

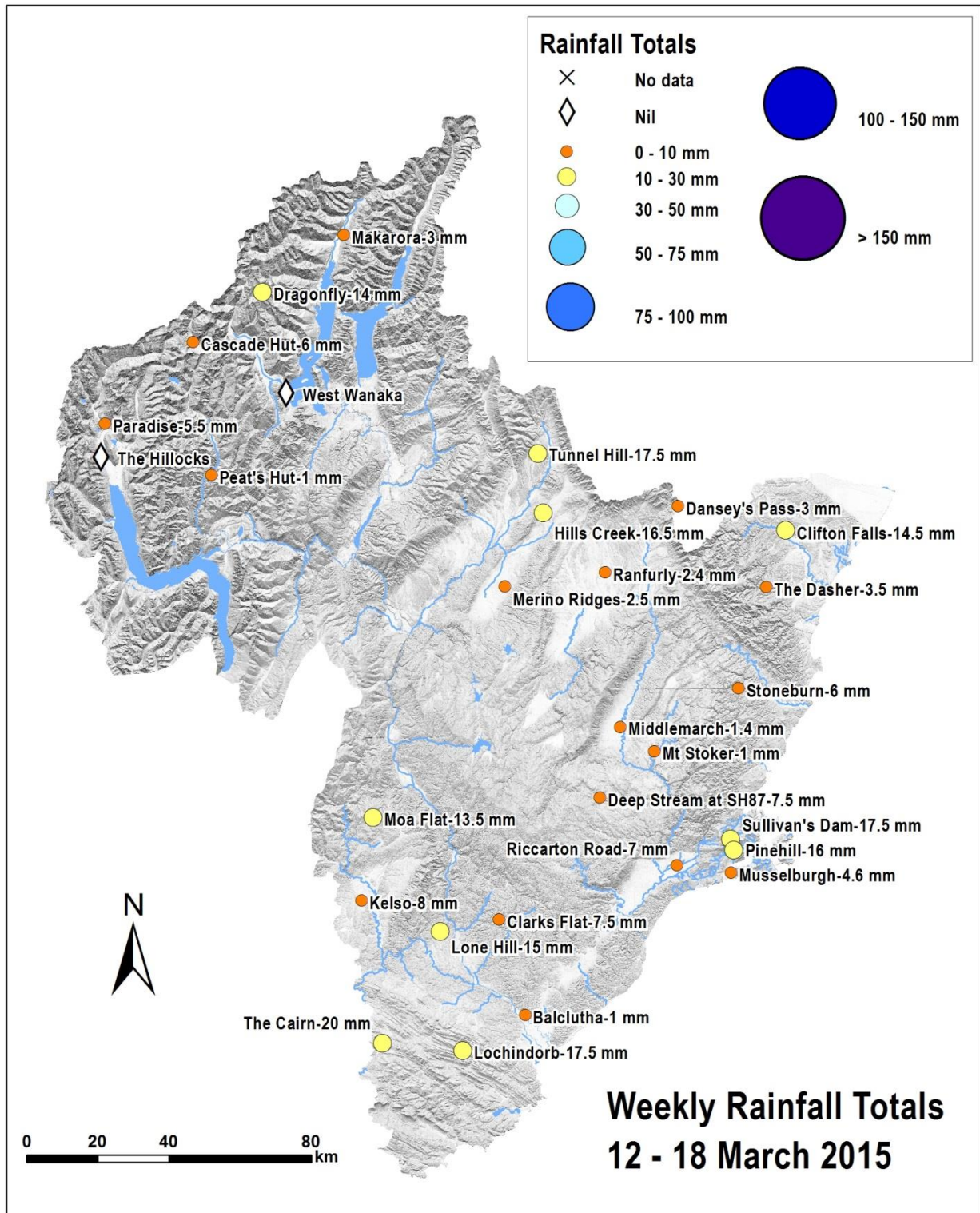
RAINFALL & RIVER FLOW W E E K L Y R E P O R T O T A G O R E G I O N A L C O U N C I L

Thursday 12 March 2015 – Wednesday 18 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 18 March 2015.

Rainfall

The Cairn had the most amount of rainfall last week, with 20 mm recorded. Peat's Hut, Mt Stoker, and Balclutha all recorded only 1 mm.



River Flows

Flows in the Manuherikia River were well below normal. The rest flow recorders had normal flows.

