HydroWatch

Thursday, 18 December 2025 **Issue: 1496**

A weekly summary relating to New Zealand hydro storage and inflows.

Compiled by Energy Link Ltd.

Storage Summary	South Island Controlled	South Island Uncontrolled	South Island Total	North Island Taupo		Total Storage
Current Storage (GWh)	**2,950**	**691**	**3,641**	**502**		**4,143**
Storage Change (GWh)	-6	-67	-73	-4		-78

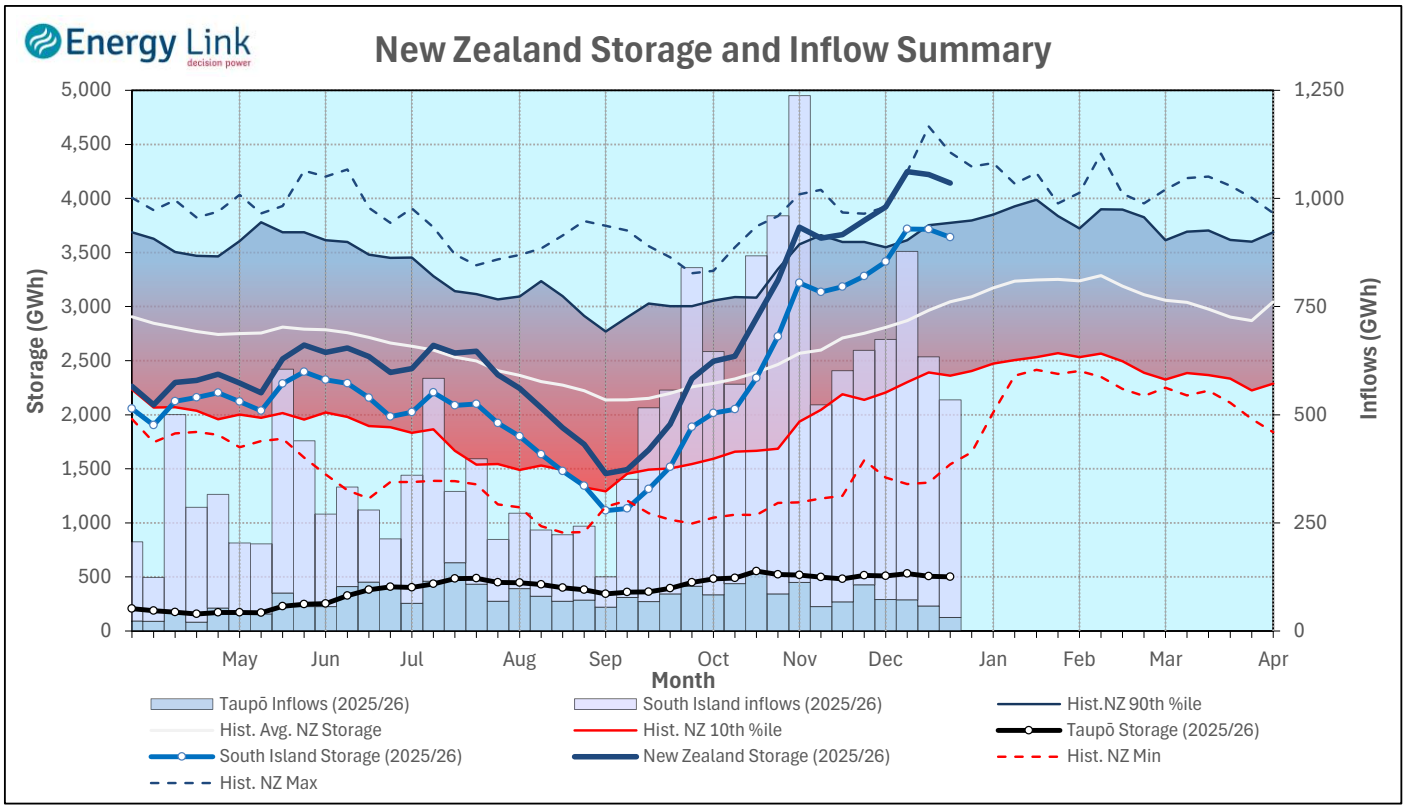
Note: SI Controlled; Takapō, Pūkaki and Hāwea: SI Uncontrolled; Manapōuri, Te Anau, Wānaka, Wakatipu

Transpower Security of Supply	South Island	North Island		New Zealand
Current Storage (GWh)	**3,445**	**502**		**3,947**

Note: These figures are provided to align with Transpower's Security of Supply reporting methodology. Variance from Transpower values is due to differences in generation efficiencies and contingent storage volumes.

