

HydroWatch

Thursday, 21 May 2026

Issue: 1518

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)	2,493	262	2,755	436	3,191
Storage Change (GWh)	-97	-85	-183	-53	-236

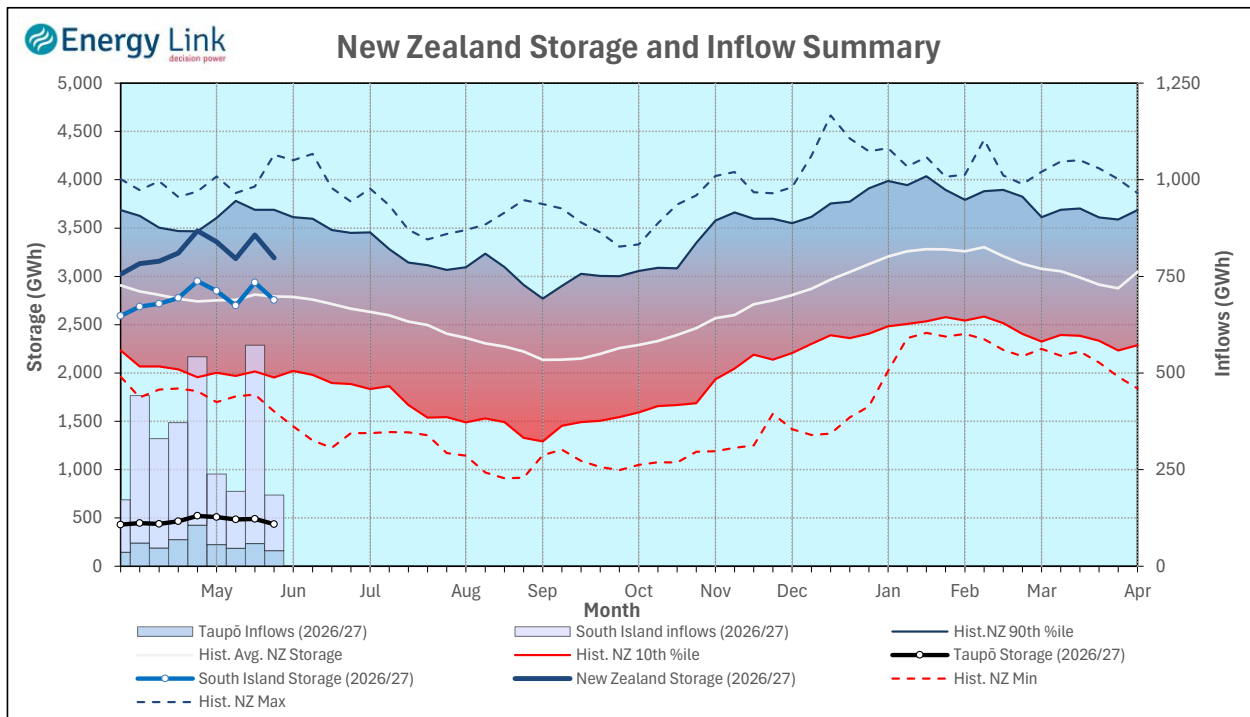
Note: SI Controlled; Takapō, Pūkaki and Hāwea: SI Uncontrolled; Manapōuri, Te Anau, Wānaka, Wakatipu

Transpower Security of Supply	South Island	North Island	New Zealand
Current Storage (GWh)	2,669	436	3,105

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 236 GWh over the last week. South Island controlled storage decreased 3.8% to 2,493 GWh; South Island uncontrolled storage decreased 25% to 262 GWh; with Taupō storage decreasing 10.9% to 436 GWh.



