HydroWatch

Thursday, 17 September 2026 **Issue: 1535**

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)	**2,338**	**675**	**3,013**	**281**		**3,294**
Storage Change (GWh)	-43	-93	-136	9		-128

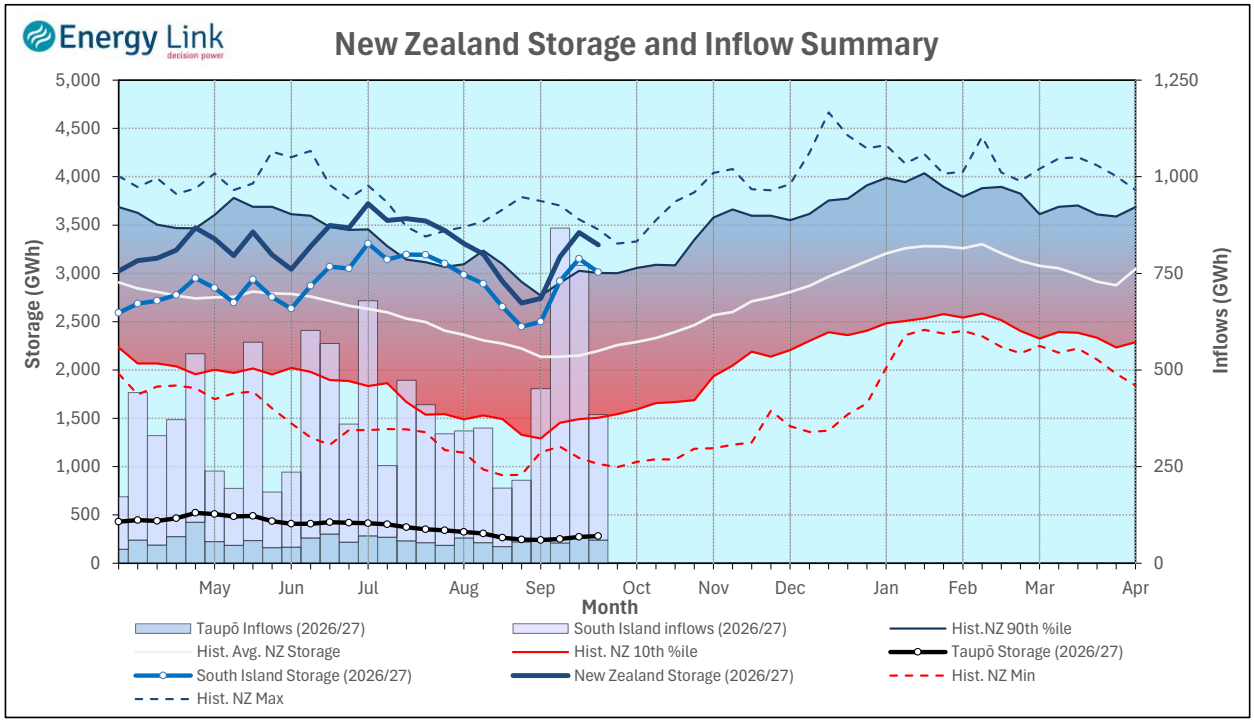
Note: SI Controlled; Takapō, Pūkaki and Hāwea: SI Uncontrolled; Manapōuri, Te Anau, Wānaka, Wakatipu

Transpower Security of Supply	South Island	North Island	New Zealand
Current Storage (GWh)	**2,860**	**281**	**3,141**

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 128 GWh over the last week. South Island controlled storage decreased 1.8% to 2,338 GWh; South Island uncontrolled storage decreased 12% to 675 GWh; with Taupō storage increasing 3.1% to 281 GWh.