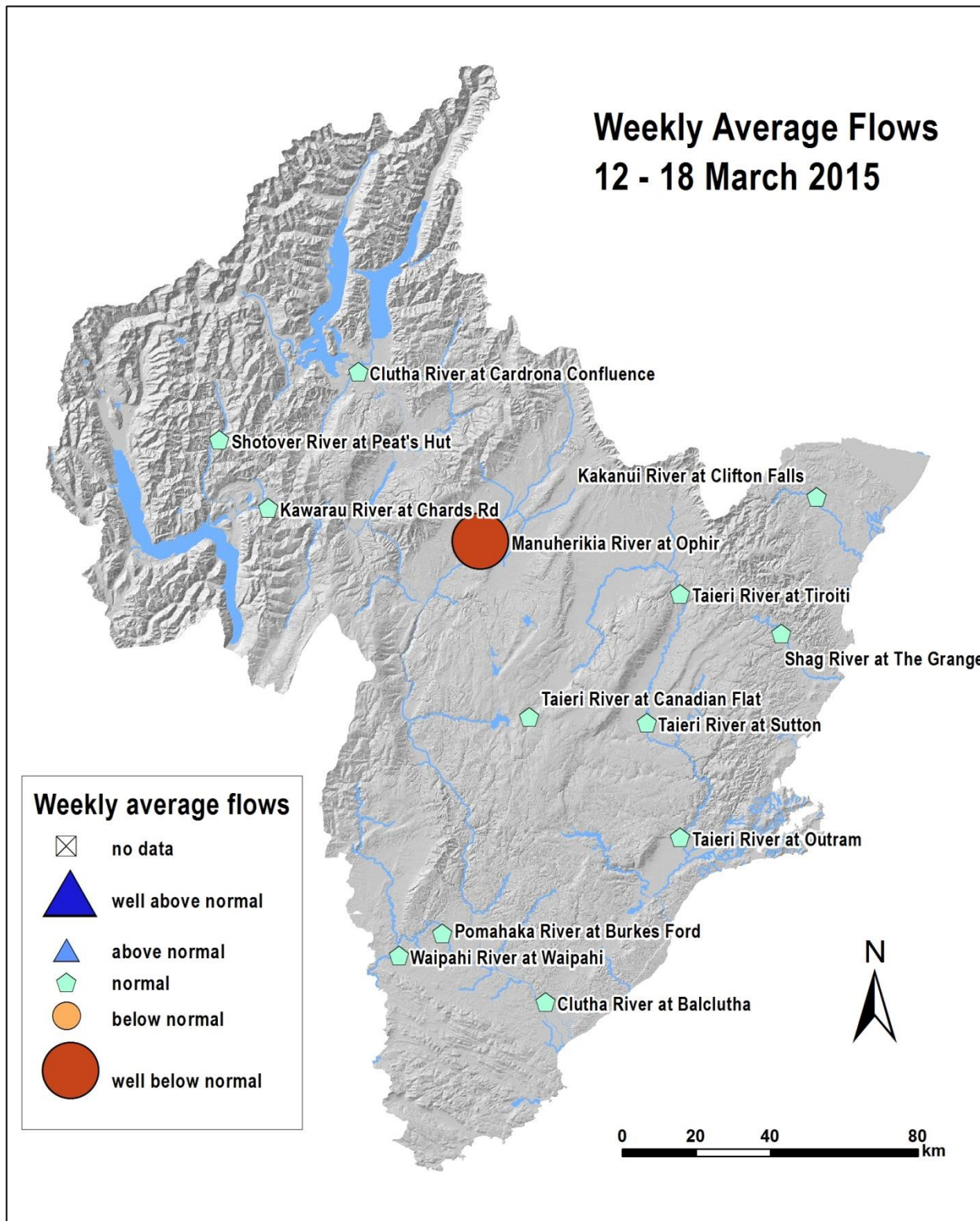


Table 1. River flow information for Otago's main rivers (all flows in cumecs, m³/s)

River and Site Name	Weekly Average	Minimum	Maximum	State
Kakanui River at Clifton Falls	1.248	1.013	1.696	normal
Shag River at The Grange	0.205	0.167	0.257	normal
Taieri River at Canadian Flat	1.638	1.169	5.129	normal
Taieri River at Tiroiti	2.555	1.960	4.214	normal
Taieri River at Sutton	2.918	2.176	4.617	normal
Taieri River at Outram	5.364	4.229	7.244	normal
Clutha River at Balclutha	384.402	300.419	565.619	normal
Waipahi River at Waipahi	0.882	0.606	2.033	normal
Pomahaka River at Burkes Ford	7.576	6.105	9.156	normal
Manuherikia River at Ophir	1.397	1.107	1.844	well below normal
Clutha R. at Cardrona Confluence	201.215	148.215	275.322	normal
Kawarau River at Chards Rd	150.269	135.284	163.646	normal
Shotover River at Peat's Hut	11.909	10.583	14.331	normal