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	Manapōuri	Clutha	Waitaki	Waikato	NZ
Storage (GWh)					
This Week	177	343	2,235	436	3,191
Last Week	235	386	2,316	489	3,427
% Change	-24.8%	-11.1%	-3.5%	-10.9%	-6.9%
Inflow (GWh)					
This Week	25	33	86	40	184
Last Week	85	124	304	58	572
% Change	-70.2%	-73.7%	-71.9%	-30.7%	-67.8%

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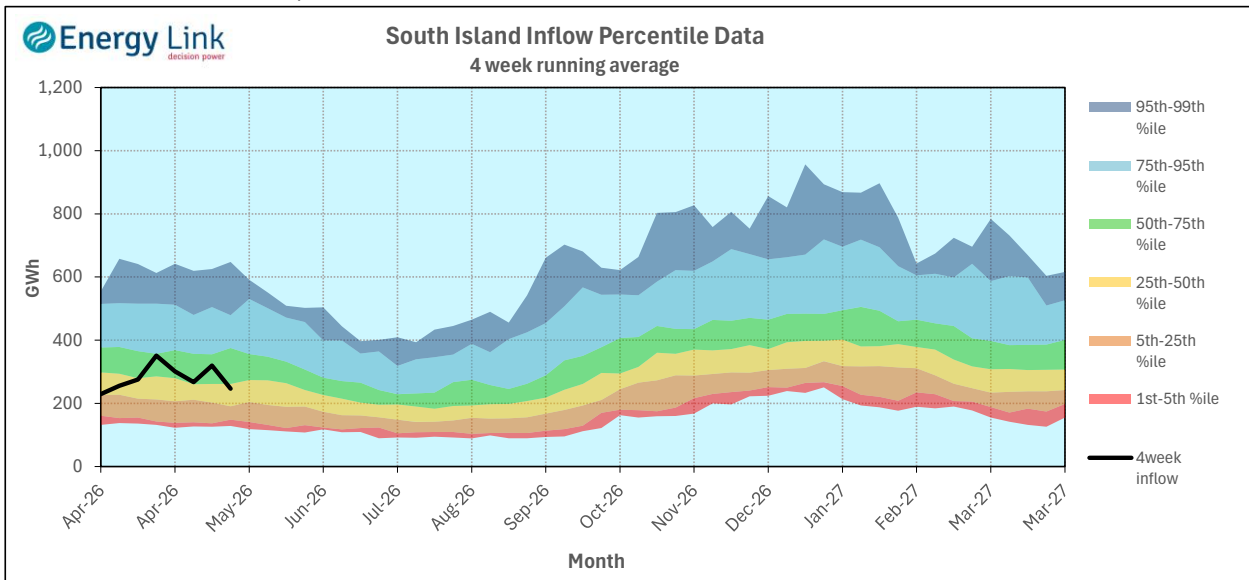
Lake Levels and Outflows

Catchment	Lake	Level (m. asl)	Storage (GWh)	Outflow (cumecs)	Outflow Change
Manapōuri	Manapōuri	176.65	46	21	
	Te Anau	201.73	130		
Clutha	Wakatipu	309.68	32	138	-22
	Wānaka	277.15	53	206	-24
	Hāwea	345.01	258	141	103
Waitaki	Takapō	708.59	648		
	Pūkaki	530.60	1,587		
Waikato	Taupō	356.92	436		