Thursday, 17 September 2026						
Storage (GWh)	Manapōuri	Clutha	Waitaki	Waikato		NZ
This Week	**522**	**305**	**2,186**	**281**		**3,294**
Last Week	575	359	2,216	272		3,422
% Change	-9.2%	-14.9%	-1.4%	3.1%		-3.7%
Inflow (GWh)						
This Week	**149**	**65**	**110**	**60**		**384**
Last Week	290	161	251	69		771
% Change	-48.7%	-59.9%	-56.0%	-12.4%		-50.2%

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Lake Levels and Outflows

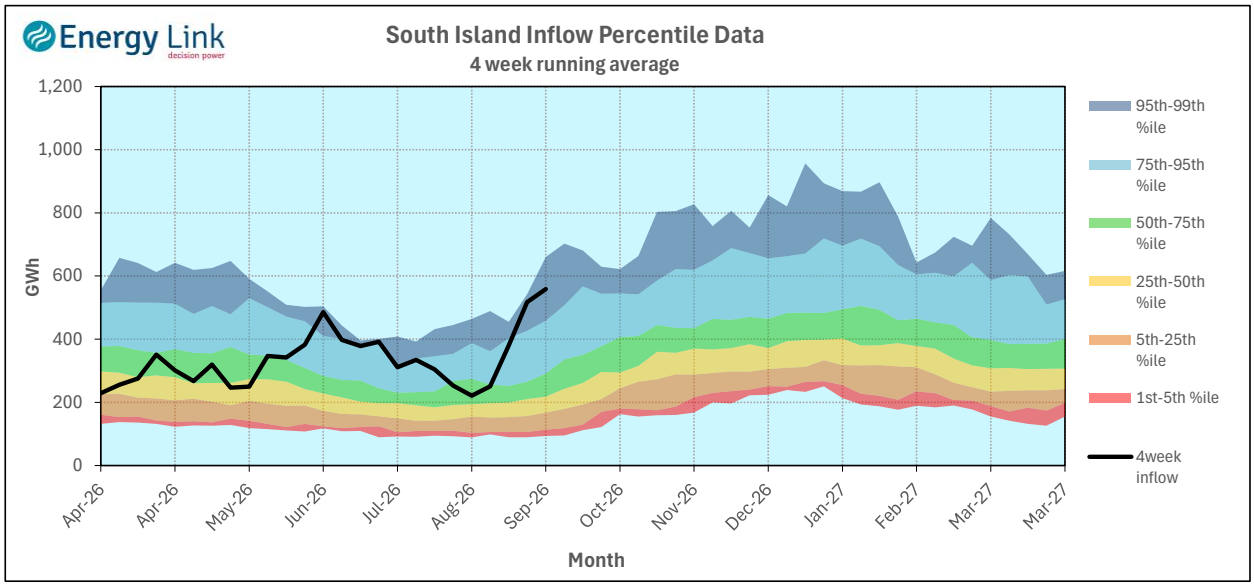
Catchment	Lake	Level (m. asl)	Storage (GWh)	Outflow (cumecs)
Manapōuri	Manapōuri	179.03	188	312
	Te Anau	203.09	334	
Clutha	Wakatipu	310.12	65	281
	Wānaka	277.85	88	316
	Hāwea	342.18	152	161
Waitaki	Takapō	707.55	536	
	Pūkaki	531.06	1,650	
Waikato	Taupō	356.54	281	