Lake Levels

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

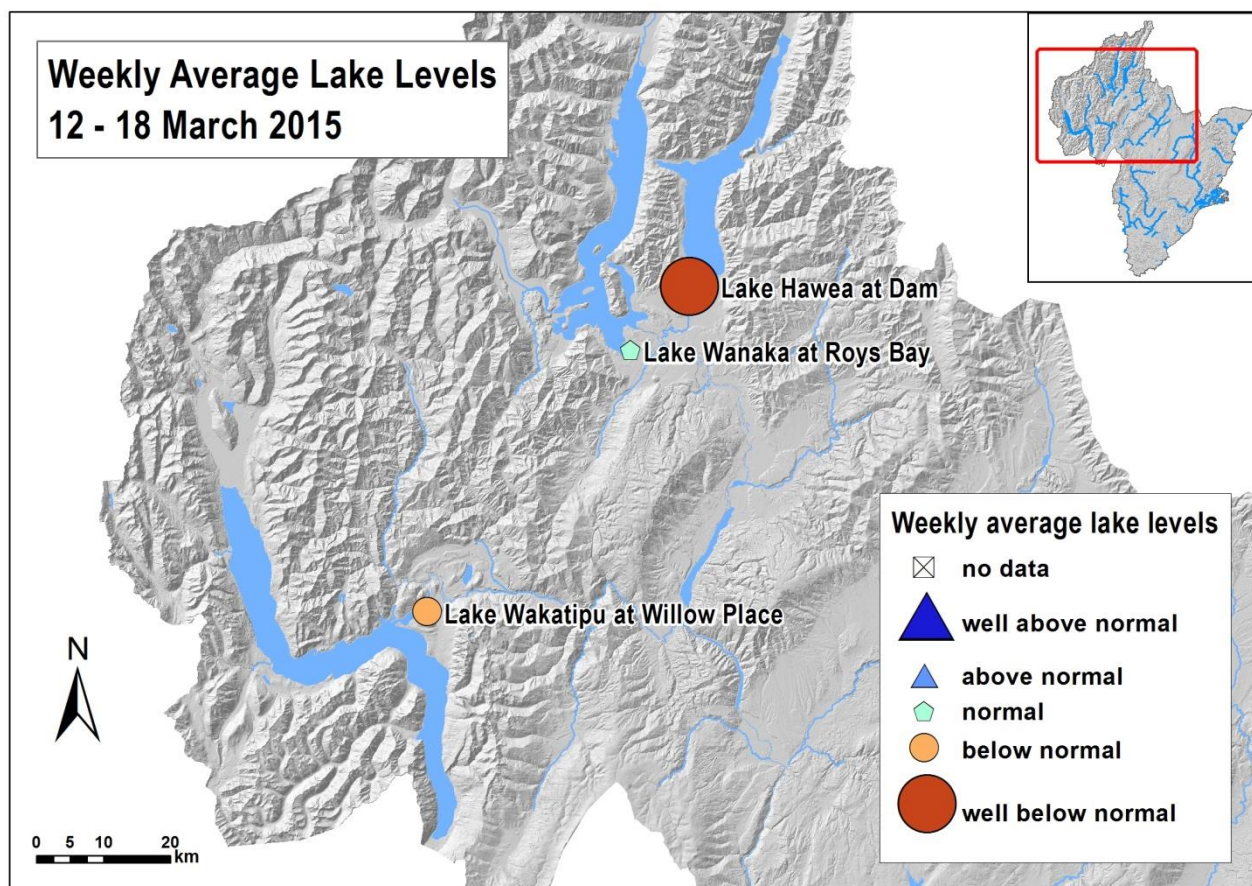
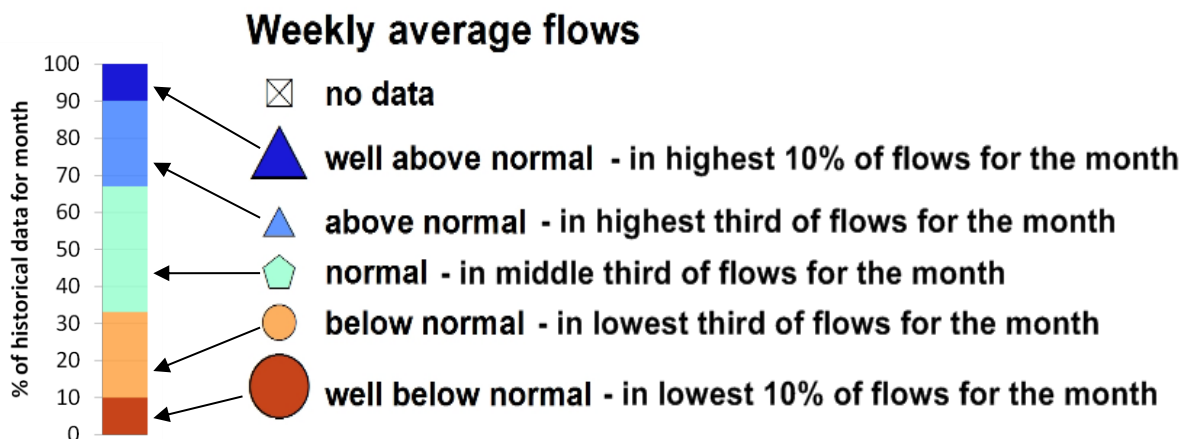


Table 2. Lake Levels information for Otago’s main Lakes (all levels in metres, m)

Site Name	Weekly Average	Minimum	Maximum	State
Lake Wanaka at Roys Bay	276.962	276.839	277.063	normal
Lake Hawea at Dam ¹	341.546	341.464	341.627	well below normal
Lake Wakatipu at Willow Place	309.725	309.647	309.795	below 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.