

# HydroWatch

Thursday, 26 February 2026

Issue: 1506

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)	2,743	311	3,055	526	3,581
Storage Change (GWh)	-42	-26	-69	-10	-78

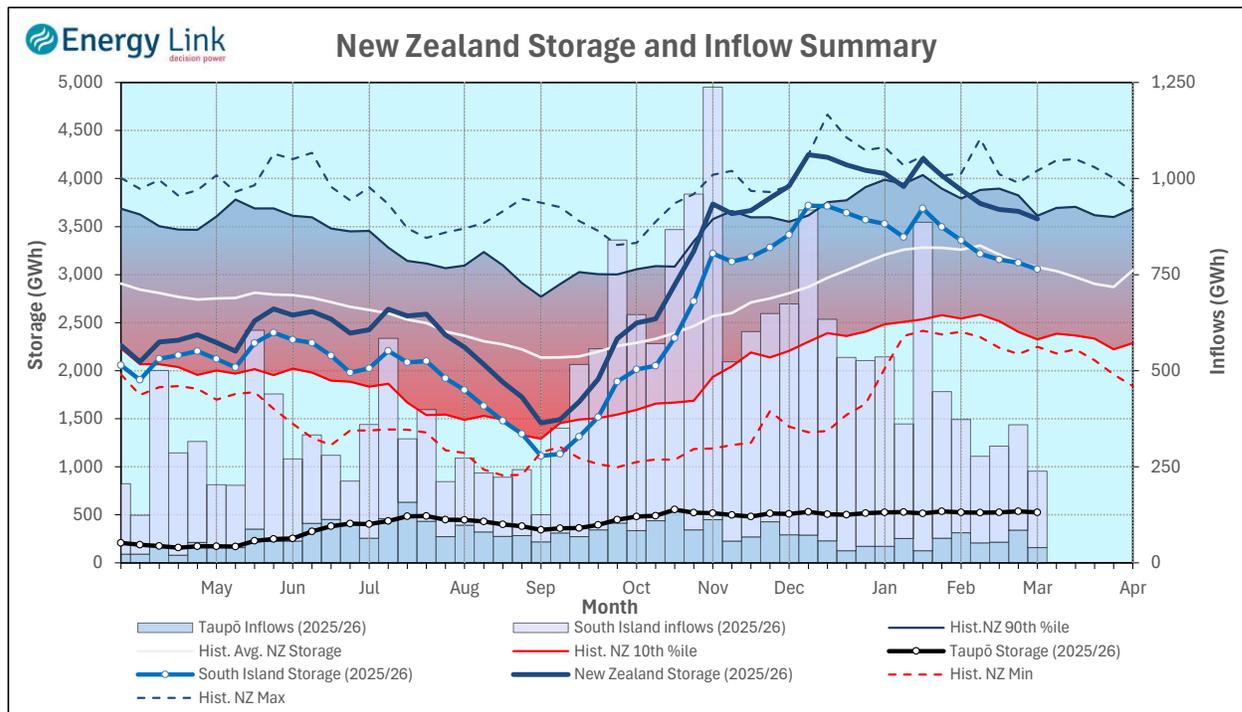
Note: SI Controlled; Takapō, Pūkaki and Hāwea: SI Uncontrolled; Manapōuri, Te Anau, Wānaka, Wakatipu

Transpower Security of Supply	South Island	North Island	New Zealand
Current Storage (GWh)	2,985	526	3,511

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 79 GWh over the last week. South Island controlled storage decreased 1.5% to 2,743 GWh; South Island uncontrolled storage decreased 8% to 311 GWh; with Taupō storage decreasing 1.8% to 526 GWh.



Thursday, 26 February 2026					
Storage (GWh)	Manapōuri	Clutha	Waitaki	Waikato	NZ
<b>This Week</b>	242	352	2,461	526	3,581
Last Week	255	364	2,504	536	3,659
% Change	-5.3%	-3.3%	-1.7%	-1.8%	-2.1%
Inflow (GWh)	Manapōuri	Clutha	Waitaki	Waikato	NZ
<b>This Week</b>	68	32	99	39	238
Last Week	58	51	165	85	360
% Change	16.7%	-36.3%	-40.4%	-53.9%	-33.8%

Subscribe at [www.energylink.co.nz/publications](http://www.energylink.co.nz/publications)

