HydroWatch

Thursday, 1 January 2026 **Issue: 1498**

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)	**2,928**	**599**	**3,528**	**525**		**4,052**
Storage Change (GWh)	-3	-39	-42	9		-33

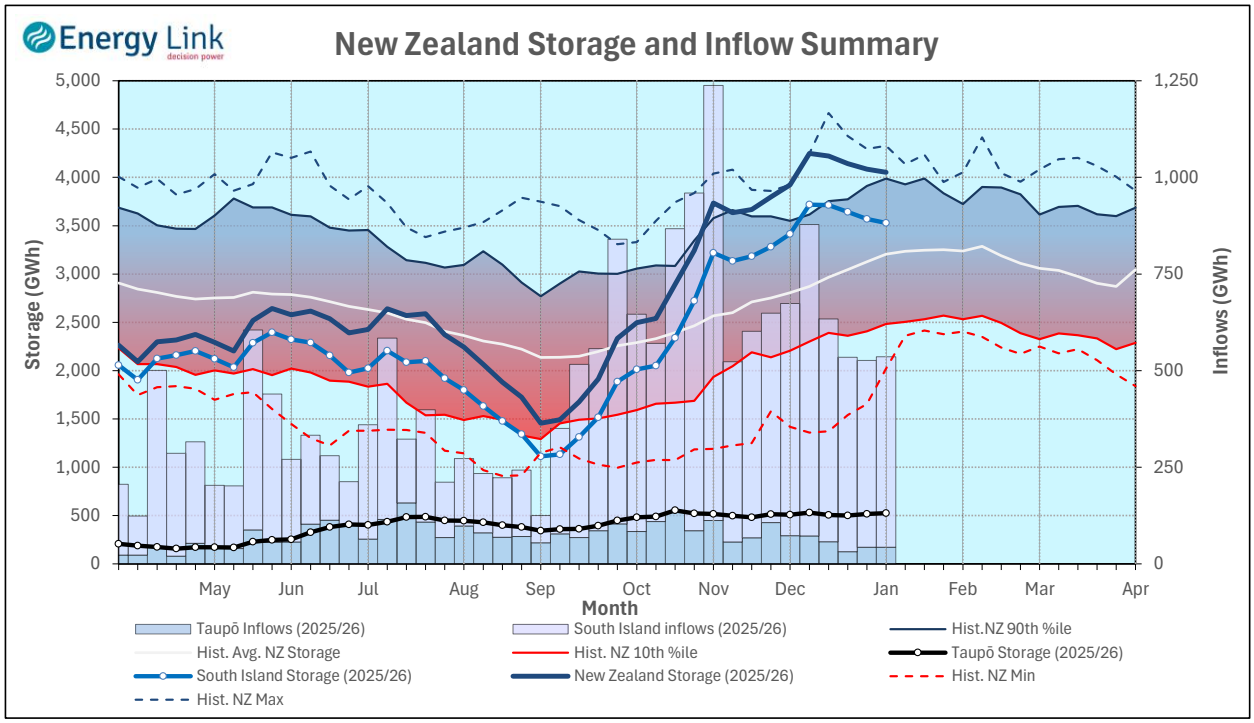
Note: SI Controlled; Takapō, Pūkaki and Hāwea: SI Uncontrolled; Manapōuri, Te Anau, Wānaka, Wakatipu

Transpower Security of Supply	South Island	North Island		New Zealand
Current Storage (GWh)	**3,363**	**525**		**3,888**

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 33 GWh over the last week. South Island controlled storage decreased 0.1% to 2,928 GWh; South Island uncontrolled storage decreased 6% to 599 GWh; with Taupō storage increasing 1.7% to 525 GWh.



Thursday, 1 January 2026	Manapōuri	Clutha	Waitaki	Waikato		NZ
Storage (GWh)						
This Week	**435**	**449**	**2,644**	**525**		**4,052**
Last Week	460	461	2,649	516		4,085
% Change	-5.4%	-2.6%	-0.2%	1.7%		-0.8%
Inflow (GWh)						
This Week	**156**	**102**	**236**	**43**		**536**
Last Week	157	101	225	43		526
% Change	-0.6%	0.9%	4.6%	-0.6%		1.9%