New Zealand Summary

Total storage decreased 78 GWh over the last week. South Island controlled storage decreased 0.2% to 2,950 GWh; South Island uncontrolled storage decreased 9% to 691 GWh; with Taupō storage decreasing 0.9% to 502 GWh.



Thursday, 18 December 2025	Manapōuri	Clutha	Waitaki	Waikato		NZ
Storage (GWh)						
This Week	**495**	**471**	**2,675**	**502**		**4,143**
Last Week	553	479	2,683	506		4,220
% Change	-10.4%	-1.6%	-0.3%	-0.9%		-1.8%
Inflow (GWh)						
This Week	**135**	**114**	**254**	**31**		**534**
Last Week	202	122	252	58		634
% Change	-33.4%	-6.1%	0.5%	-45.6%		-15.7%

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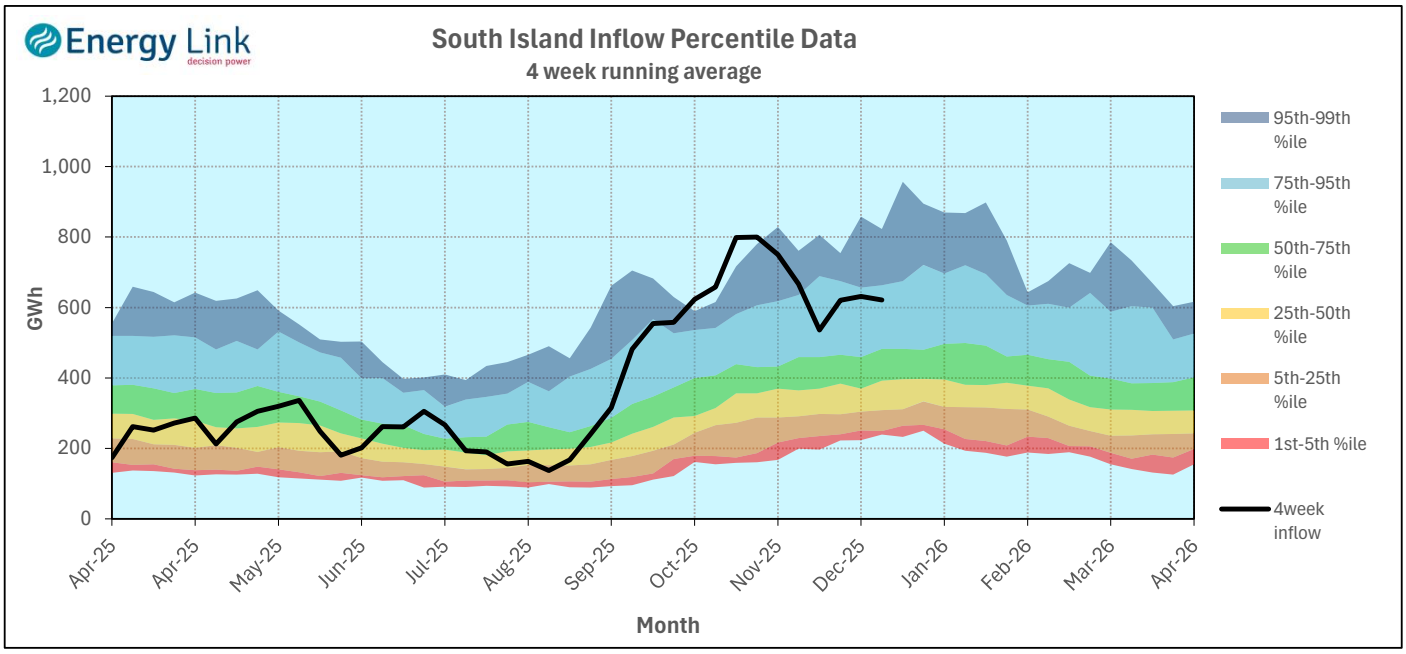
Lake Levels and Outflows

Catchment	Lake	Level (m. asl)	Storage (GWh)	Outflow (cumecs)	Outflow Change
Manapōuri	Manapōuri	178.61	163	333	-26
	Te Anau	203.08	332		
Clutha	Wakatipu	310.38	86	322	-30
	Wānaka	278.30	110	366	-29
	Hāwea	345.46	275	96	-20
Waitaki	Takapō	709.86	786		
	Pūkaki	532.80	1,889		
Waikato	Taupō	357.08	502		