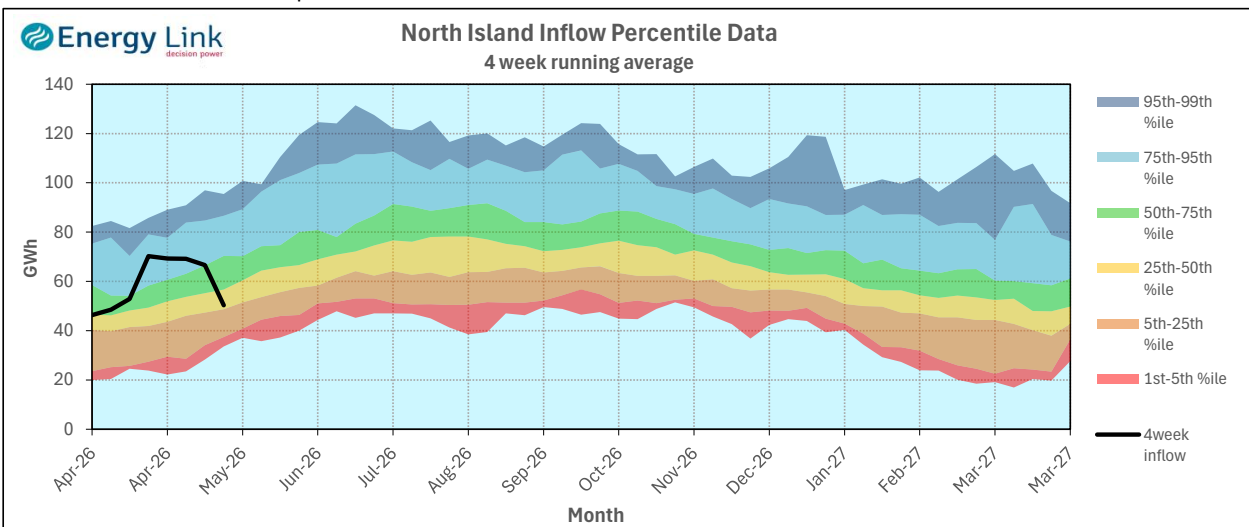
Inflow Summary

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.

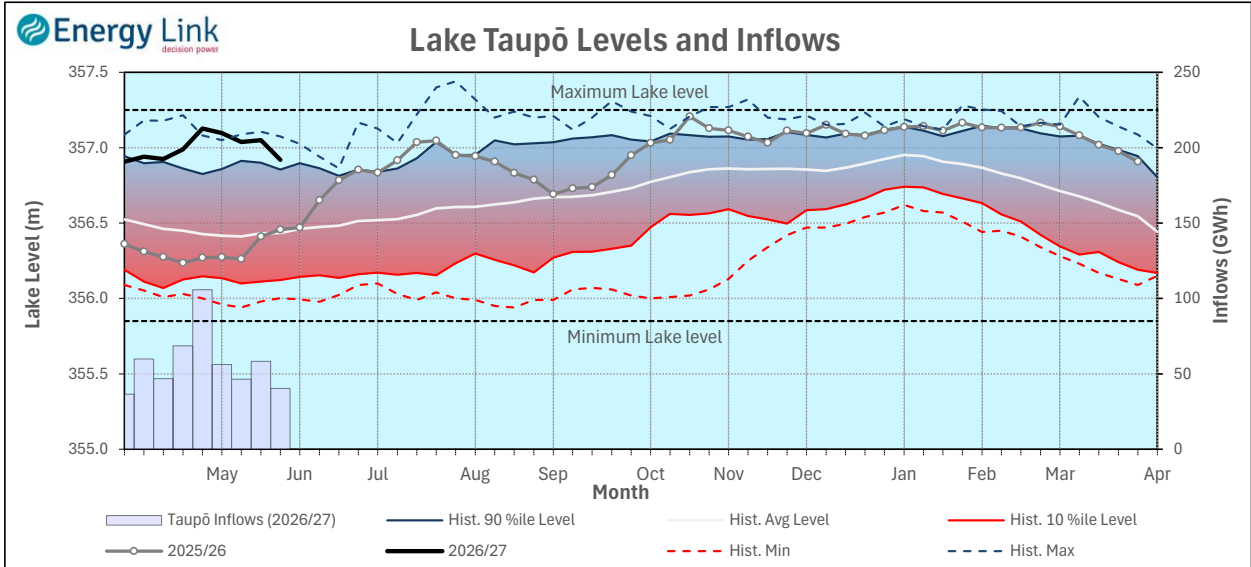
South Island Inflows - The past four weeks of S. I. inflows rank as the 38th driest on record.



North Island Inflows - The past four weeks of N. I. inflows rank as the 32nd driest on record.