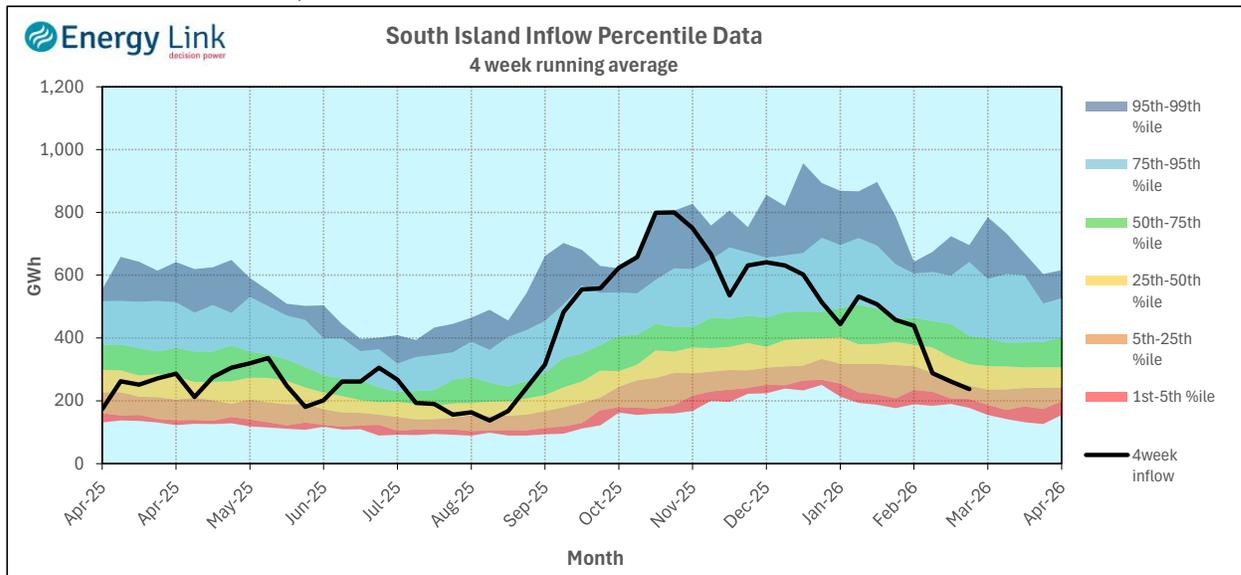
Lake Levels and Outflows

Catchment	Lake	Level (m. asl)	Storage (GWh)	Outflow (cumecs)	Outflow Change
Manapōuri	Manapōuri	177.32	86	21	-1
	Te Anau	201.90	156		
Clutha	Wakatipu	309.69	33	133	-18
	Wānaka	276.81	36	136	-19
	Hāwea	345.67	283	16	-22
Waitaki	Takapō	708.91	682		
	Pūkaki	532.00	1,779		
Waikato	Taupō	357.14	526		