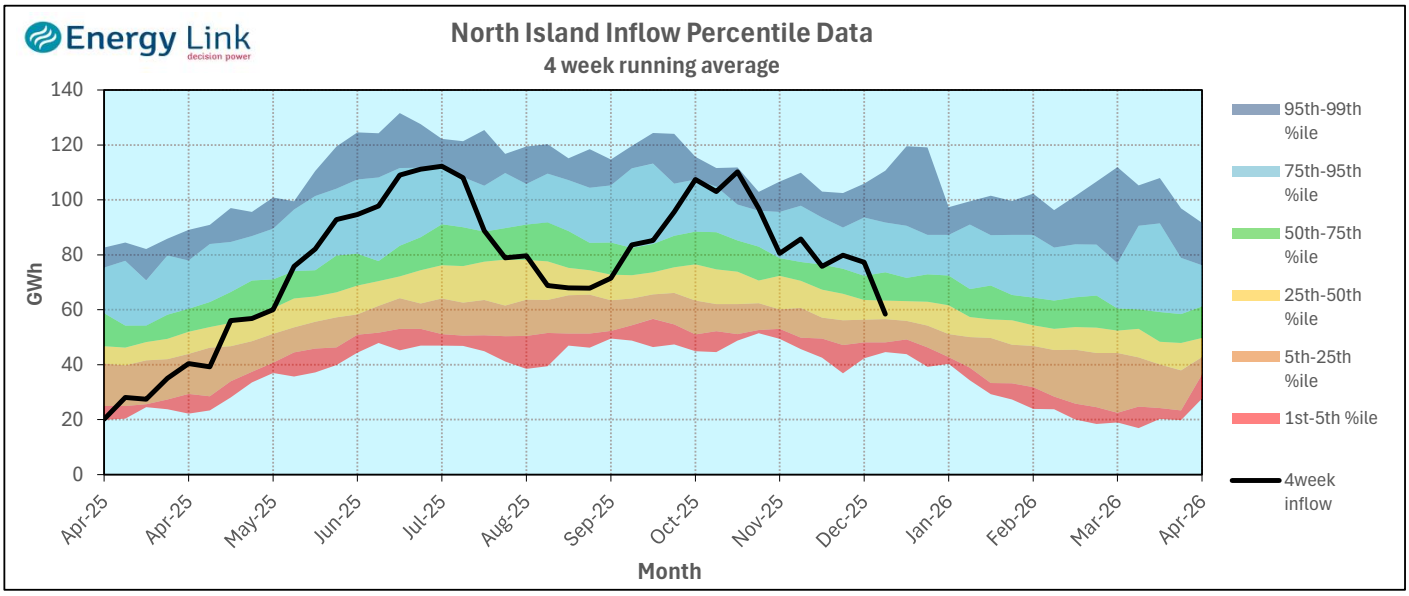
Inflow Summary

The two charts below represent where current inflows are in relation to historic inflow patterns. The percentile values have been calculated using all inflows since 1931.

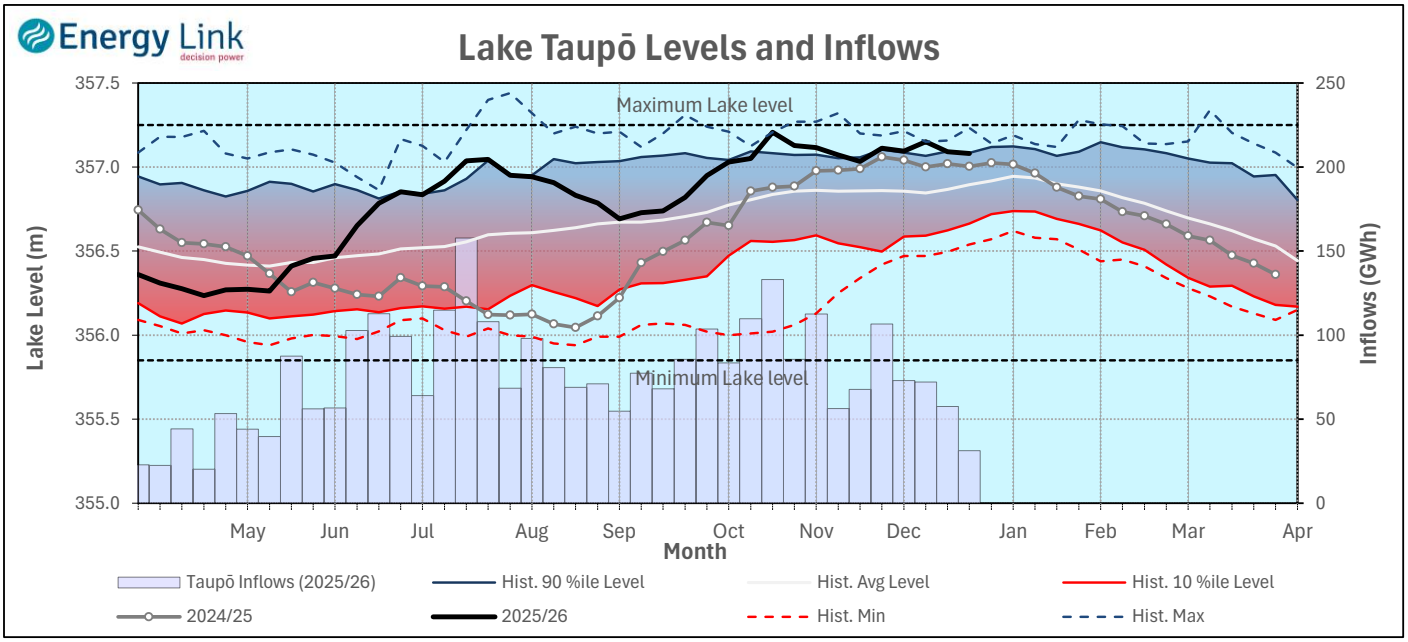
South Island Inflows - The past four weeks of S. I. inflows rank as the 7th wettest on record.