Waikato System

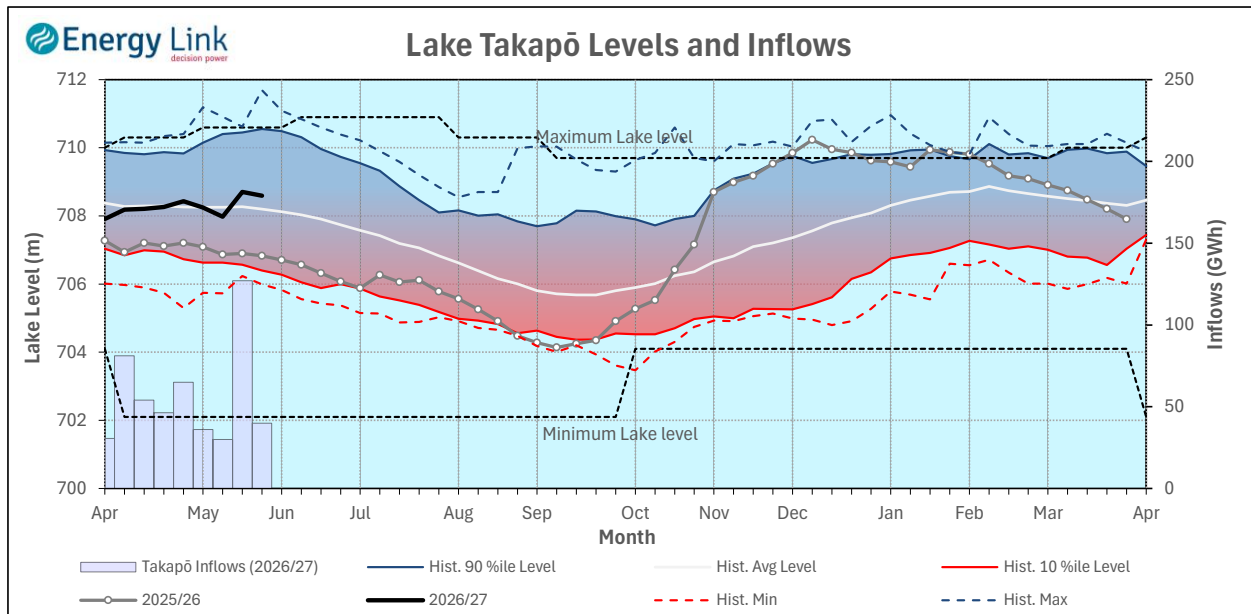


Lake Levels - Lake Taupō storage fell to 76.4% of nominal full at 436 GWh.

Inflows - Inflows decreased 30.7% to 40 GWh.

Generation - Average generation increased 53.4% to 575.5 MW.

Takapō



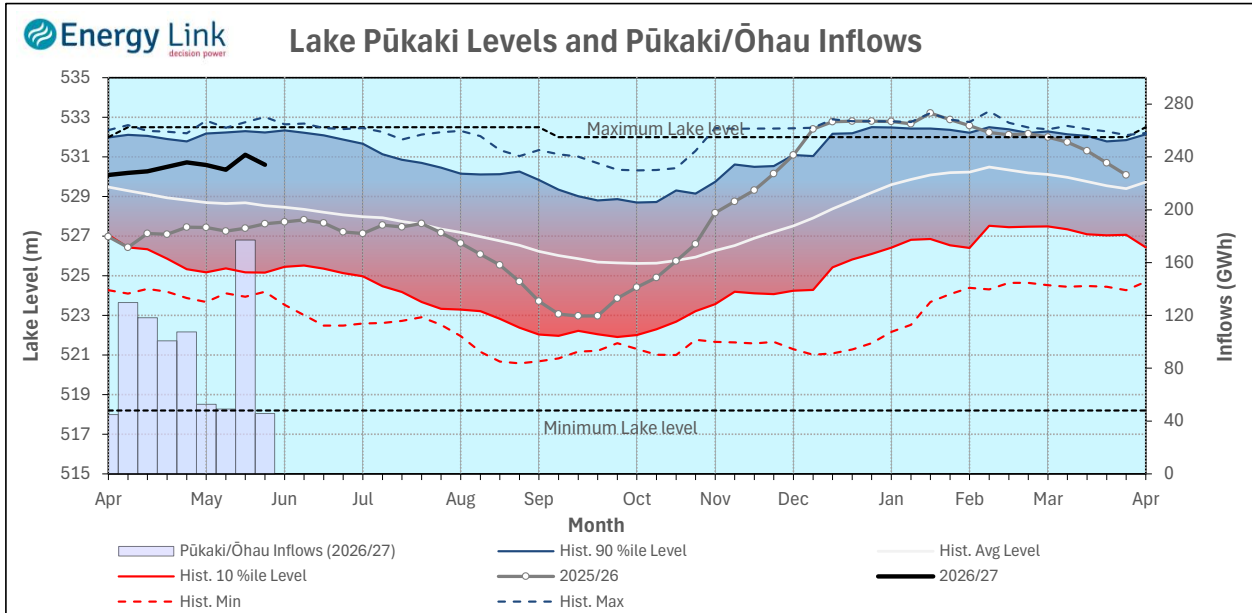
Lake Levels - Lake Takapō ended the week 79% nominally full with storage falling to 648 GWh.