Subscribe at www.energylink.co.nz/publications

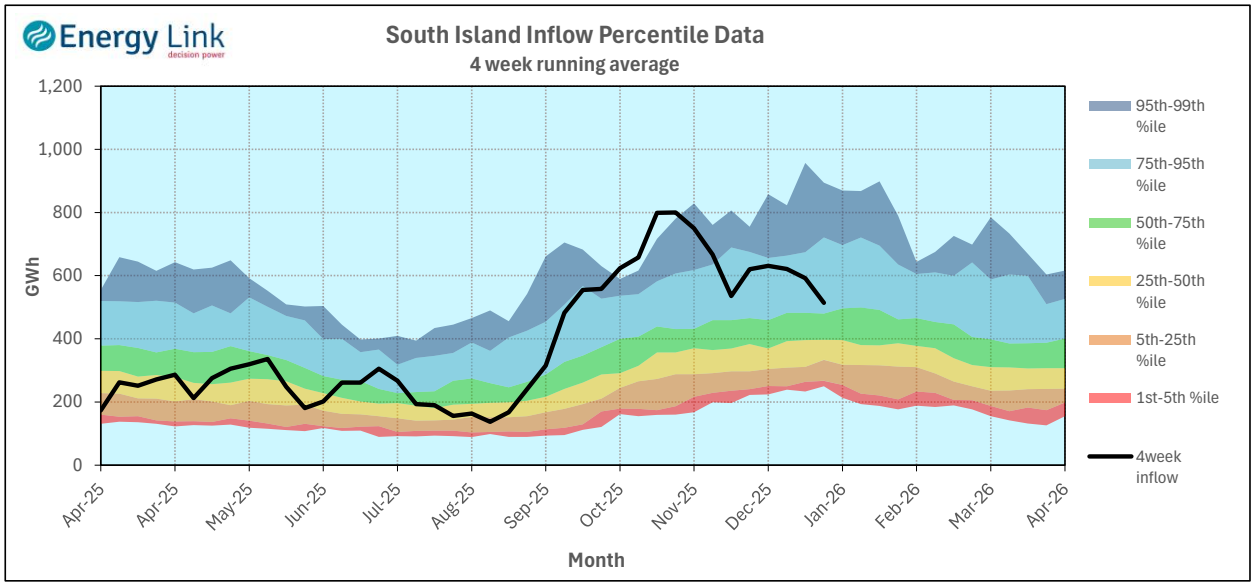
Lake Levels and Outflows

Catchment	Lake	Level (m. asl)	Storage (GWh)	Outflow (cumecs)	Outflow Change
Manapōuri	Manapōuri	178.35	147	232	-46
	Te Anau	202.78	287		
Clutha	Wakatipu	310.22	73	297	-11
	Wānaka	277.92	91	339	-15
	Hāwea	345.70	284	96	42
Waitaki	Takapō	709.59	756		
	Pūkaki	532.79	1,888		
Waikato	Taupō	357.14	525		

