

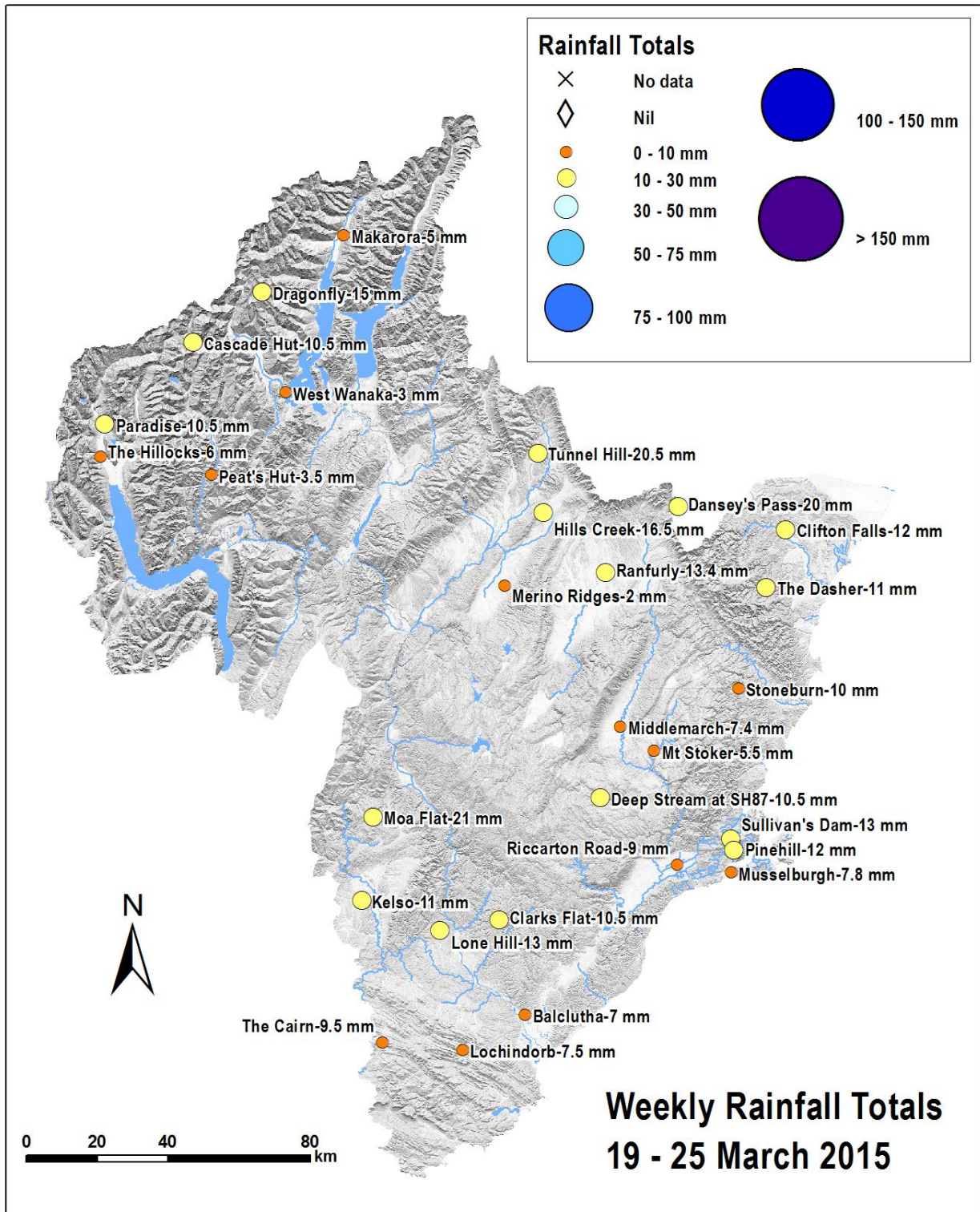
# RAINFALL & RIVER FLOW W E E K L Y R E P O R T O T A G O R E G I O N A L C O U N C I L