Inflows - Inflows into Takapō decreased 68.6% to 40 GWh.

Generation - Average Takapō generation increased 6% to 111.5 MW.

Hydro Spill - Lake Takapō did not spill.

Waitaki System



Lake Levels - Lake Pūkaki ended the week 86% nominally full with storage falling to 1,587 GWh.

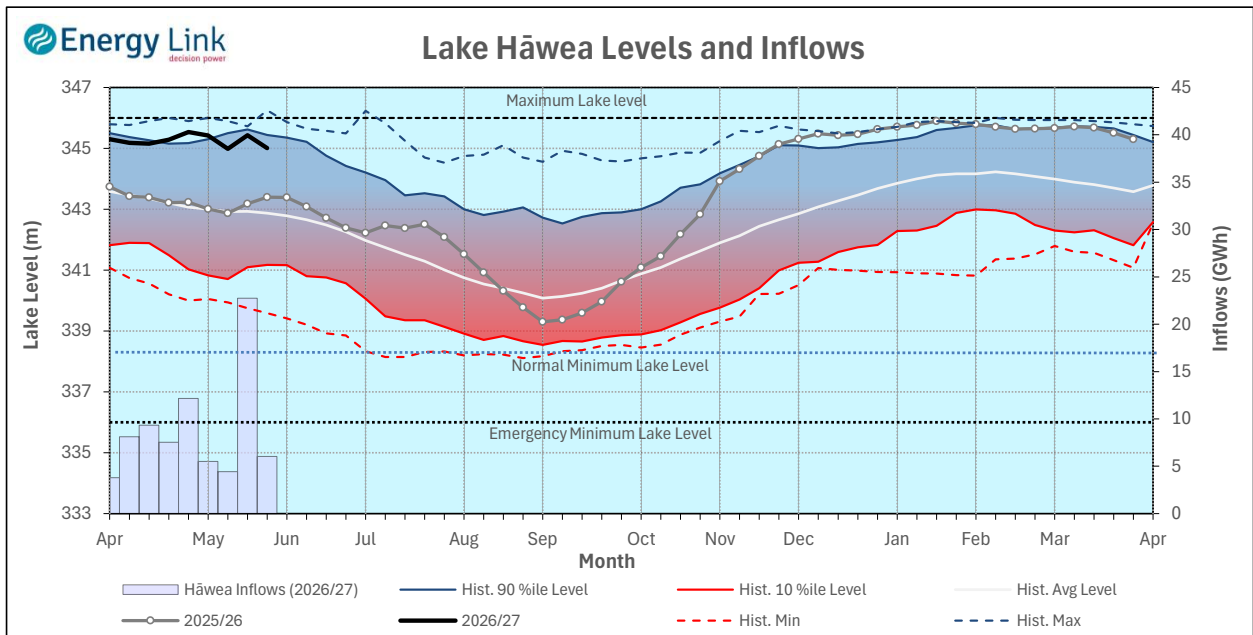
Inflows - Inflows into the Waitaki System decreased 74.2% to 46 GWh.

Generation - Average Waitaki generation increased 38.6% to 1,034 MW.

Hydro Spill - Lake Pūkaki did not spill.

River Flows - Flows from the Ahuriri River fell to 20.8 cumecs while Waitaki River flows were higher than last week averaging 416 cumecs.