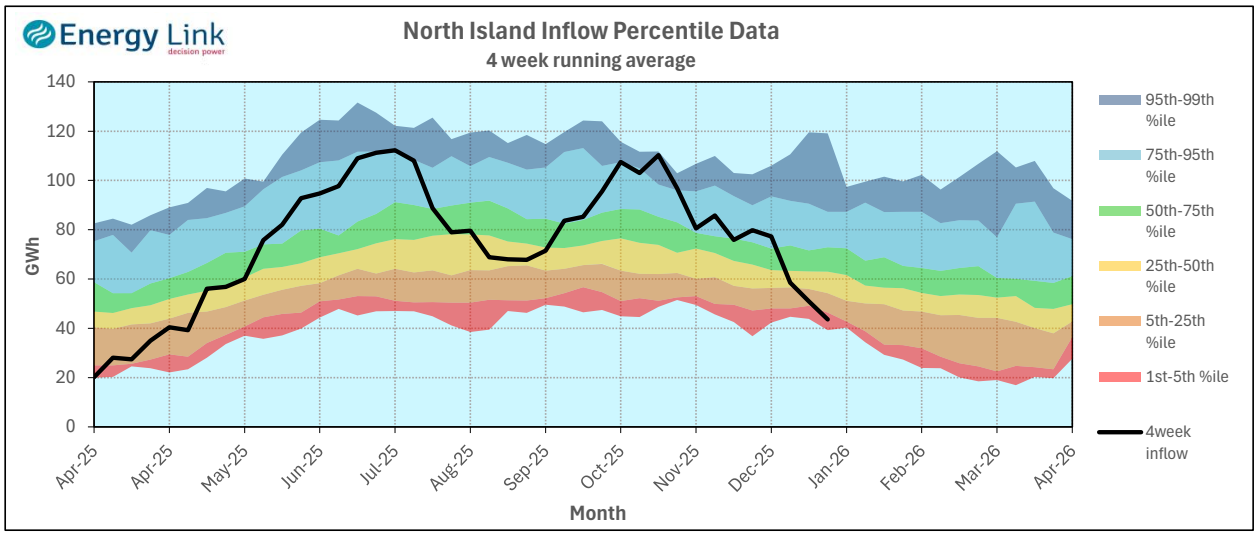
Inflow Summary

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.

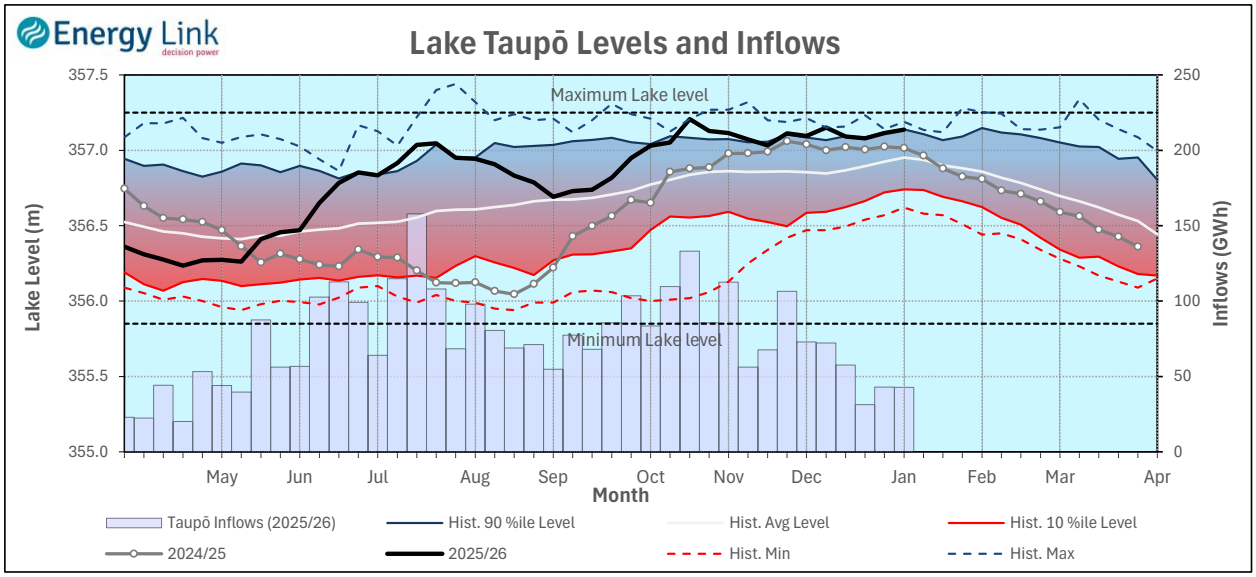
South Island Inflows - The past four weeks of S. I. inflows rank as the 21st wettest on record.



North Island Inflows - The past four weeks of N. I. inflows rank as the 4th driest on record.