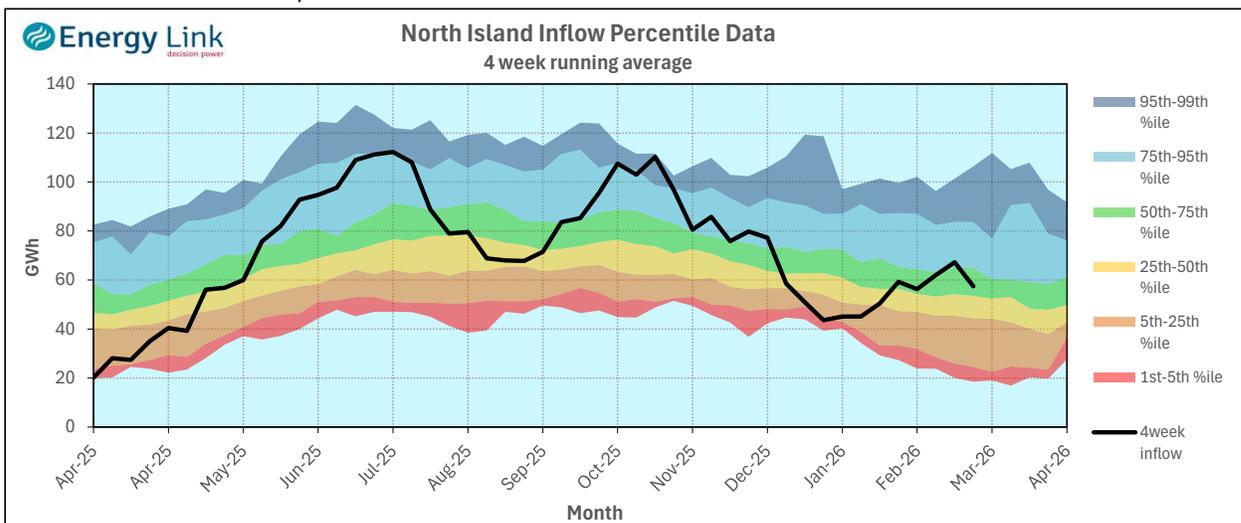
Inflow Summary

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.

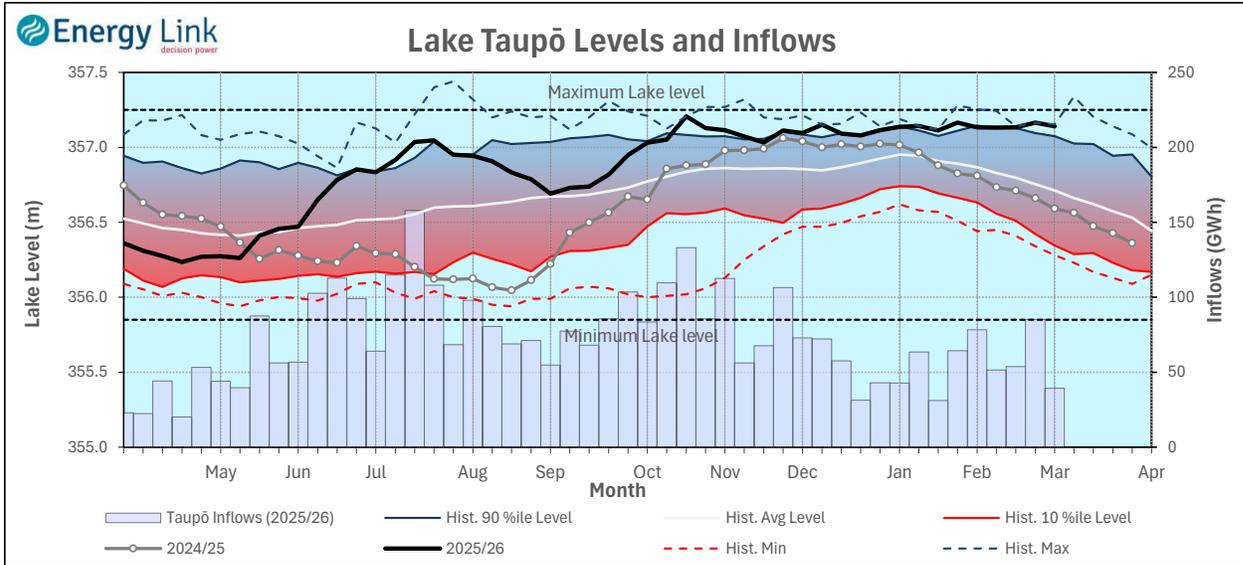
**South Island Inflows** - The past four weeks of S. I. inflows rank as the 18th driest on record.