Outflow Change
-16
-53
-76
59

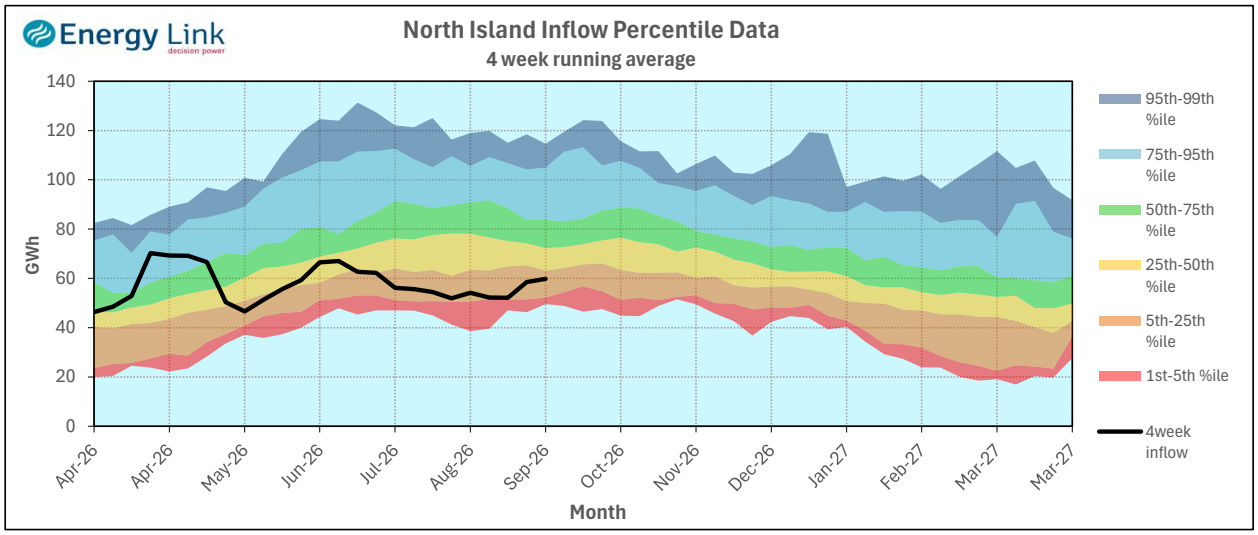
Inflow Summary

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.

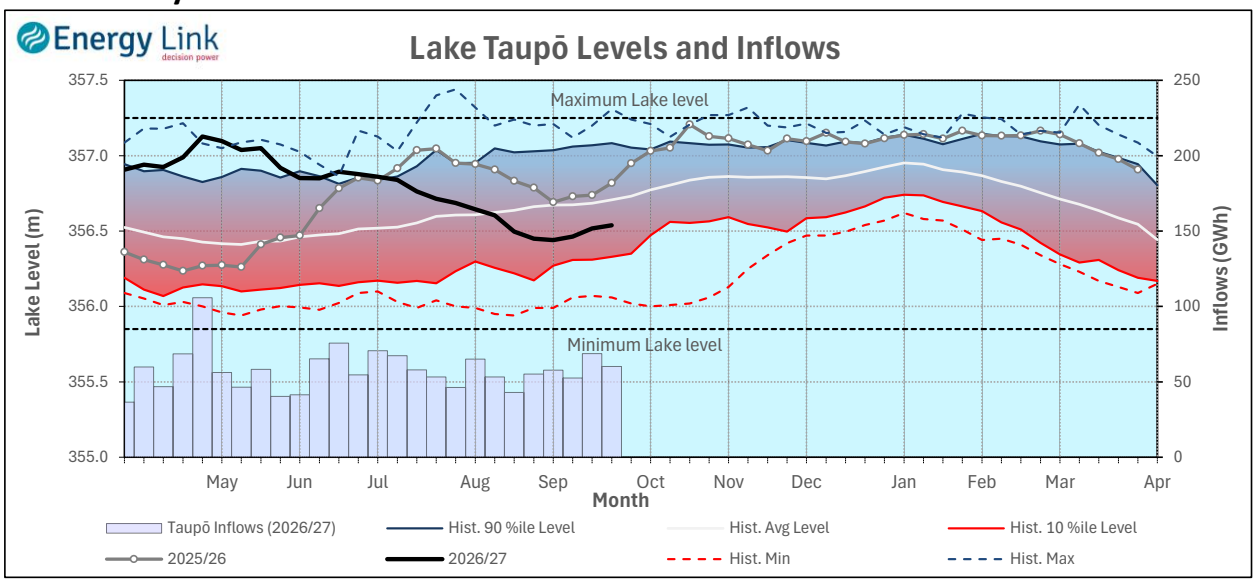
South Island Inflows - The past four weeks of S. I. inflows rank as the 4th wettest on record.



North Island Inflows - The past four weeks of N. I. inflows rank as the 16th driest on record.