Waikato System

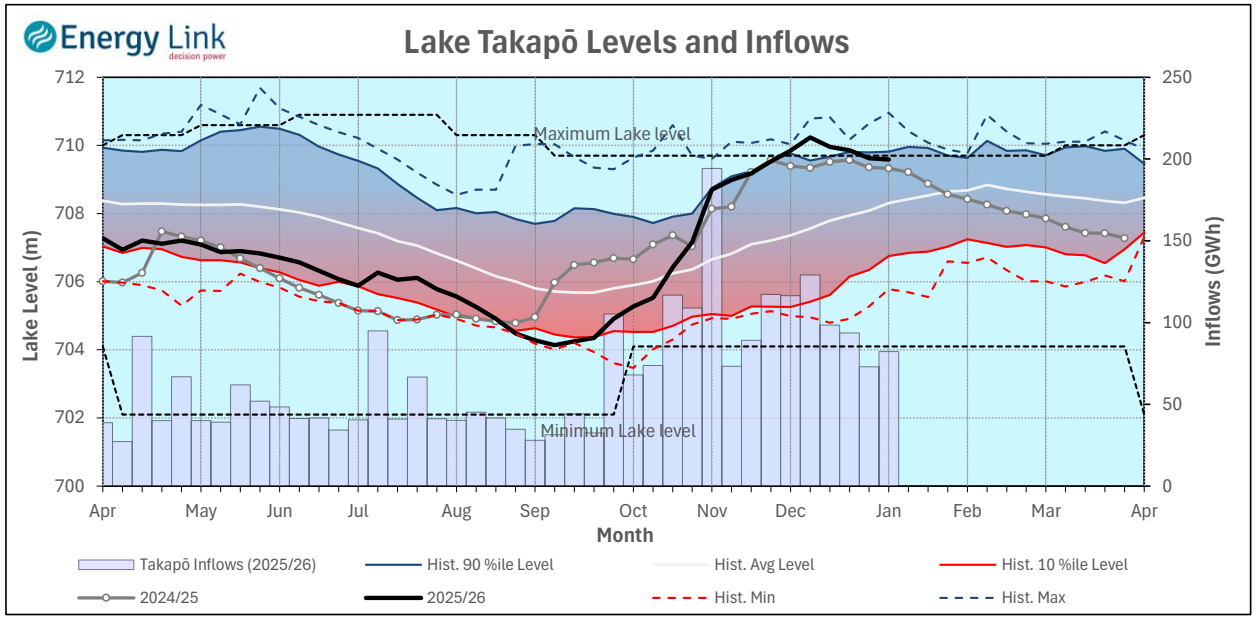


Lake Levels - Lake Taupō storage increased to 91.9% of nominal full at 525 GWh.

Inflows - Inflows remained steady at 43 GWh.

Generation - Average generation decreased 31.7% to 154.4 MW.

Takapō



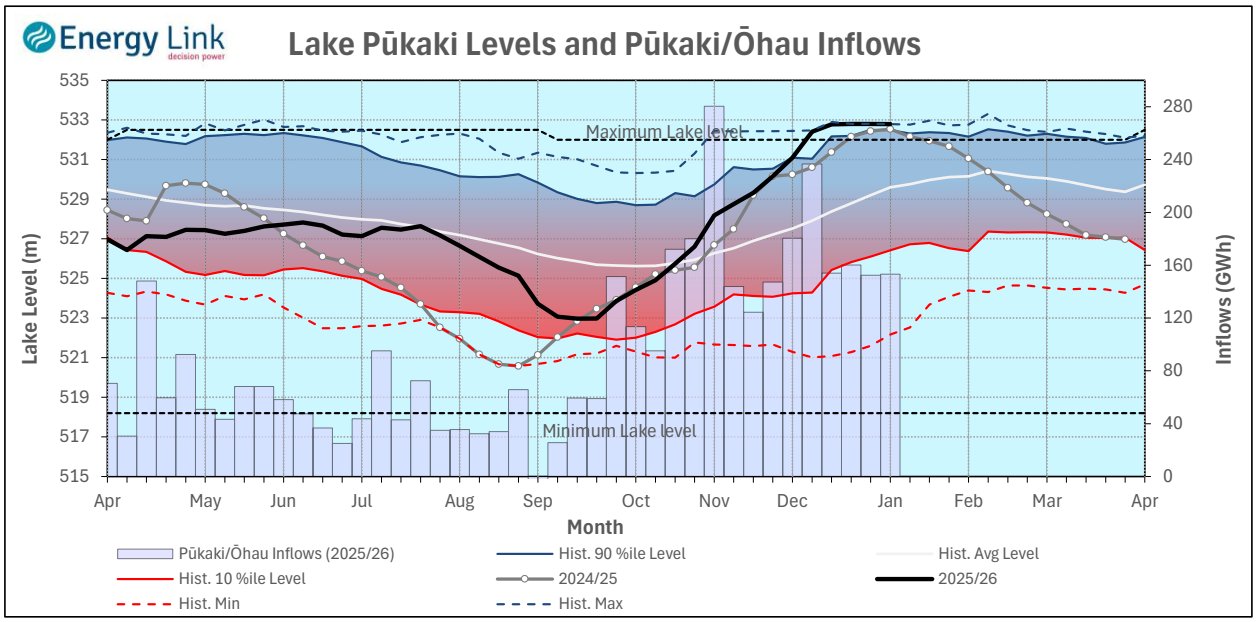
Lake Levels - Lake Takapō ended the week 104% nominally full with storage falling to 756 GWh.