North Island Inflows - The past four weeks of N. I. inflows rank as the 31st driest on record.



Waikato System

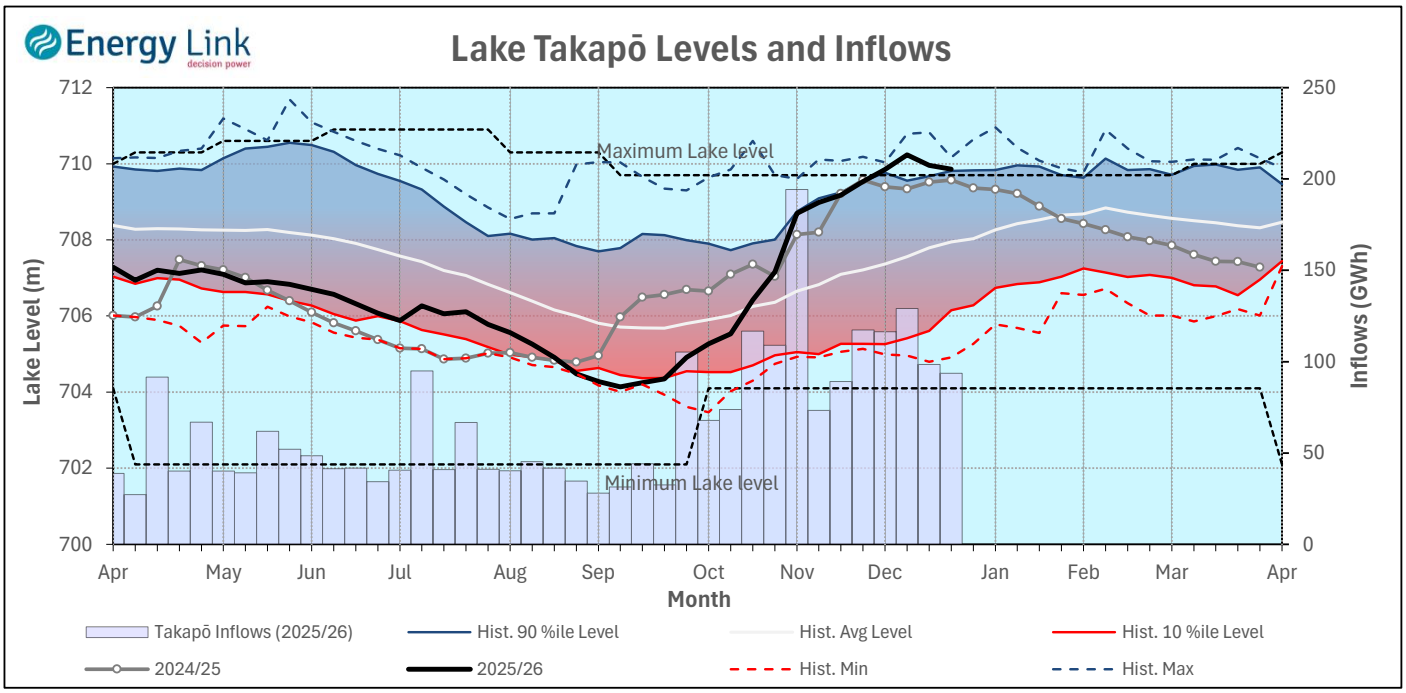


Lake Levels - Lake Taupō storage fell to 87.9% of nominal full at 502 GWh.

Inflows - Inflows decreased 45.6% to 31 GWh.

Generation - Average generation decreased 13.5% to 368.4 MW.