Waikato System

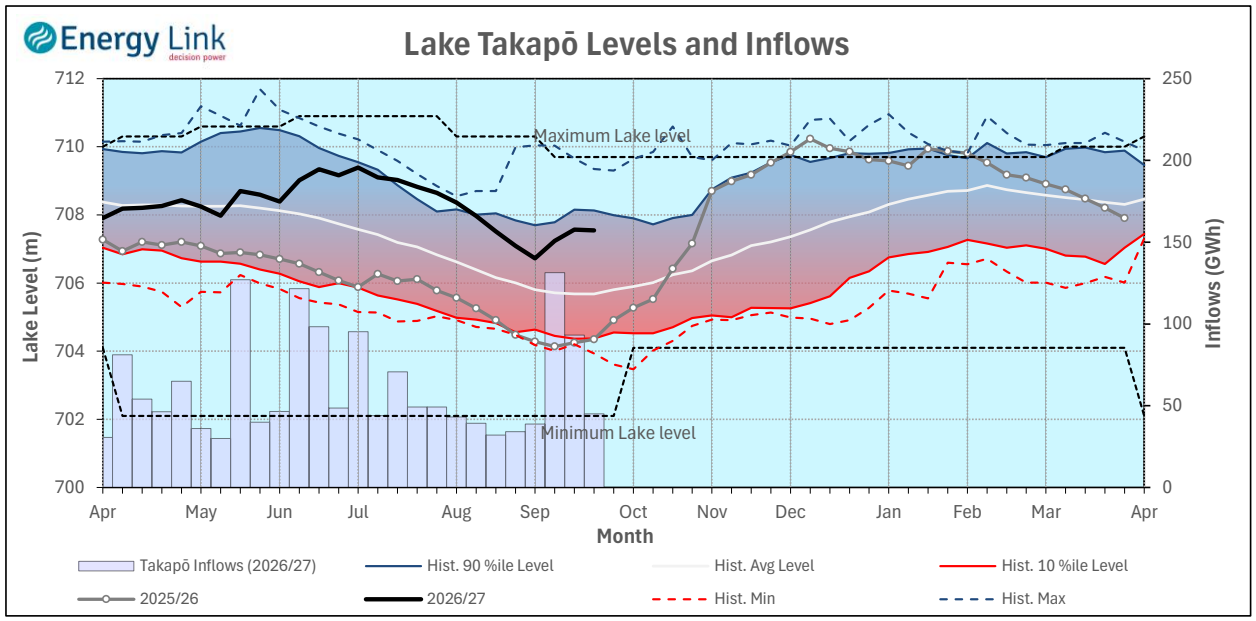


Lake Levels - Lake Taupō storage increased to 49.2% of nominal full at 281 GWh.

Inflows - Inflows decreased 12.4% to 60 GWh.

Generation - Average generation increased 7.6% to 332.3 MW.

Takapō



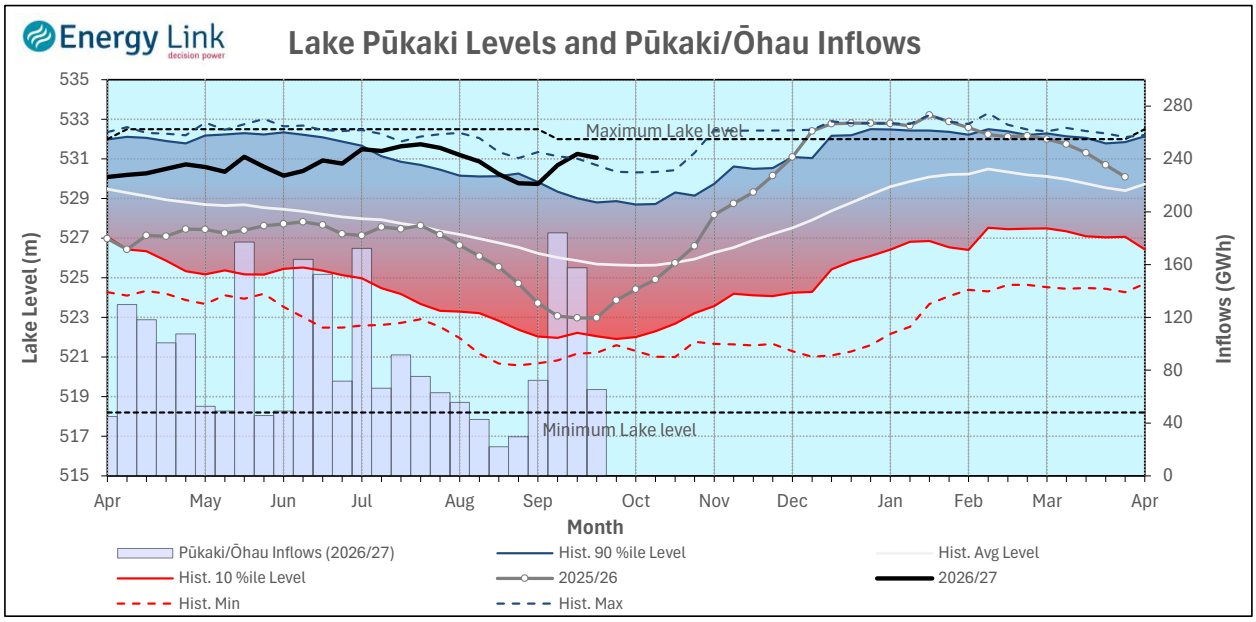
Lake Levels - Lake Takapō ended the week 74% nominally full with storage falling to 536 GWh.