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

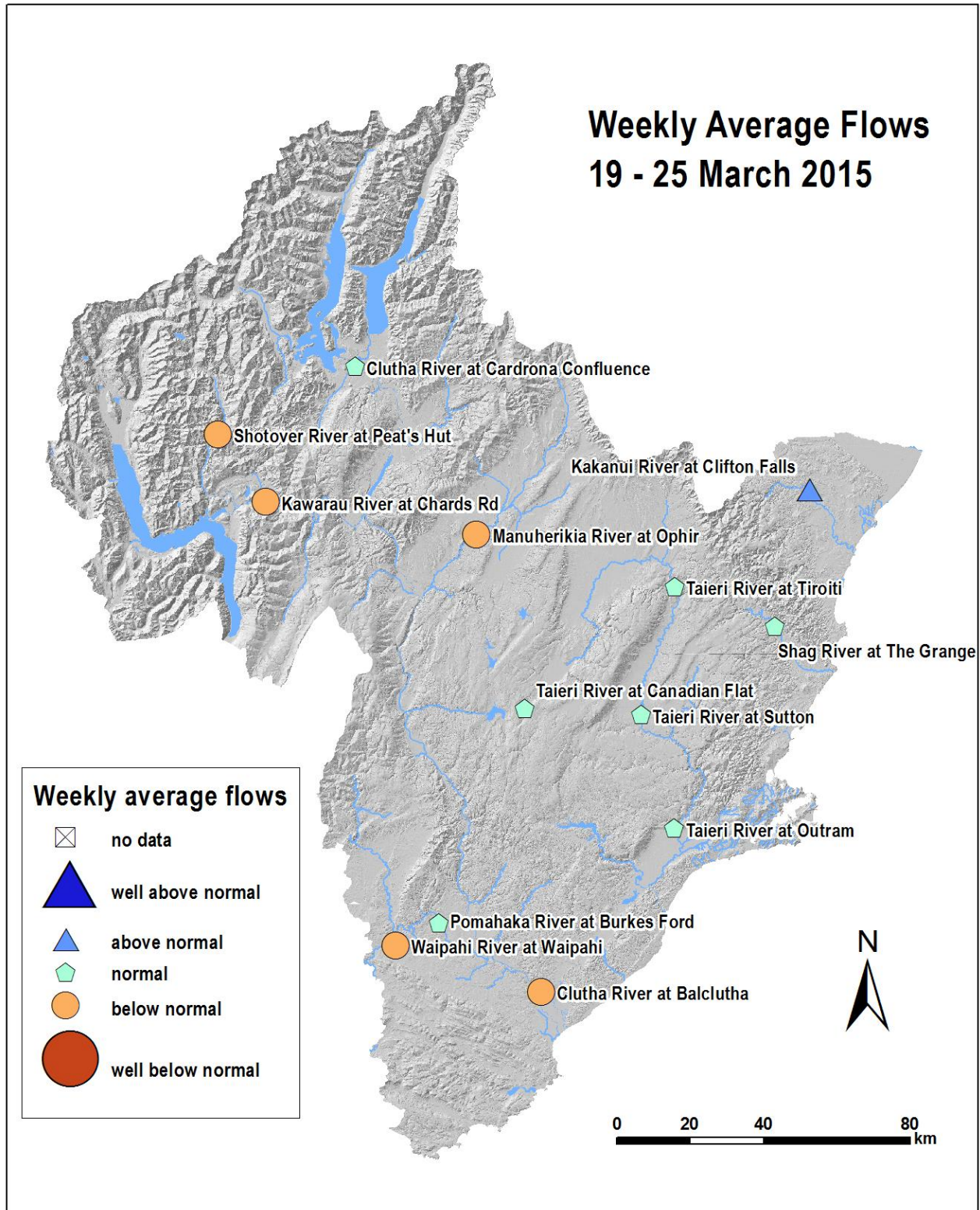
## Rainfall

Moa Flat had the most amount of rainfall last week, with 21 mm recorded. Merino Ridges recorded only 2 mm.