Clutha System



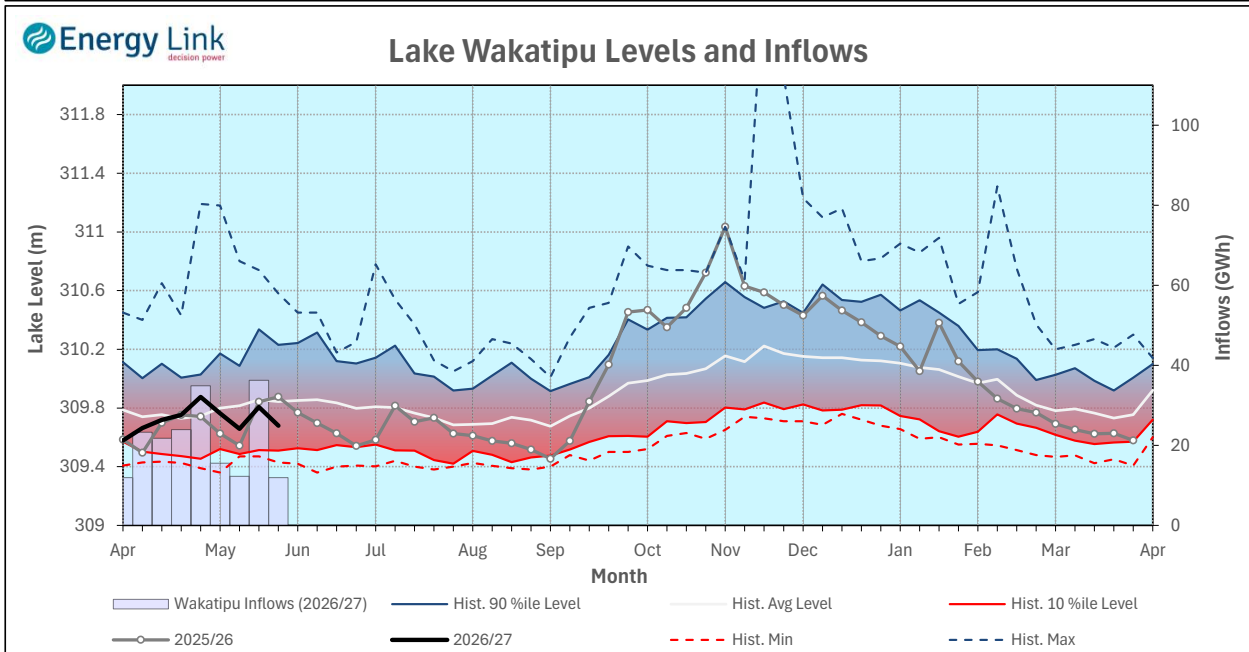
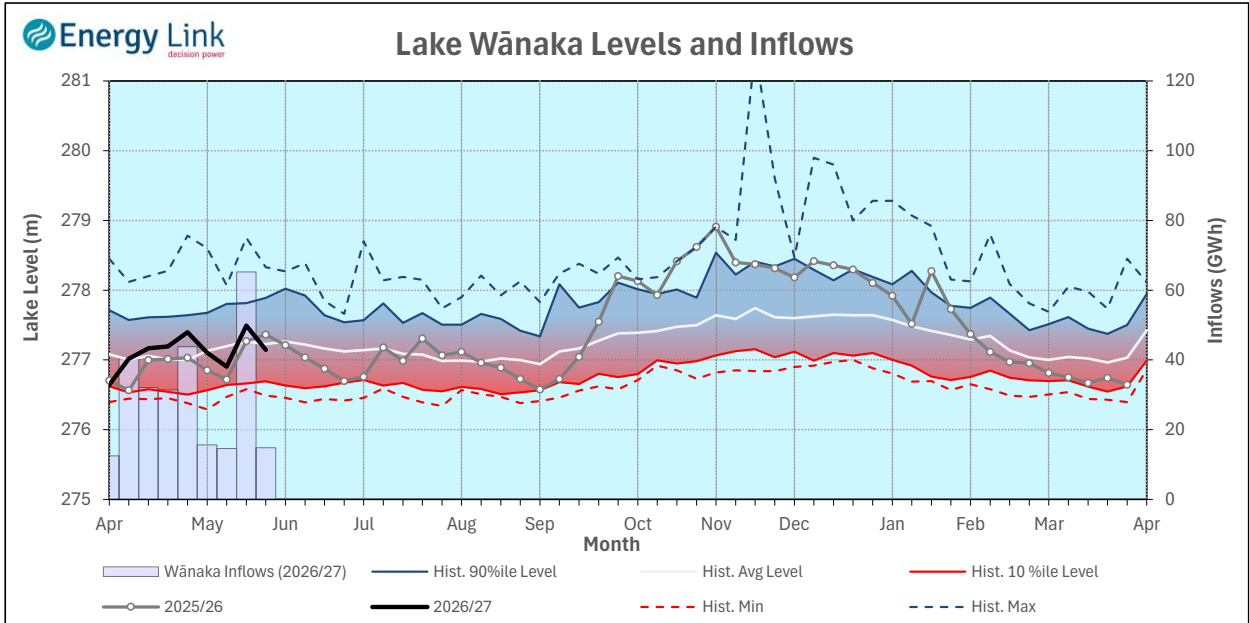
Lake Levels - Total storage for the Clutha System decreased 11.1% to 343 GWh. Lakes Hāwea, Wānaka and Wakatipu ended the week 87.3%, 46.2% and 30.7% nominally full respectively.