Inflows - Inflows into Takapō decreased 51.7% to 45 GWh.

Generation - Average Takapō generation decreased 16.4% to 97.3 MW.

Hydro Spill - Lake Takapō did not spill.

Waitaki System



Lake Levels - Lake Pūkaki ended the week 93% nominally full with storage falling to 1,650 GWh.

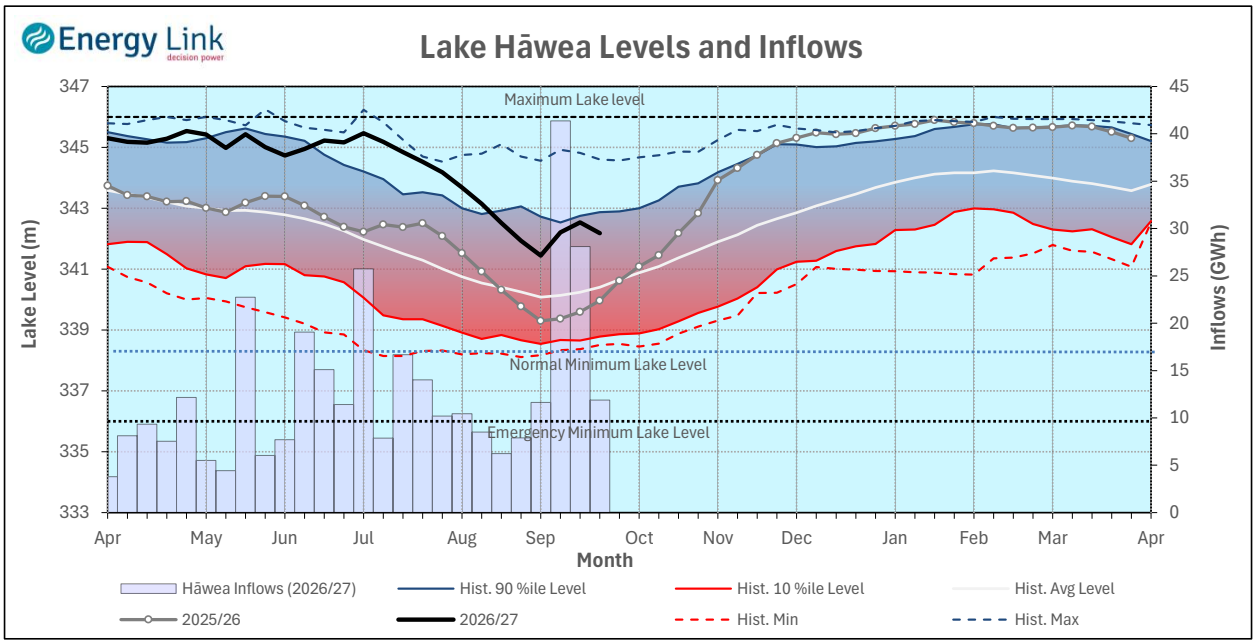
Inflows - Inflows into the Waitaki System decreased 58.5% to 65 GWh.

Generation - Average Waitaki generation decreased 1% to 919 MW.

Hydro Spill - Lake Pūkaki did not spill.

River Flows - Flows from the Ahuriri River fell to 45.7 cumecs while Waitaki River flows were lower than last week averaging 422.2 cumecs.

