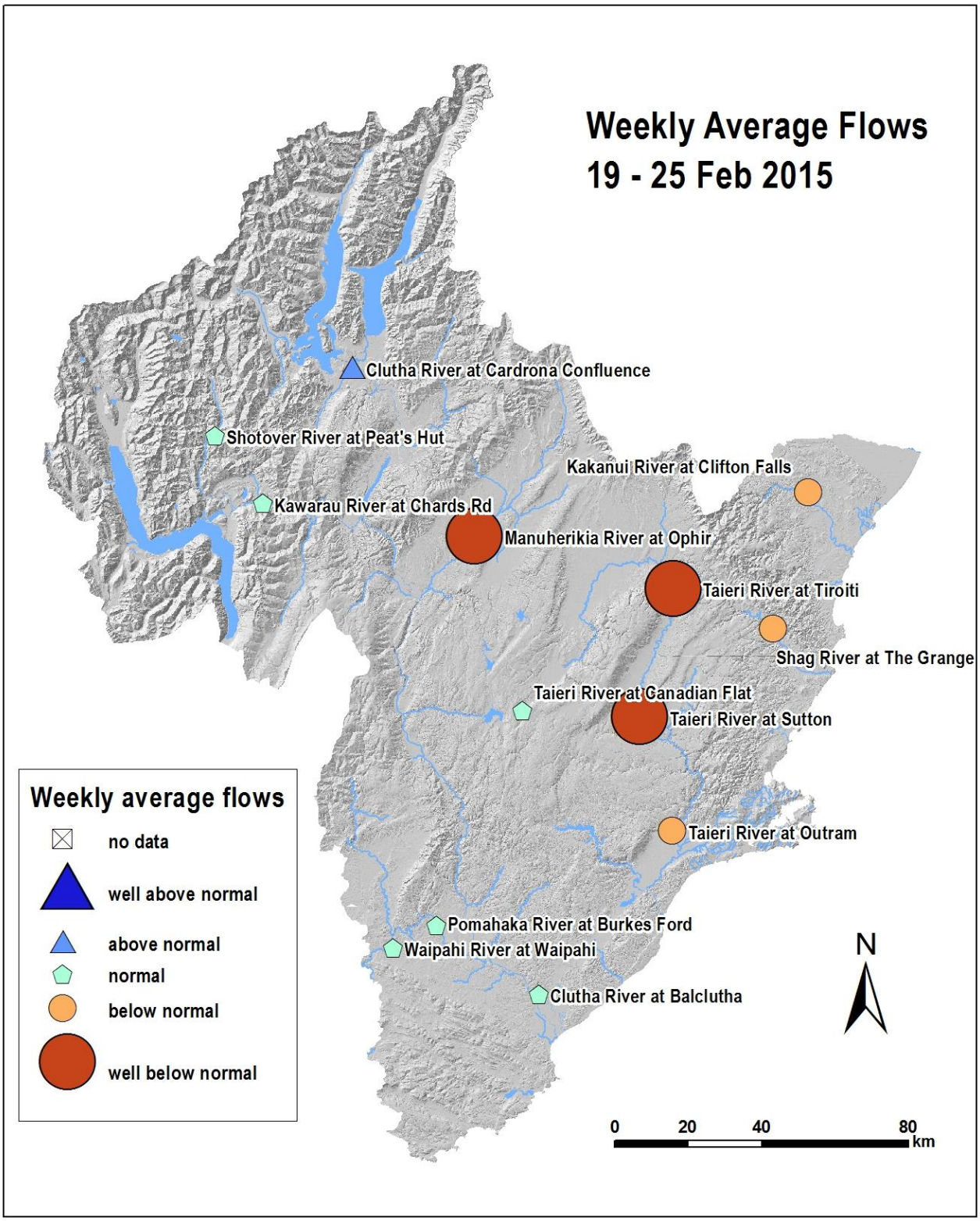


Table 1. River flow information for Otago's main rivers (all flows in cumecs, m^3/s)

River and Site Name	Weekly Average	Minimum	Maximum	State
Kakanui River at Clifton Falls	0.739	0.618	1.046	below normal
Shag River at The Grange	0.129	0.095	0.220	below normal
Taieri River at Canadian Flat	1.891	0.872	12.645	normal
Taieri River at Tiroiti	1.233	1.057	1.549	well below normal
Taieri River at Sutton	1.288	1.124	1.519	well below normal
Taieri River at Outram	4.244	2.463	9.281	below normal
Clutha River at Balclutha	506.249	317.881	662.621	normal
Waipahi River at Waipahi	1.485	0.441	3.876	normal
Pomahaka River at Burkes Ford	9.087	4.554	22.902	normal
Manuherikia River at Ophir	1.695	1.035	2.871	well below normal
Clutha R. at Cardrona Confluence	299.965	184.281	342.041	above normal
Kawarau River at Chards Rd	174.828	160.277	188.887	normal
Shotover River at Peat's Hut	12.371	11.055	14.238	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.