## River Flows

Flows in the Manuherikia River, Shotover River, Kawarau River, Waipahi River, and the Clutha River at Balclutha were below normal. The Kakanui River at Clifton Falls was the only flow recorder having above normal flows.

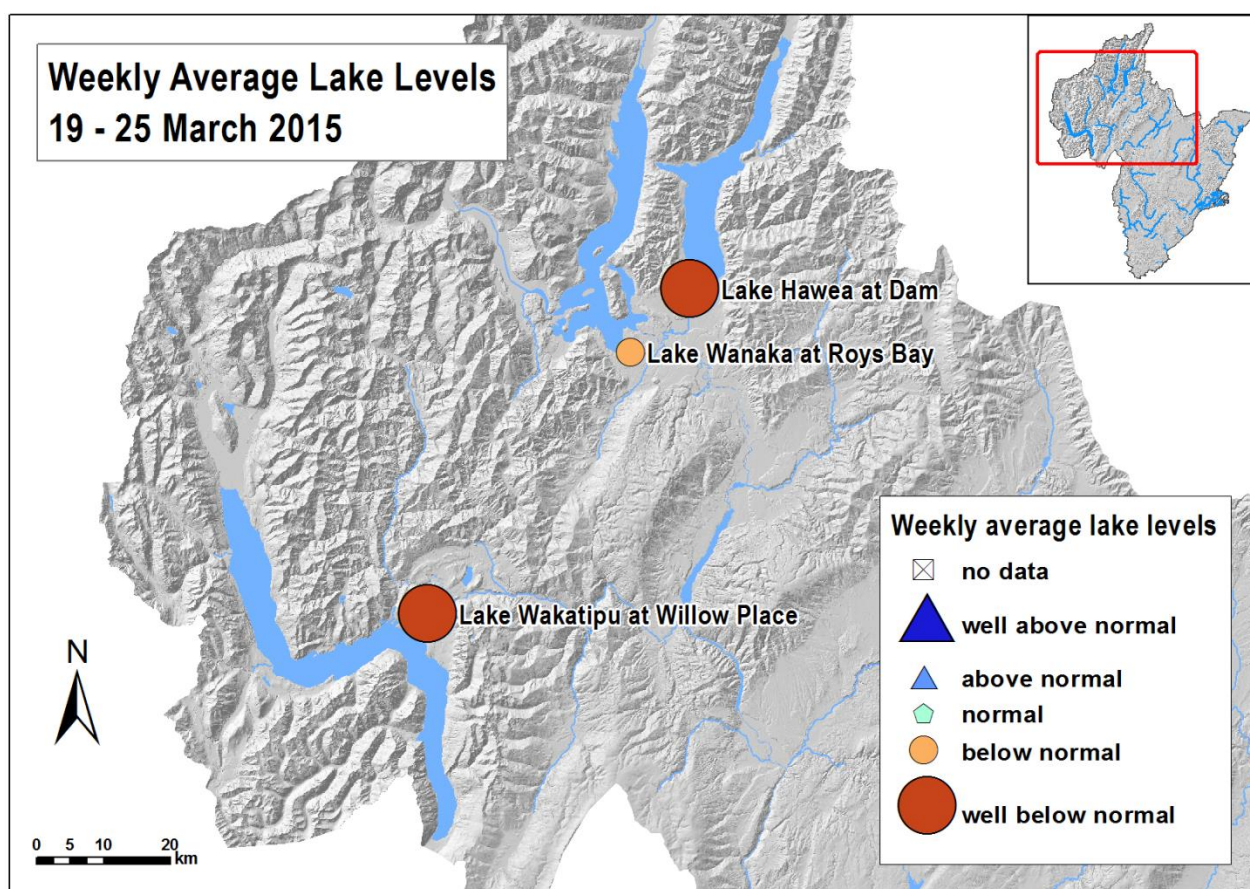


**Table 1. River flow information for Otago's main rivers (all flows in cumecs, m<sup>3</sup>/s)**

River and Site Name	Weekly Average	Minimum	Maximum	State
Kakanui River at Clifton Falls	1.391	0.919	2.680	above normal
Shag River at The Grange	0.219	0.164	0.332	normal
Taieri River at Canadian Flat	2.126	1.290	4.409	normal
Taieri River at Tiroiti	2.728	2.084	5.377	normal
Taieri River at Sutton	3.335	2.469	5.636	normal
Taieri River at Outram	5.884	4.823	8.000	normal
Clutha River at Balclutha	376.966	294.501	505.056	below normal
Waipahi River at Waipahi	0.672	0.542	0.905	below normal
Pomahaka River at Burkes Ford	9.157	7.009	12.915	normal
Manuherikia River at Ophir	1.869	1.418	2.270	below normal
Clutha R. at Cardrona Confluence	229.972	145.042	288.669	normal