Clutha System



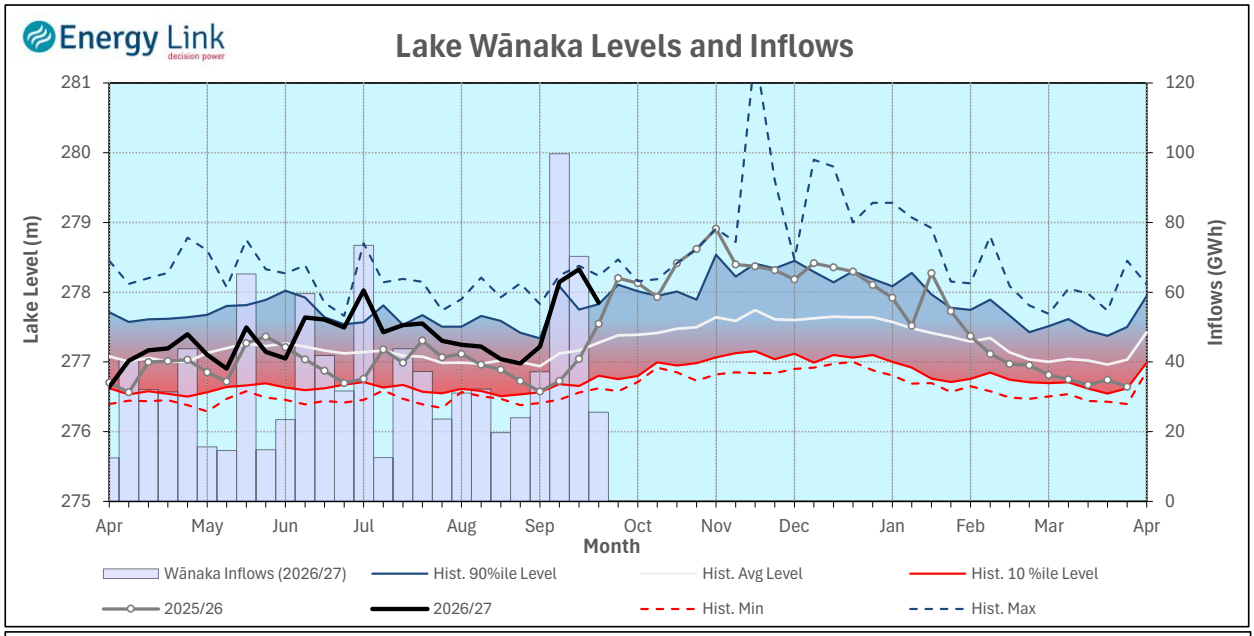
Lake Levels - Total storage for the Clutha System decreased 14.9% to 305 GWh. Lakes Hāwea, Wānaka and Wakatipu ended the week 51.4%, 76.9% and 61.9% nominally full respectively.

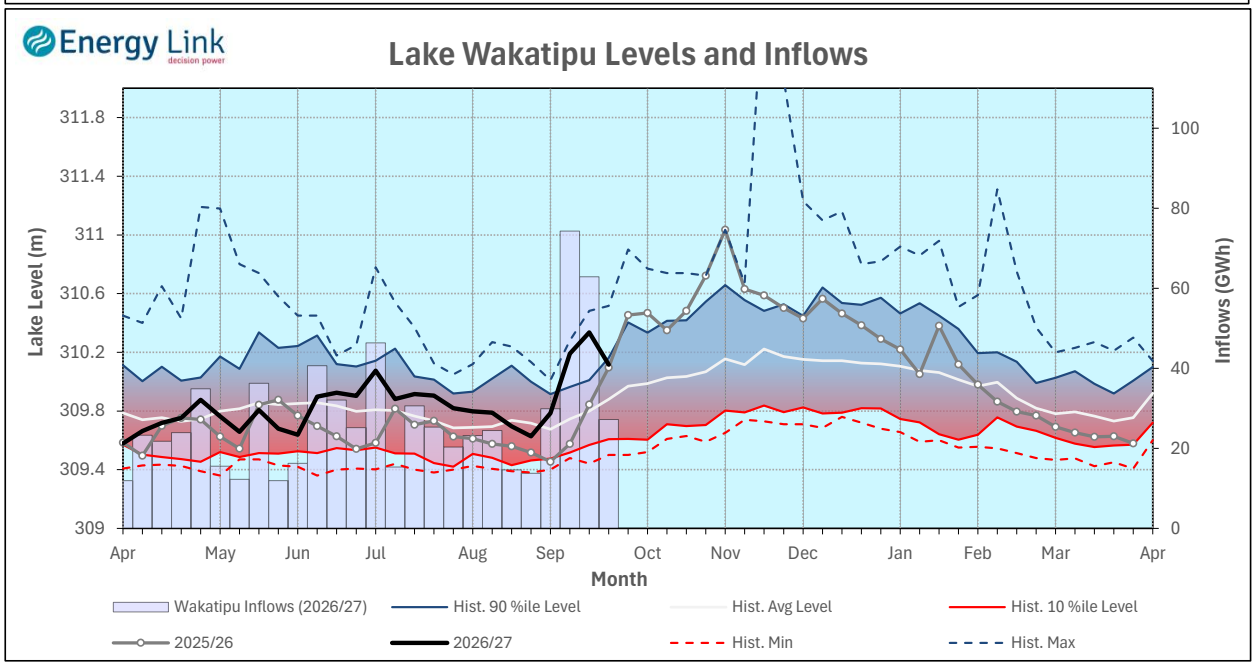
Inflows - Total Inflows into the Clutha System 59.9% lower at 65 GWh.