Inflows - Inflows into Takapō increased 12.8% to 82 GWh.

Generation - Average Takapō generation decreased 2.1% to 175.4 MW.

Hydro Spill - Lake Takapō spill was 6.1 cumecs.

Waitaki System



Lake Levels - Lake Pūkaki ended the week 106% nominally full with storage falling to 1,888 GWh.

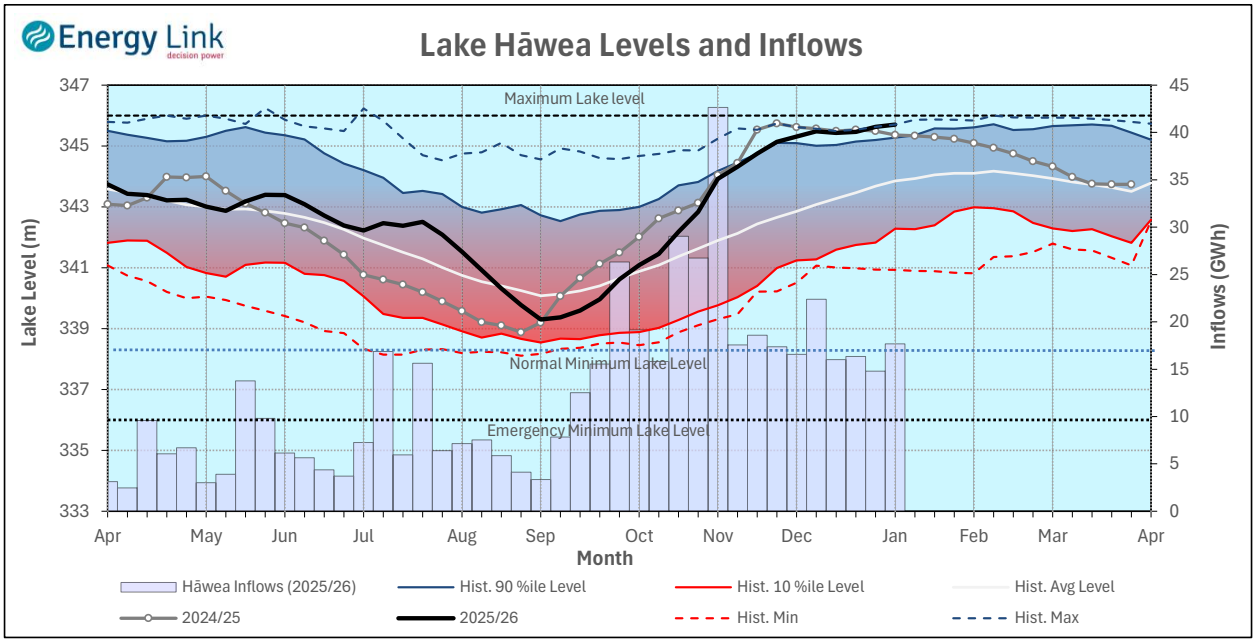
Inflows - Inflows into the Waitaki System increased 0.6% to 153 GWh.

Generation - Average Waitaki generation decreased 5.5% to 948 MW.

Hydro Spill - Lake Pūkaki spill was 290 cumecs.

River Flows - Flows from the Ahuriri River increased to 44.7 cumecs while Waitaki River flows were lower than last week averaging 556.8 cumecs.