Takapō



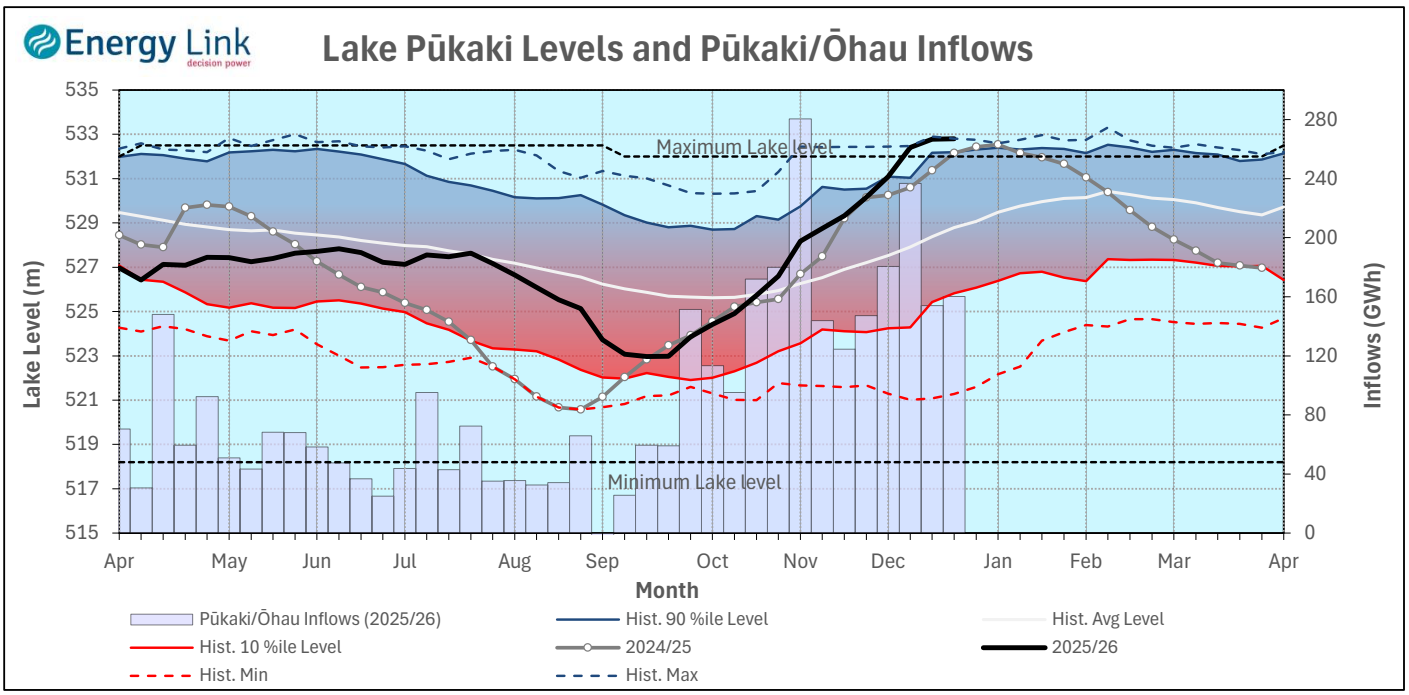
Lake Levels - Lake Takapō ended the week 109% nominally full with storage falling to 786 GWh.

Inflows - Inflows into Takapō decreased 4.9% to 94 GWh.

Generation - Average Takapō generation decreased 4.3% to 175.6 MW.

Hydro Spill - Lake Takapō spill was 32 cumecs.

Waitaki System



Lake Levels - Lake Pūkaki ended the week 106% nominally full with storage increasing to 1,889 GWh.