**North Island Inflows** - The past four weeks of N. I. inflows rank as the 39th wettest on record.



### Waikato System

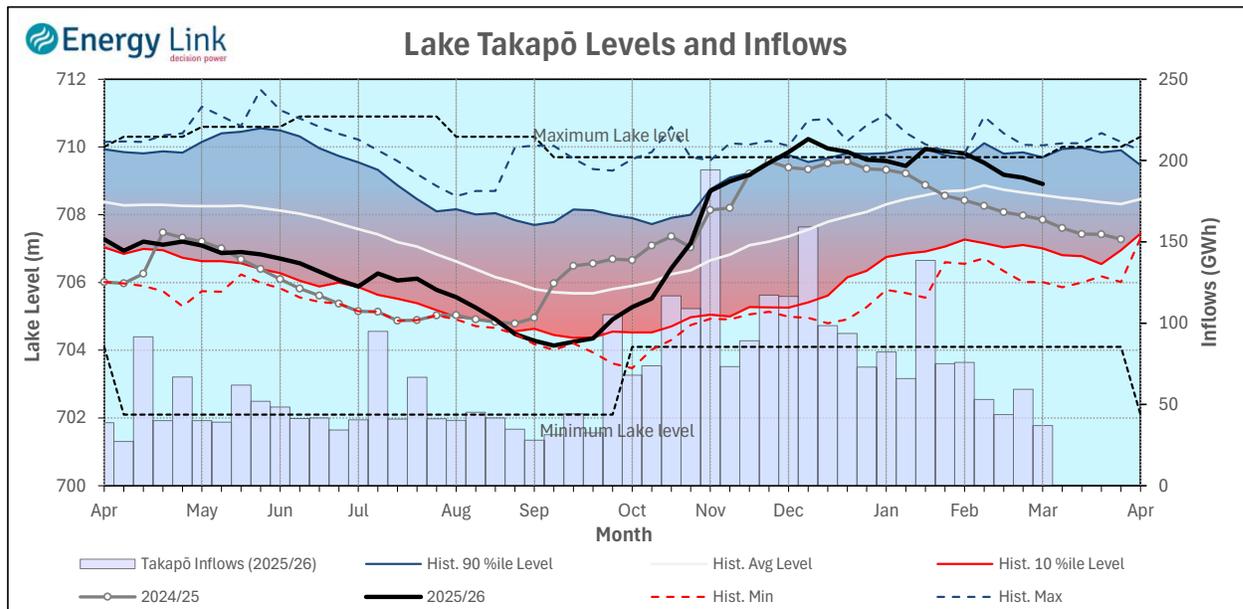


**Lake Levels** - Lake Taupō storage fell to 92.2% of nominal full at 526 GWh.

**Inflows** - Inflows decreased 53.9% to 39 GWh.

**Generation** - Average generation decreased 20.4% to 378 MW.

### Takapō



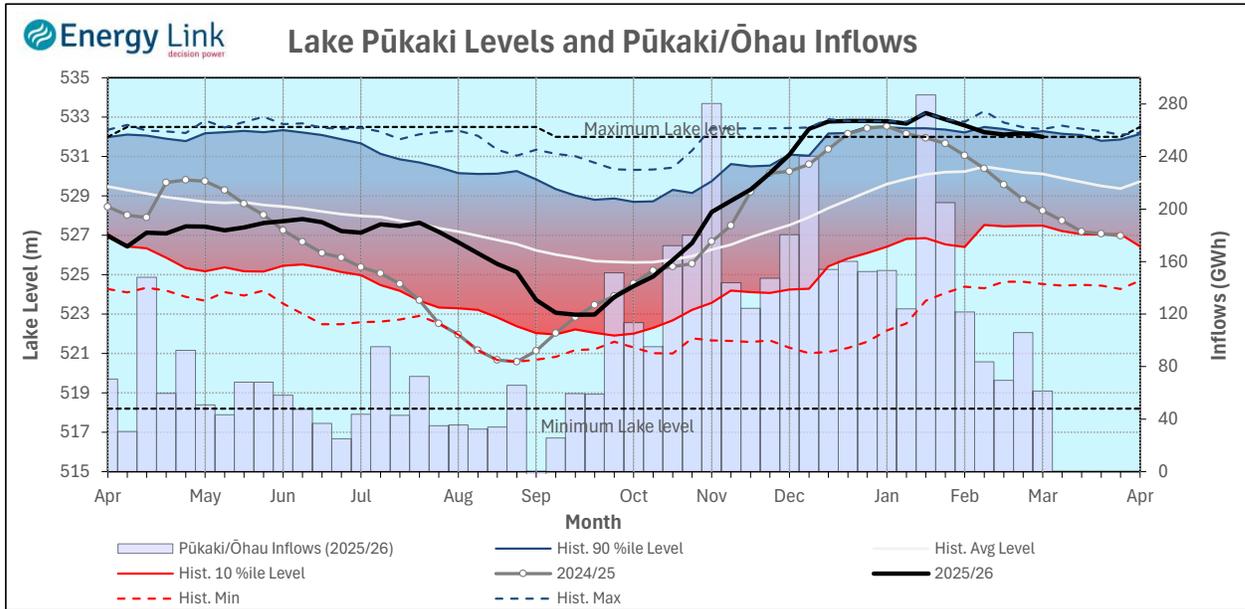
**Lake Levels** - Lake Takapō ended the week 94% nominally full with storage falling to 682 GWh.

