

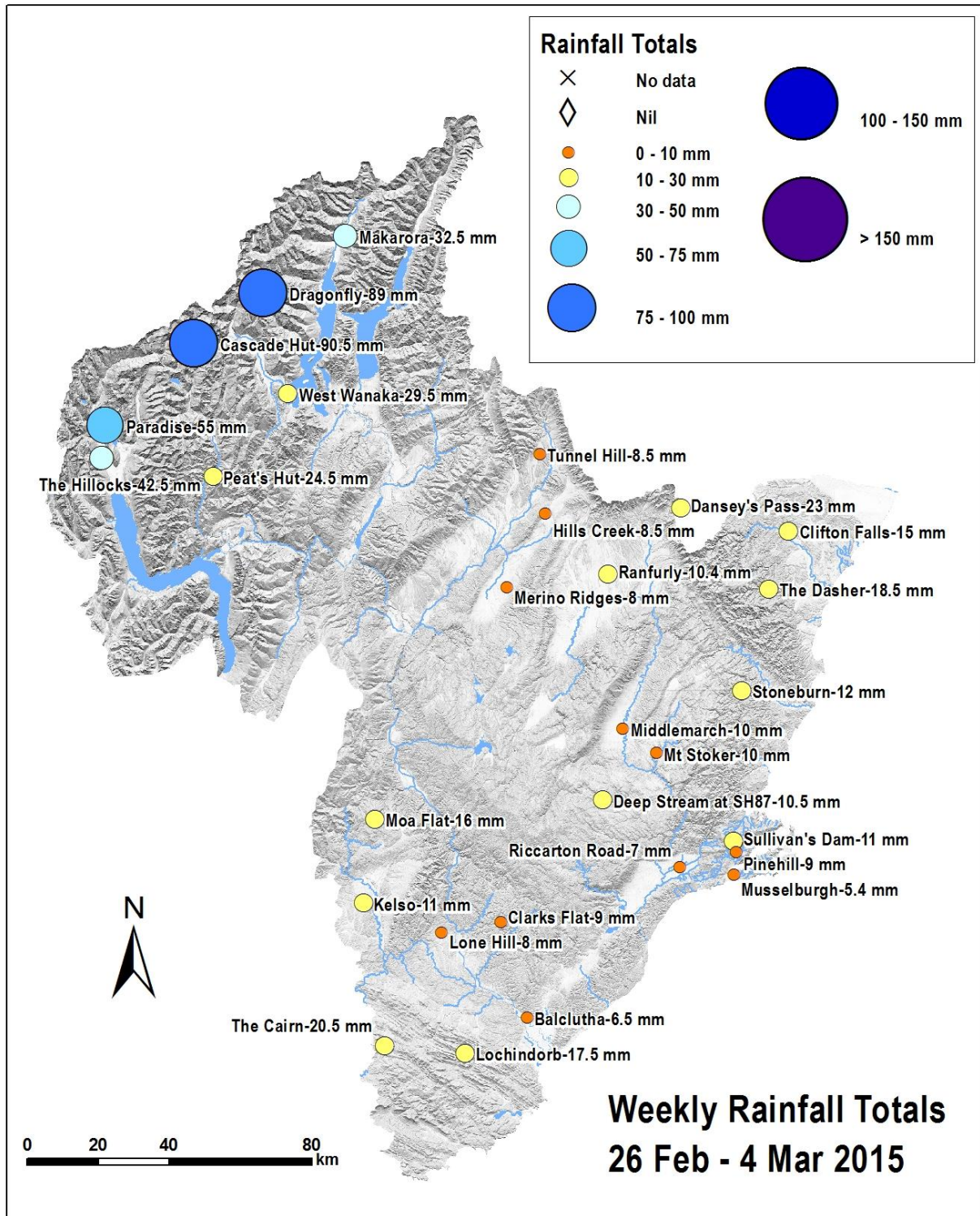
RAINFALL & RIVER FLOW W E E K L Y R E P O R T O T A G O R E G I O N A L C O U N C I L

Thursday 26 February 2015 – Wednesday 4 March 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 March 2015.

Rainfall

More rain was received along the main divide than elsewhere in the region last week. Cascade Hut had the most amount of rainfall, with 90.5 mm recorded. Musselburgh only recorded 5.4 mm.



River Flows

Flows in the Manuherikia River and Shag River were both below normal. The Taieri River generally had well below normal flows. The rest sites recorded normal flows.