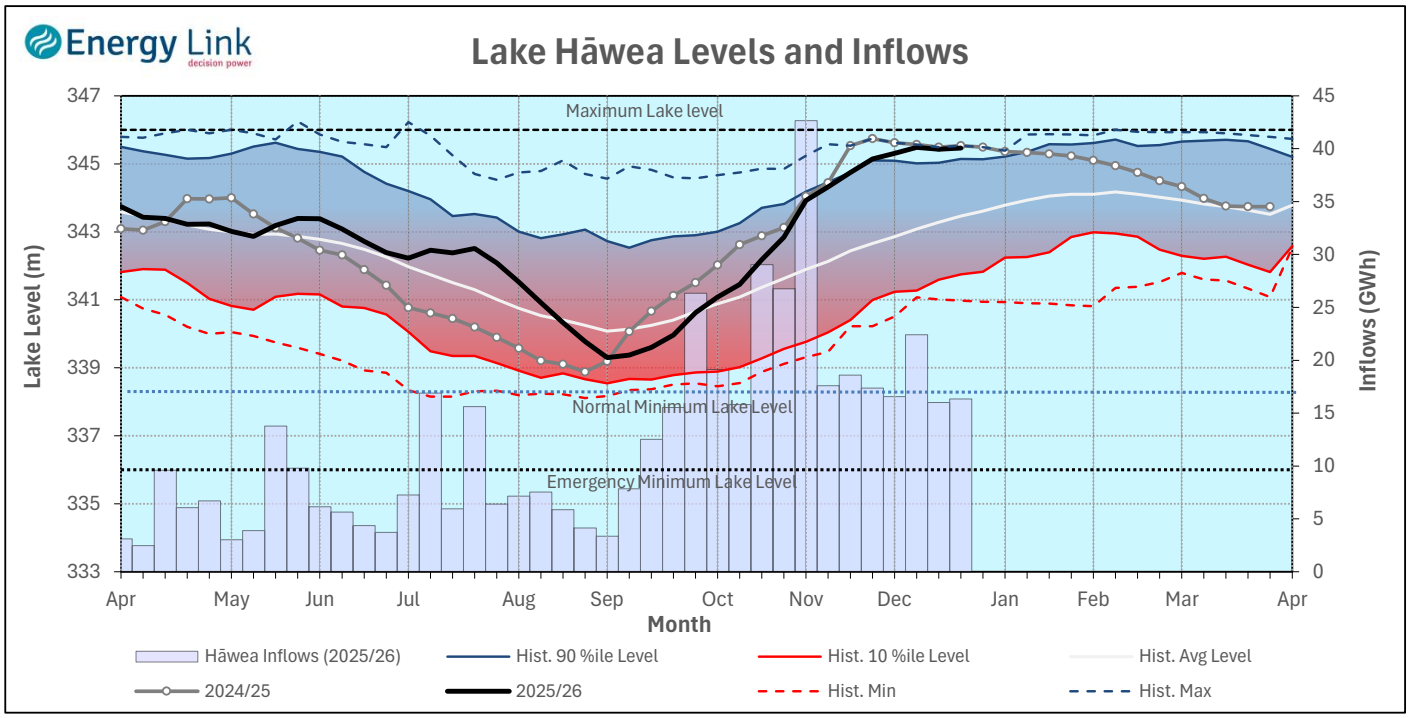
Inflows - Inflows into the Waitaki System increased 4% to 160 GWh.

Generation - Average Waitaki generation increased 24.9% to 1,179 MW.

Hydro Spill - Lake Pūkaki spill was 156 cumecs.

River Flows - Flows from the Ahuriri River fell to 31.5 cumecs while Waitaki River flows were higher than last week averaging 572.2 cumecs.

Clutha System



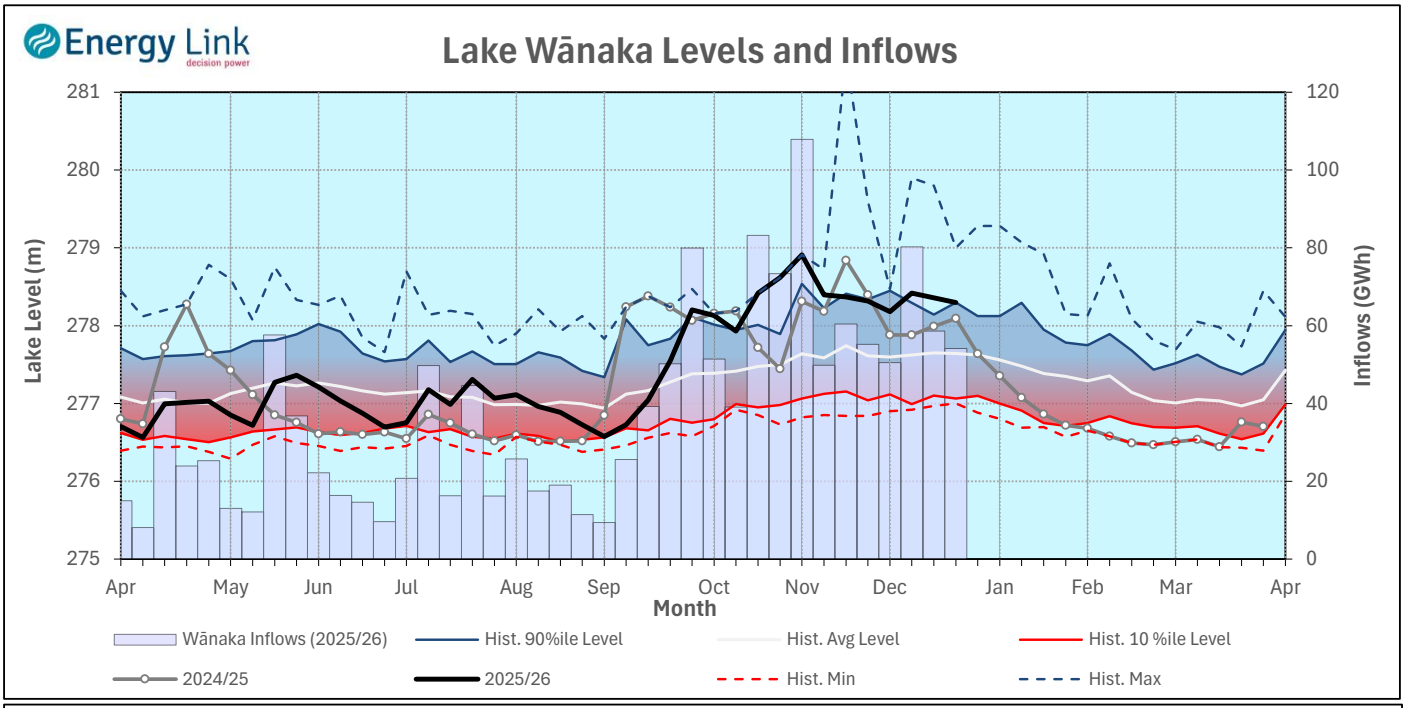
Lake Levels - Total storage for the Clutha System decreased 1.6% to 471 GWh. Lakes Hāwea, Wānaka and Wakatipu ended the week 93.1%, 96.3% and 81% nominally full respectively.