**Inflows** - Inflows into Takapō decreased 37.6% to 37 GWh.

**Generation** - Average Takapō generation decreased 16.7% to 122.6 MW.

**Hydro Spill** - Lake Takapō did not spill.

### Waitaki System



**Lake Levels** - Lake Pūkaki ended the week 100% nominally full with storage falling to 1,779 GWh.

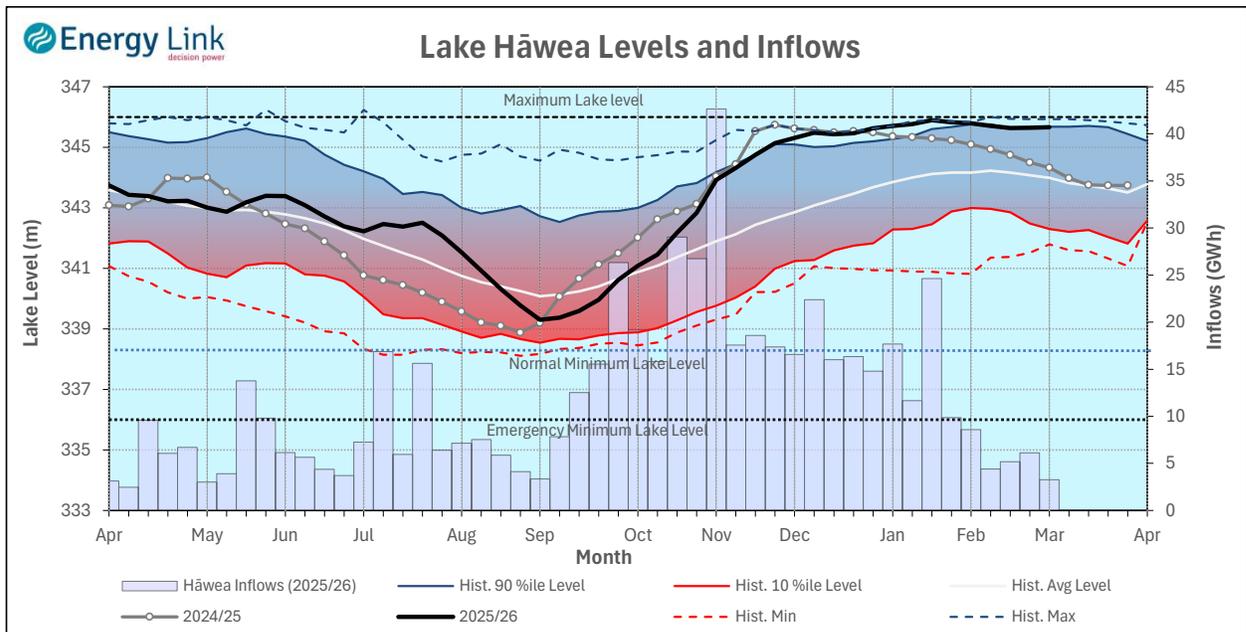
**Inflows** - Inflows into the Waitaki System decreased 42% to 62 GWh.

**Generation** - Average Waitaki generation decreased 11% to 813 MW.

**Hydro Spill** - Lake Pūkaki did not spill.

**River Flows** - Flows from the Ahuriri River fell to 15.4 cumecs while Waitaki River flows were lower than last week averaging 334.4 cumecs.