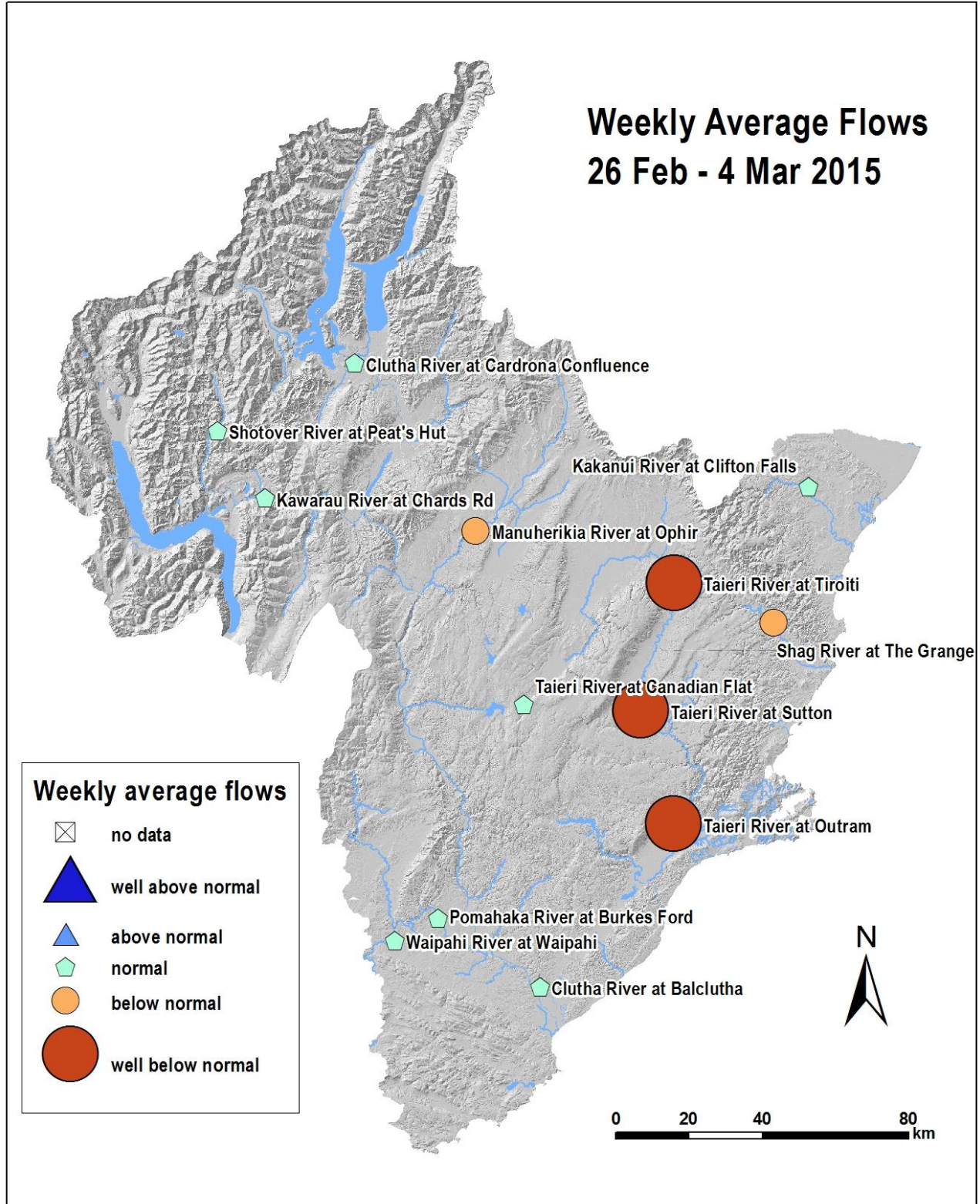


Table 1. River flow information for Otago's main rivers (all flows in cumecs, m³/s)

River and Site Name	Weekly Average	Minimum	Maximum	State
Kakanui River at Clifton Falls	0.779	0.587	1.398	normal
Shag River at The Grange	0.119	0.099	0.198	below normal
Taieri River at Canadian Flat	1.617	1.169	3.373	normal
Taieri River at Tiroiti	1.286	1.108	1.511	well below normal
Taieri River at Sutton	1.323	1.218	1.519	well below normal
Taieri River at Outram	3.157	2.626	3.498	well below normal
Clutha River at Balclutha	472.208	310.427	729.243	normal
Waipahi River at Waipahi	0.925	0.669	1.603	normal
Pomahaka River at Burkes Ford	7.677	5.778	12.213	normal
Manuherikia River at Ophir	2.019	0.38	2.412	below normal
Clutha R. at Cardrona Confluence	240.629	154.108	327.91	normal
Kawarau River at Chards Rd	167.896	153.431	220.276	normal
Shotover River at Peat's Hut	15.644	10.259	70.551	normal

Lake Levels

Water levels in Lake Wanaka and Lake Wakatipu were below normal and normal, respectively. Lake Hawea recorded well below normal water levels.