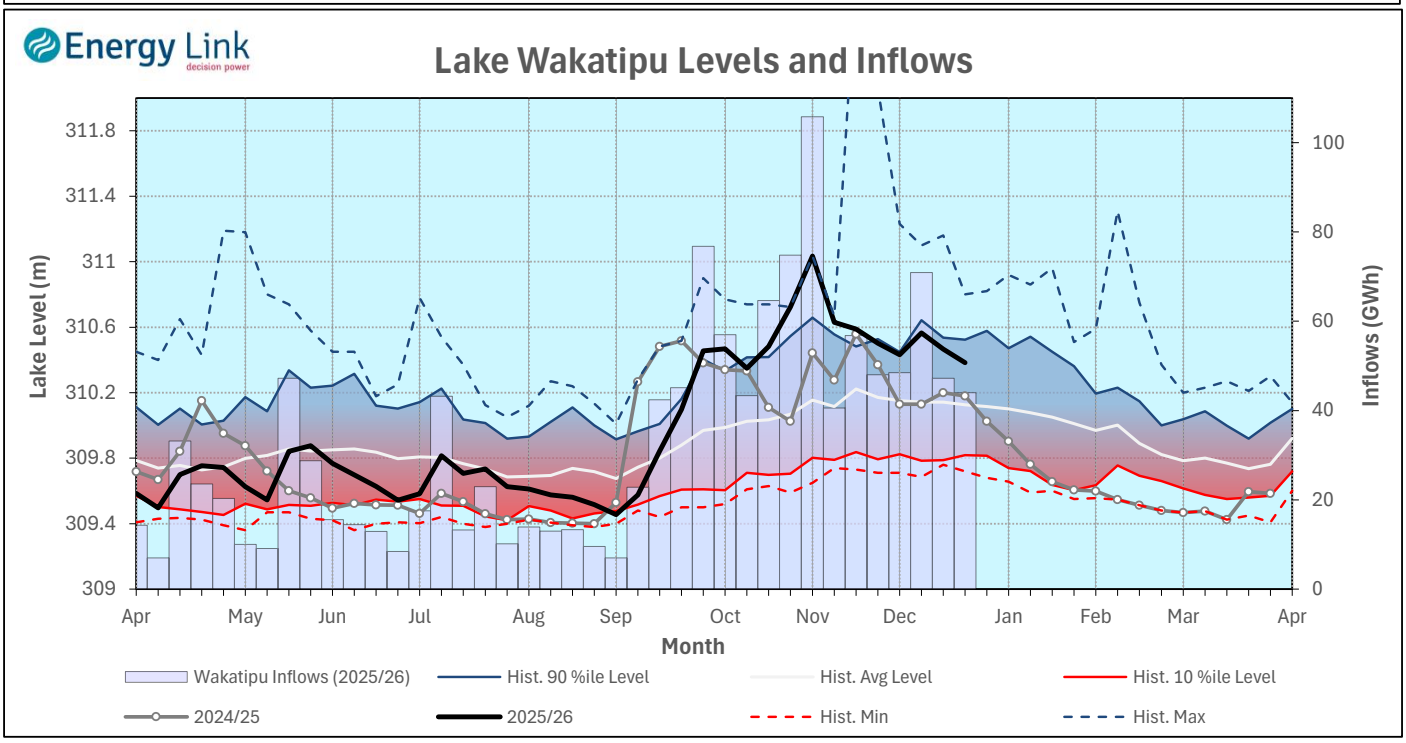
Inflows - Total Inflows into the Clutha System 6.1% lower at 114 GWh.