### Clutha System



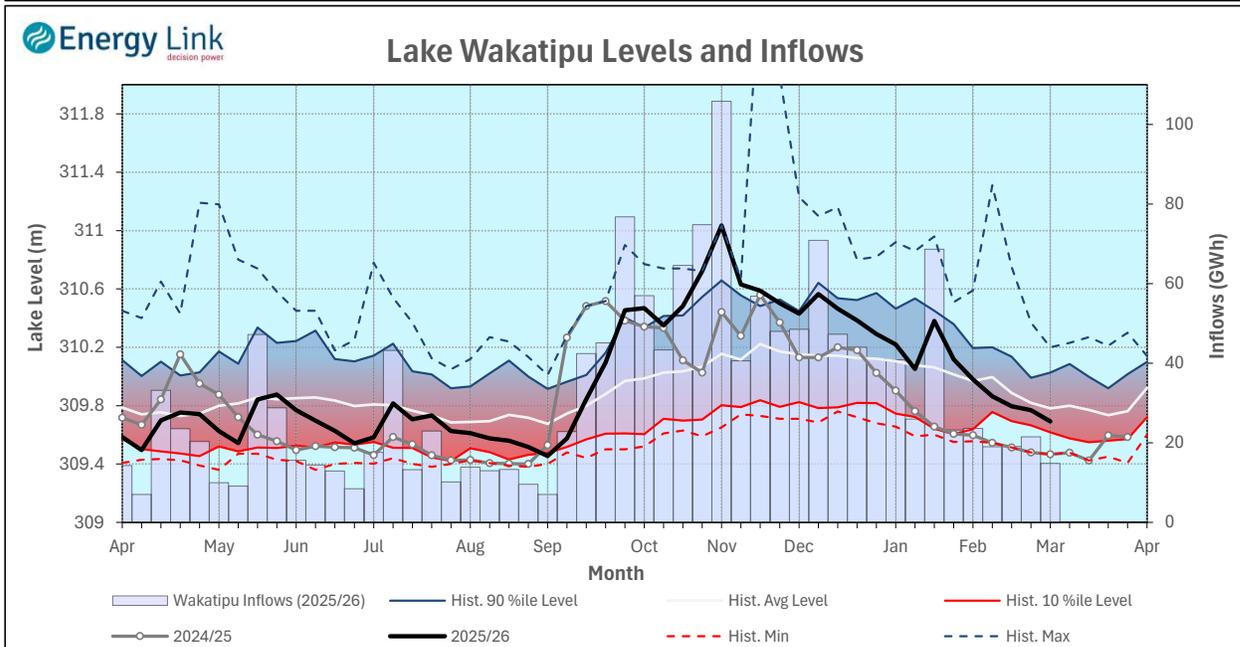
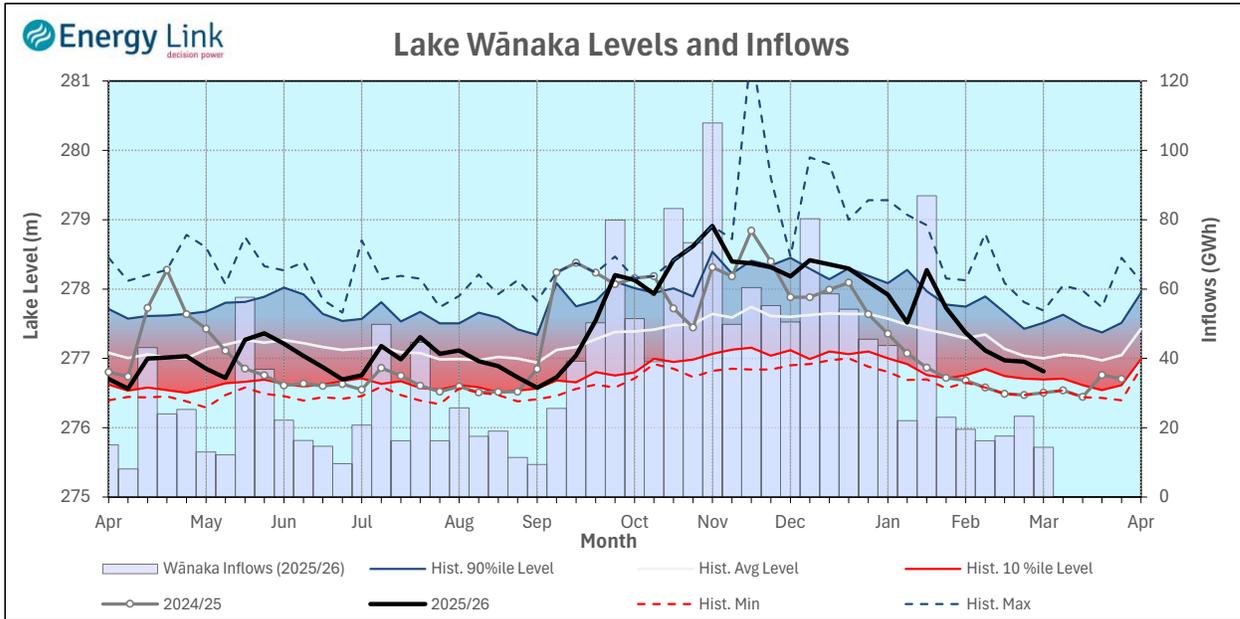
**Lake Levels** - Total storage for the Clutha System decreased 3.3% to 352 GWh. Lakes Hāwea, Wānaka and Wakatipu ended the week 95.7%, 31.7% and 31.6% nominally full respectively.