Generation - Average generation was 32.5% higher at 525 MW.

Hydro Spill - Estimate Spill is 245.8 cumecs.

River Flows - Total outflows from the lakes and Shotover River fell to 820.6 cumecs. This comprised of 161 cumecs from Lake Hāwea, 316 cumecs from Lake Wānaka, 281 cumecs from Lake Wakatipu and 62 cumecs from the Shotover River.





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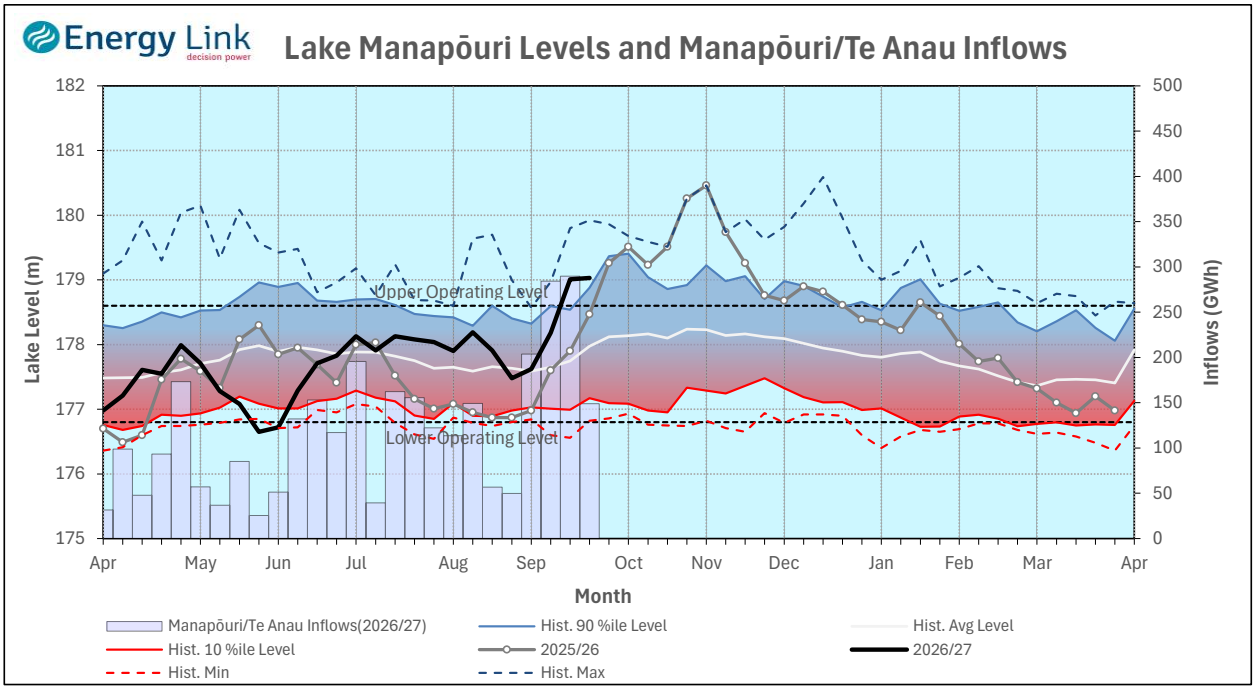
Manapōuri System



Lake Levels - Total storage for the Manapōuri System decreased 9.2% to 522 GWh with Lake Manapōuri ending the week 115.9% nominally full and Lake Te Anau ending the week 121.2% nominally full.

Inflows - Total inflows into the Manapōuri System decreased 48.7% to 149 GWh.

Generation - Average generation was 1.2% lower at 740 MW.

Hydro Spill - Estimated spill at the Māraroa Weir was 312 cumecs.

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