Generation - Average generation was 2.2% higher at 442 MW.

Hydro Spill - Estimate Spill is 364.6 cumecs.

River Flows - Total outflows from the lakes and Shotover River fell to 856.6 cumecs. This comprised of 96 cumecs from Lake Hāwea, 366 cumecs from Lake Wānaka, 322 cumecs from Lake Wakatipu and 73 cumecs from the Shotover River.





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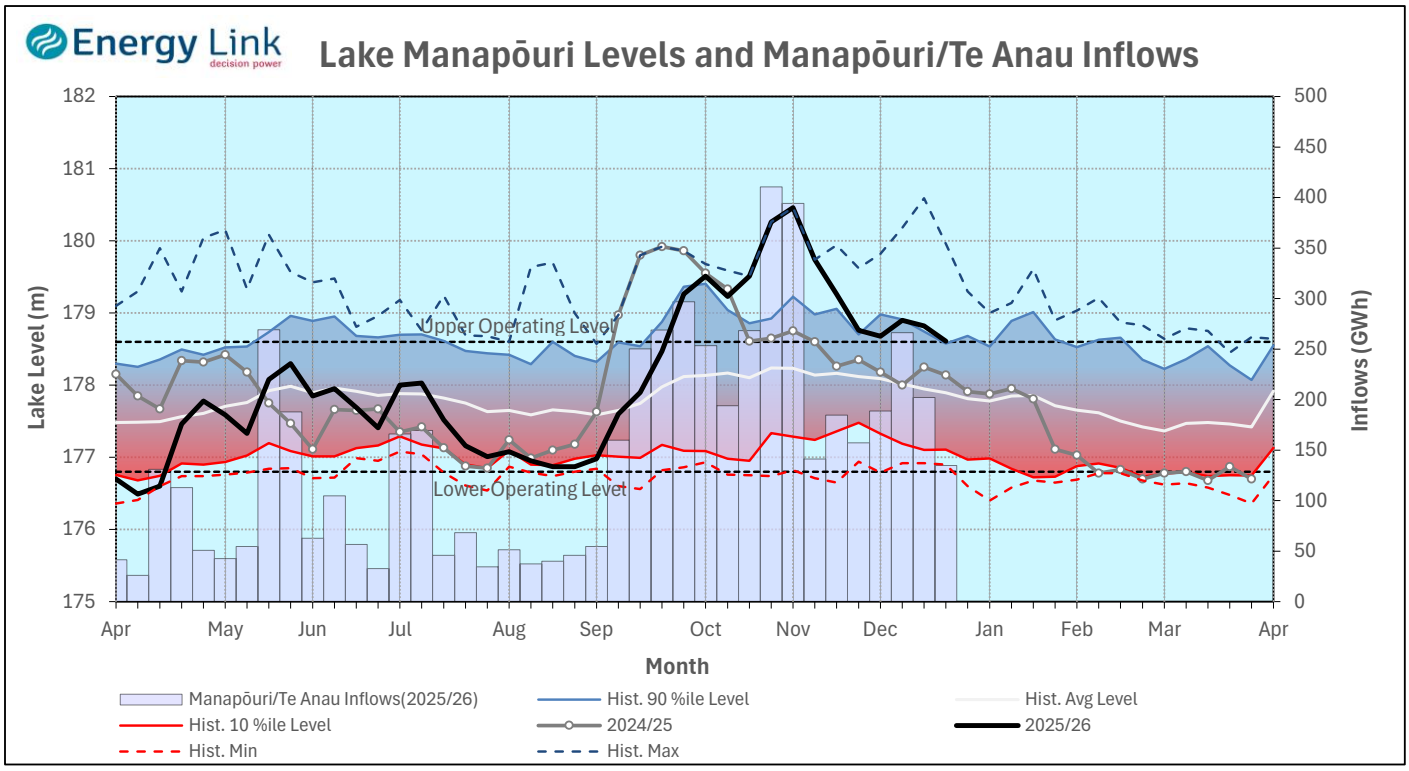
Manapōuri System



Lake Levels - Total storage for the Manapōuri System decreased 10.4% to 495 GWh with Lake Manapōuri ending the week 100.4% nominally full and Lake Te Anau ending the week 120.7% nominally full.

Inflows - Total inflows into the Manapōuri System decreased 33.4% to 135 GWh.

Generation - Average generation was 11.3% lower at 659 MW.

Hydro Spill - Estimated spill at the Māraroa Weir was 333 cumecs.

Operating Range - Lakes Manapōuri and Te Anau are operating in the lower end of their respective 'High operating range'.