**Inflows** - Total Inflows into the Clutha System 36.3% lower at 32 GWh.

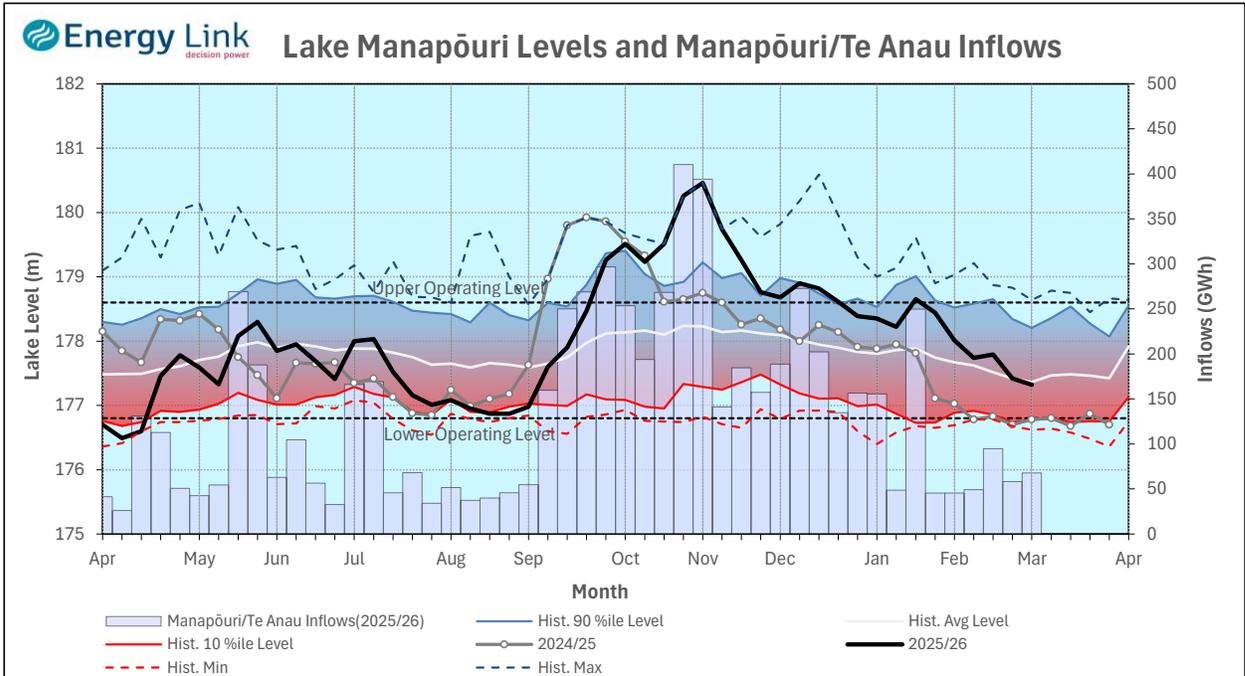
**Generation** - Average generation was 21.9% lower at 271 MW.

**Hydro Spill** - There was no estimated spill

**River Flows** - Total outflows from the lakes and Shotover River fell to 319.6 cumecs. This comprised of 16 cumecs from Lake Hāwea, 136 cumecs from Lake Wānaka, 133 cumecs from Lake Wakatipu and 35 cumecs from the Shotover River.



### Manapōuri System



**Lake Levels** - Total storage for the Manapōuri System decreased 5.3% to 242 GWh with Lake Manapōuri ending the week 53% nominally full and Lake Te Anau ending the week 56.5% nominally full.

**Inflows** - Total inflows into the Manapōuri System increased 16.7% to 68 GWh.

**Generation** - Average generation was 5.6% lower at 484 MW.

**Hydro Spill** - Estimated spill at the Māraoroa Weir was 21.2 cumecs.

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