Clutha System



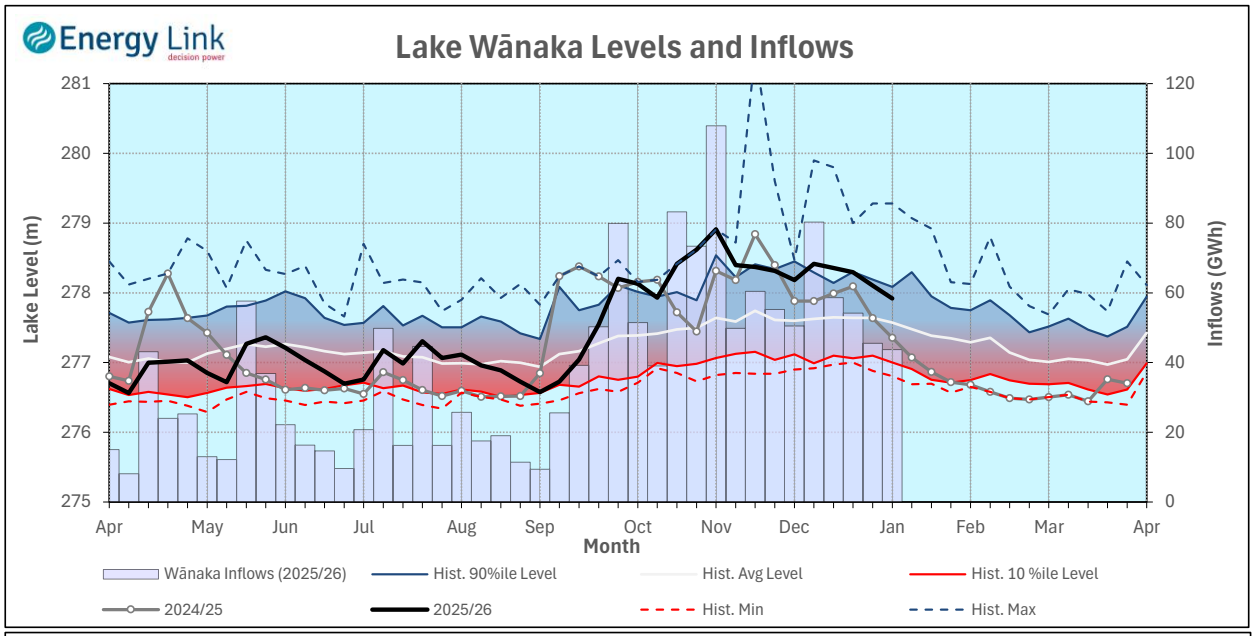
Lake Levels - Total storage for the Clutha System decreased 2.6% to 449 GWh. Lakes Hāwea, Wānaka and Wakatipu ended the week 96.2%, 79.8% and 69.2% nominally full respectively.

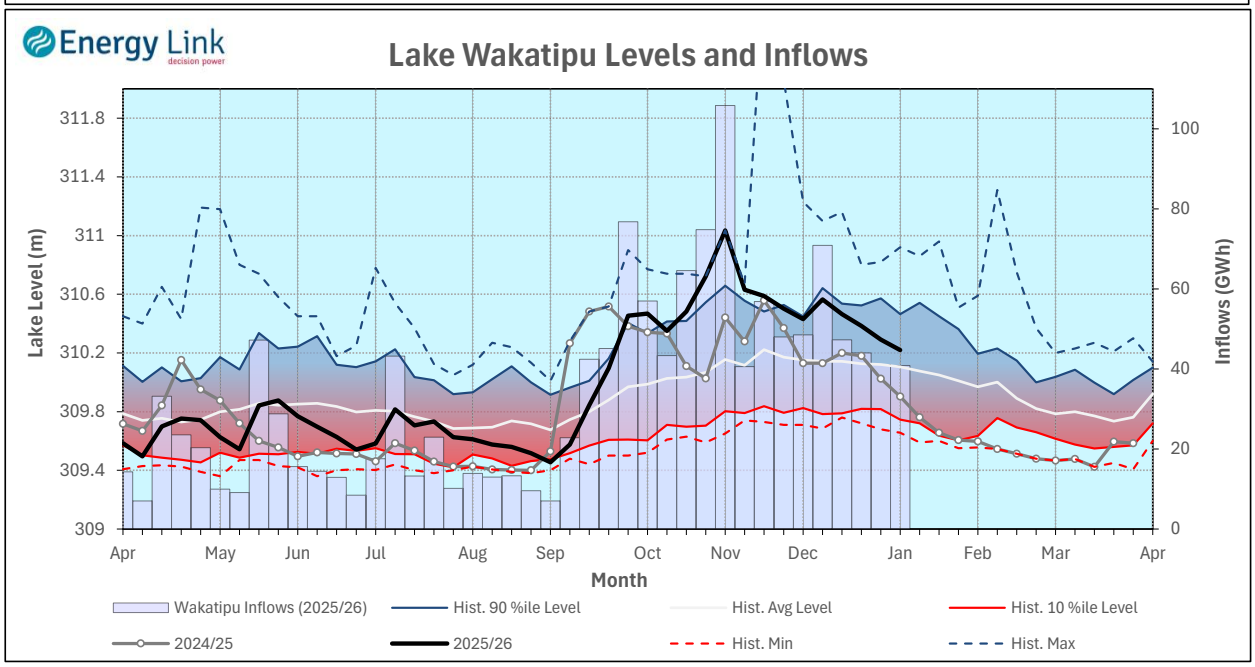
Inflows - Total Inflows into the Clutha System 0.9% higher at 102 GWh.