Kawarau River at Chards Rd	126.705	119.148	135.372	below normal
Shotover River at Peat's Hut	10.783	10.122	13.659	below normal

### Lake Levels

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

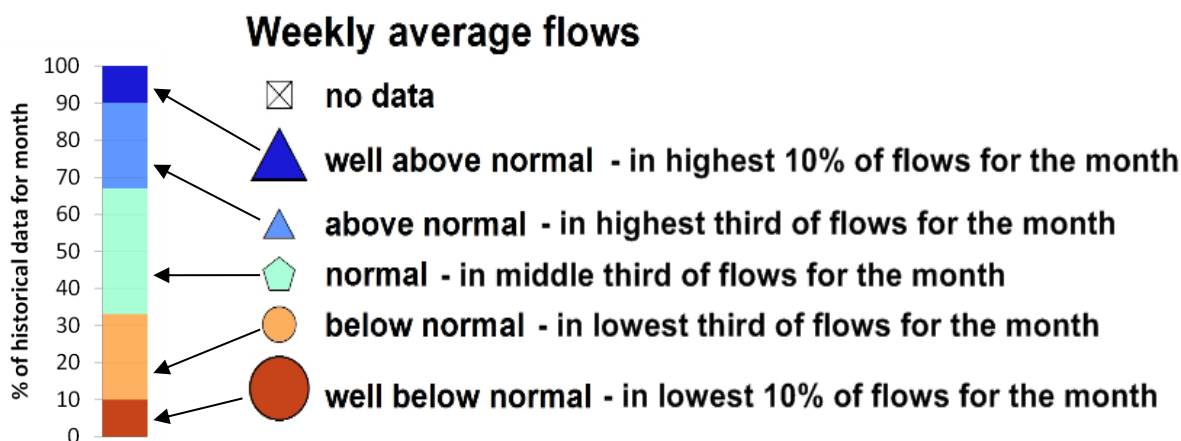


**Table 2. Lake Levels information for Otago’s main Lakes (all levels in metres, m)**

Site Name	Weekly Average	Minimum	Maximum	State
Lake Wanaka at Roys Bay	276.757	276.677	276.84	below normal
Lake Hawea at Dam <sup>1</sup>	341.292	341.074	341.464	well below normal
Lake Wakatipu at Willow Place	309.608	309.563	309.662	well 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**

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](http://www.orc.govt.nz/waterinfo)  
 To request flow or rainfall data email [environmental.info@orc.govt.nz](mailto:environmental.info@orc.govt.nz)

**Mailing list**

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<sup>1</sup> Fluctuations in Lake Hawea’s water level are due to the regulation of outflows, i.e., the water levels are not naturalised.