Inflows - Total Inflows into the Clutha System 73.7% lower at 33 GWh.

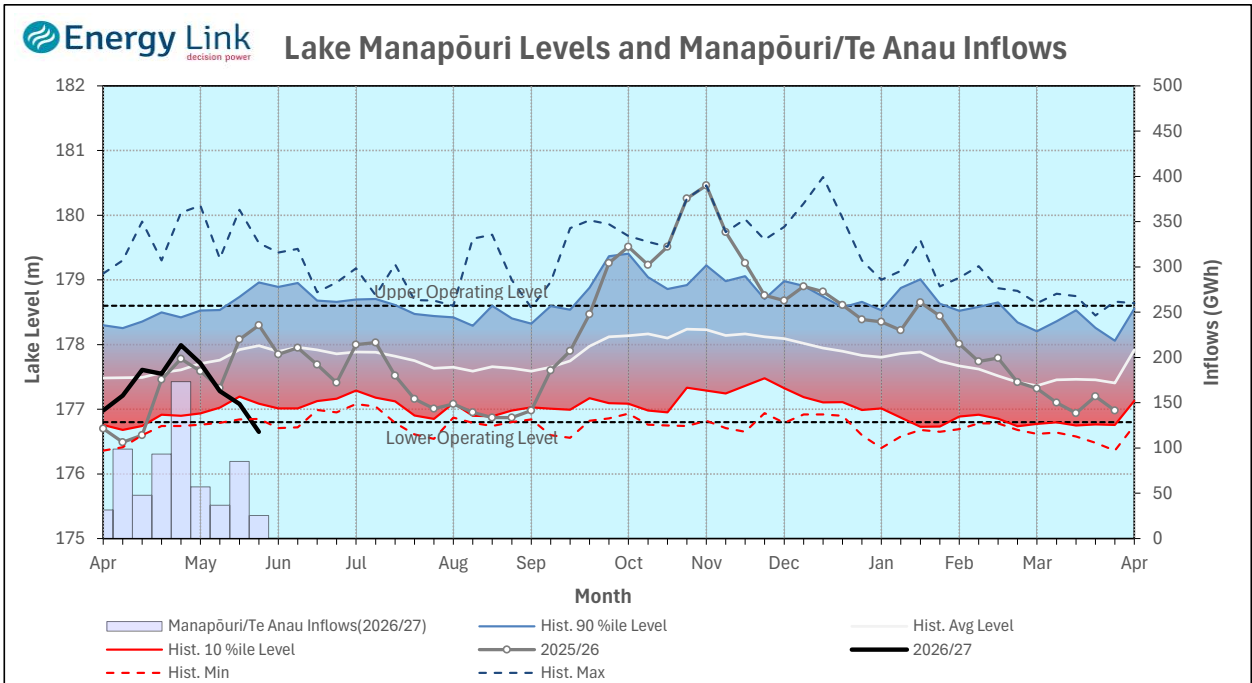
Generation - Average generation was 8.5% higher at 492 MW.

Hydro Spill - There was no estimated spill

River Flows - Total outflows from the lakes and Shotover River increased to 512.8 cumecs. This comprised of 141 cumecs from Lake Hāwea, 206 cumecs from Lake Wānaka, 138 cumecs from Lake Wakatipu and 28 cumecs from the Shotover River.



Manapōuri System



Lake Levels - Total storage for the Manapōuri System decreased 24.8% to 177 GWh with Lake Manapōuri ending the week 28.6% nominally full and Lake Te Anau ending the week 47.3% nominally full.

Inflows - Total inflows into the Manapōuri System decreased 70.2% to 25 GWh.

Generation - Average generation was 1.7% lower at 498 MW.

Hydro Spill - Estimated spill at the Māraroa Weir was 20.5 cumecs.

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