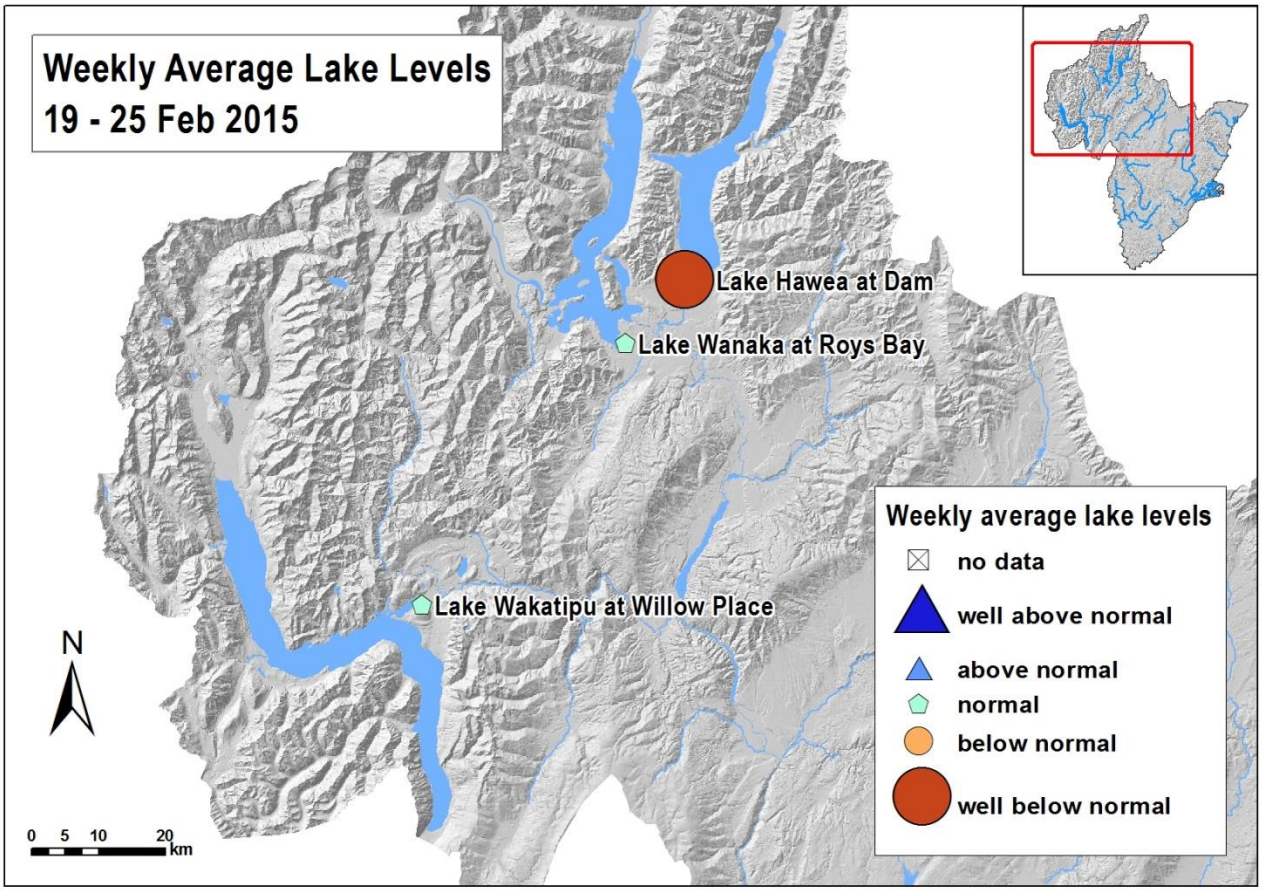
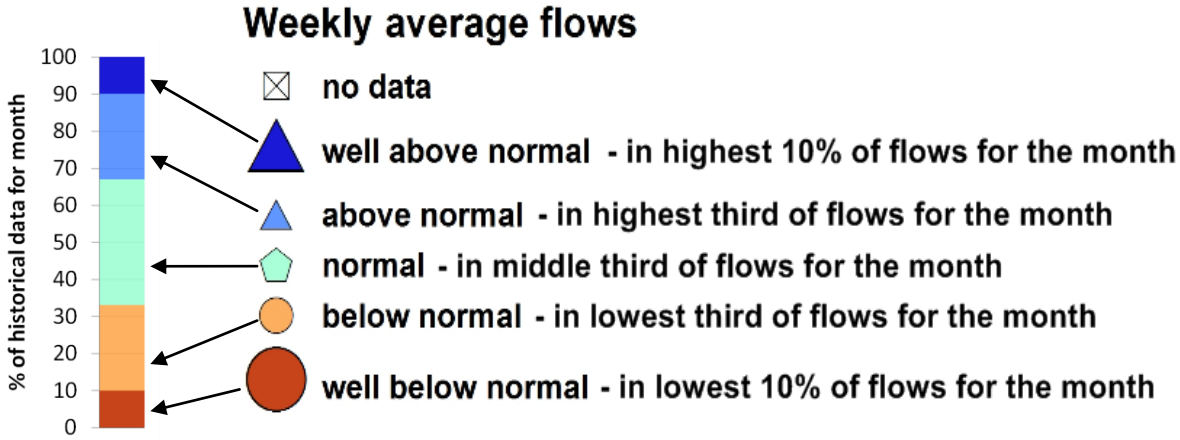


Table 2. Lake Levels information for Otago's main Lakes (all levels in metres, m)

Site Name	Weekly Average	Minimum	Maximum	State
Lake Wanaka at Roys Bay	276.976	276.863	277.094	normal
Lake Hawea at Dam[1]	342.176	341.858	342.428	well below normal
Lake Wakatipu at Willow Place	309.824	309.748	309.887	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.