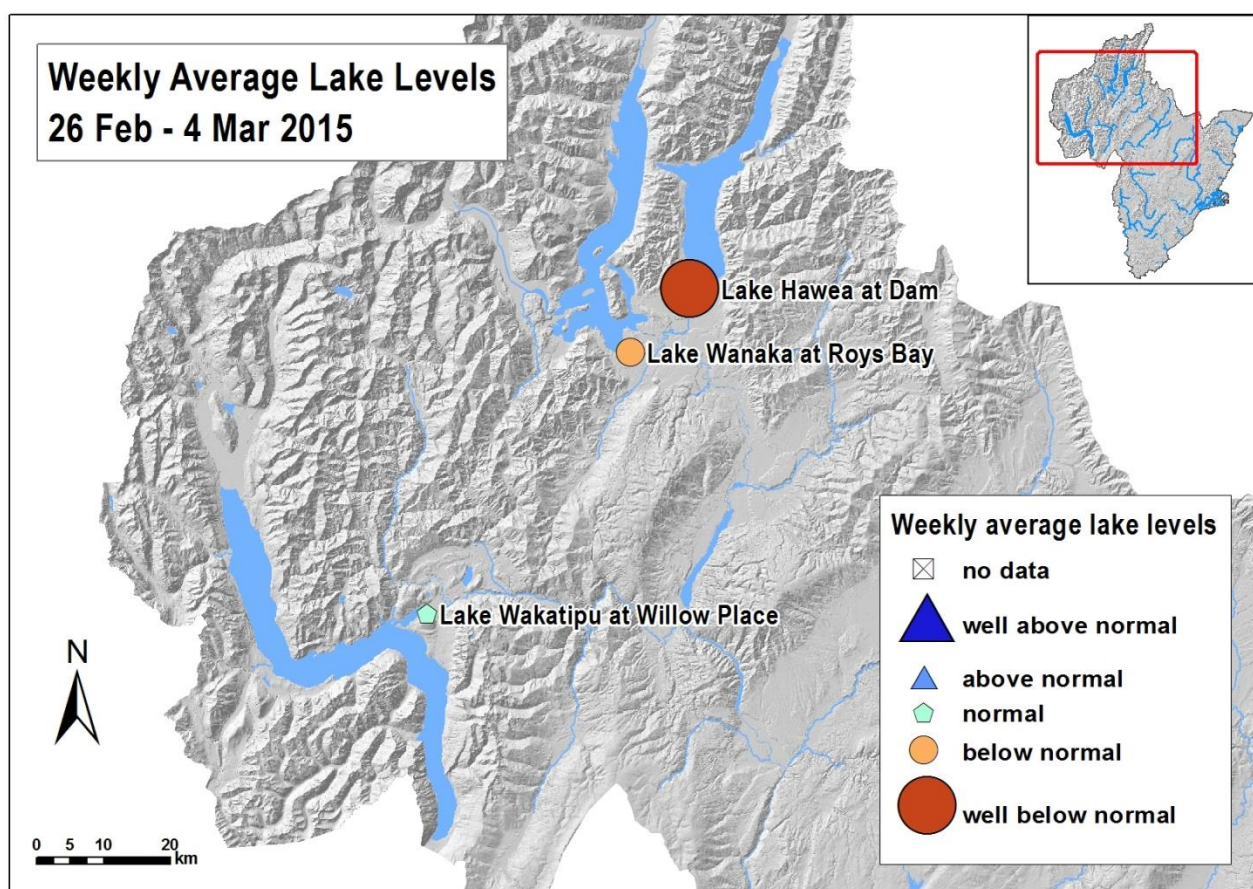
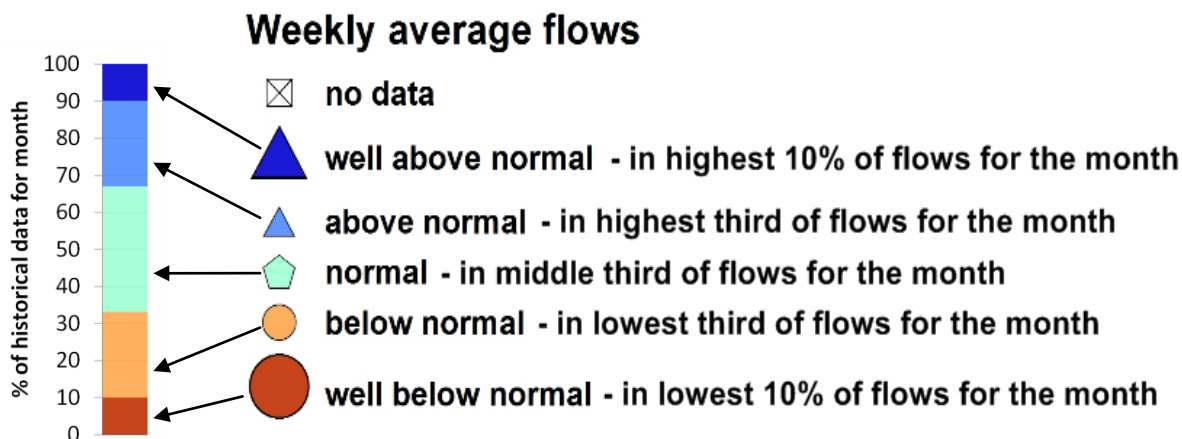


Table 2. Lake Levels information for Otago’s main Lakes (all levels in metres, m)

Site Name	Weekly Average	Minimum	Maximum	State
Lake Wanaka at Roys Bay	276.909	276.798	277.049	below normal
Lake Hawea at Dam ¹	341.655	341.582	341.858	well below normal
Lake Wakatipu at Willow Place	309.78	309.721	309.874	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.