Generation - Average generation was 73.1% lower at 37 MW.

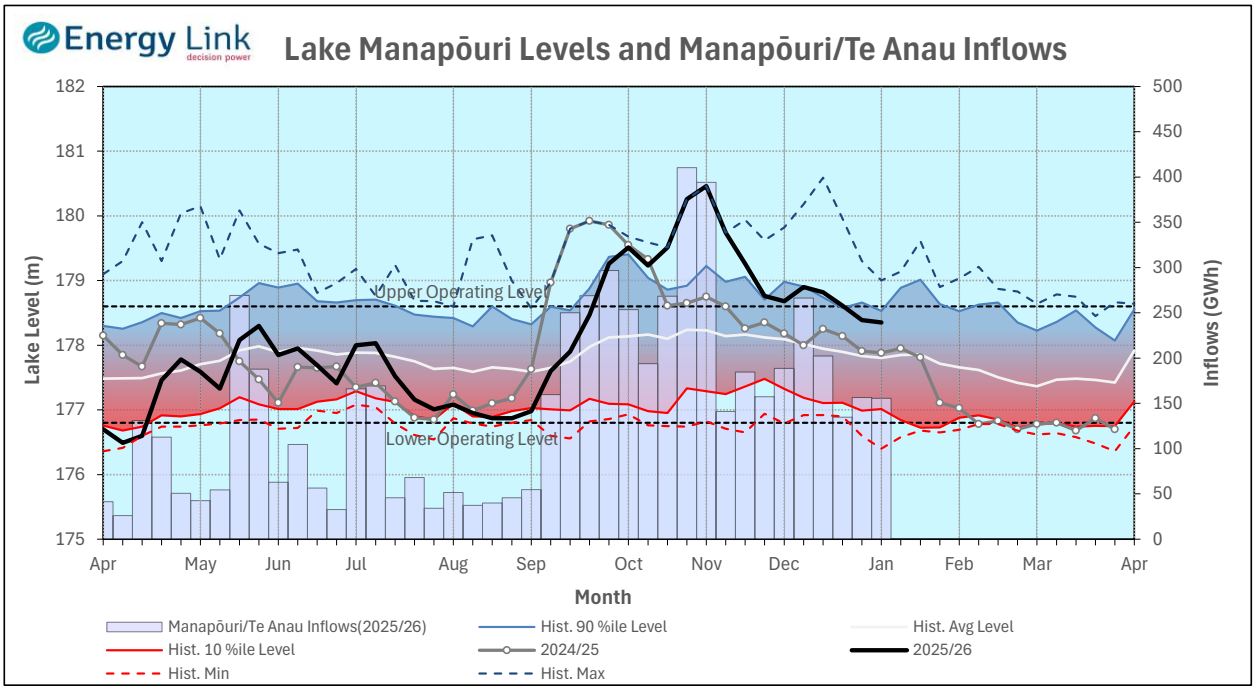
Hydro Spill - Estimate Spill is 718 cumecs.

River Flows - Total outflows from the lakes and Shotover River increased to 805.2 cumecs. This comprised of 96 cumecs from Lake Hāwea, 339 cumecs from Lake Wānaka, 297 cumecs from Lake Wakatipu and 73 cumecs from the Shotover River.





Manapōuri System



Lake Levels - Total storage for the Manapōuri System decreased 5.4% to 435 GWh with Lake Manapōuri ending the week 90.8% nominally full and Lake Te Anau ending the week 104.3% nominally full.

Inflows - Total inflows into the Manapōuri System decreased 0.6% to 156 GWh.

Generation - Average generation was 0% higher at 744 MW.

Hydro Spill - Estimated spill at the Māraroa Weir was 232 cumecs.

Operating Range - Lake Manapōuri is operating in the upper end of its 'Main operating range' while Lake Te Anau is operating in the lower end of its 'High operating range'.