

New Zealand Wildfire Summary

2024/25 Wildfire Season Update



**Bioeconomy
Science Institute™**
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Cover photo: Tiwai Point fire, January 2025.

Summary

The 2024/2025 wildfire year was more significant in terms of both the number of wildfires and total area burnt compared to the previous two years (2023/2024 and 2022/2023).

- Districts that experienced an increase in both number of wildfires and area burnt compared to the previous year include: Northland, Counties Manukau, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Manawatū-Whanganui, West Coast (A1).
- Districts that experienced an increase in number of wildfires and a decrease in area burnt compared to the previous year include: Waitematā, Tairāwhiti, Hawke's Bay (A1).
- Districts that experienced an increase in number of wildfires and no change in area burnt compared to the previous year include: Auckland (A1).
- Districts that experienced a decrease in number of wildfires and an increase in area burnt compared to the previous year include: Otago (A1).
- Districts that experienced a decrease in both number of wildfires and area burnt compared to the previous year include: Wellington, Nelson Marlborough, Canterbury, Mid-South Canterbury (A1).
- Districts that experienced no change in number of wildfires and an increase in area burnt compared to the previous year include: Southland (A1).
- The year was characterised by ENSO-neutral conditions. The resulting climate was highly variable across the country, with northern parts experiencing predominantly dry conditions while the far south was especially wet at times. Several extreme rainfall events occurred, with local state of emergency declarations in parts of Otago, Westland, Canterbury and Nelson-Tasman due to the impacts of flooding and landslips. A medium-scale adverse event classification was declared for Southland and the Clutha District in October due to exposure to frequent rain-bearing systems resulting in persistently wet conditions. Ex-Tropical Cyclone Tam also had widespread impacts across the northern North Island in April. Conversely, drought conditions were declared for Taranaki in February, followed by Northland, Waikato, Horizons and Tasman-Marlborough regions in March. (Figure 1)
- Significant wildfires in terms of the area burnt were experienced in Otago (September), Waikato (October), Canterbury (December) and Southland (January).

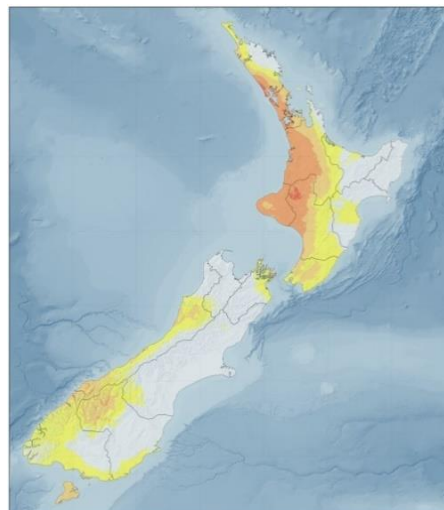


Figure 1. NIWA's New Zealand Drought Index (NZDI) map for 2025-03-03, which highlights locations experiencing drought or dry conditions during the height of the wildfire season. Dark red indicates severe drought conditions; light red indicates drought; orange indicates extremely dry to very dry conditions; yellow indicates dry conditions.

Introduction

This report summarises wildfires in New Zealand for the 2024/2025 year. It includes an evaluation of climatic conditions and incident statistics over an annular timeframe from 1st of July 2024 to 30th of June 2025. The document provides a summary of 2024/2025 and a comparison to the previous year (2023/2024) in terms of overall conditions and incidents notified. The intent of this report is to aid in discussions in each district around operational reduction and readiness measures, and to inform opportunities for continual improvement.

Methods

This report summarises wildfire and climatology trends which are presented nationally, by island (North versus South), and by Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) District. Updated FENZ District boundaries were brought into effect with the official stand-up of Tranche 2 of the Fire and Emergency Service Delivery structure on 27 September 2021. This resulted in several boundary and name changes for Districts around the country. At that time, 17 Districts¹ were created within five Regions to replace the previous 24 urban areas and 18 rural districts. Due to this update, differences in district names and values will be present for reports prior to the 2021/2022 report.

Trends in the number of wildfires, area burnt, and fire causes have been identified using data from two separate sources. Data from the former National Rural Fire Authority (NRFA) was used to cover the period from 1988/1989 through to the 2016/2017 fire season. Data from the 2017/2018 fire season through to this current report period have been collected from the FENZ fire incident reporting database. The NRFA data was obtained as summarised data and not as individual fire occurrence records. This provides historical data from the 1988/1989 fire year for number of fires, area burnt, and broad causation categories. Data related to locations specific to the North Island versus South Island is available from the 1991/1992 fire year. Data related to district is not available within the NRFA records and therefore these are only available from the 2017/2018 fire year. The length of record is noted in the respective graphics.

Manual adjustments were made to the 2024/2025 FENZ incident data following a validation process undertaken with all districts to identify 'significant fires', where a significant fire was deemed to be any fire with an area burnt of five hectares or more. Manual adjustments from previous annual report periods were carried forward from the past report.

The data were filtered to only include Vegetation Fires as identified in the incident type group. When duplicate records existed, these were filtered to only include the entry with the largest area. This dataset does not include vegetation fire non-responses or false alarms that required no action.

This report includes updated figures and data compared to the 2023/2024 wildfire summary report due to the completion of missing incident reports². Therefore, there may be differences if comparing the 2023/2024 report to this 2024/2025 summary.

New Zealand's fire weather and climatology data have been summarised from the NIWA Fire Weather System as well as from general NIWA climate updates. In the case of the fire weather and climatology database, the list of stations is updated for every annual New Zealand wildfire summary. Due to this, differences in general values (e.g. within summary tables in District appendices - Appendix 6 onwards) between this report and the previous annual update are expected.

This summary contains data within figures to compare both the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 years. This comparison between the two years helps identify patterns that are emerging at the district level, as well as to help determine if risk reduction initiatives are having an impact in terms of reducing the impact of fires. The annual wildfire summary is also intended to provide additional information to support the Monthly Fire Danger Outlooks in terms of analogue seasons for comparison of prevailing conditions.

Note that a simple comparison of incident trends from one reporting period to the next is insufficient on its own to determine performance with regards to risk reduction initiatives. It is also important to consider prevailing climatic conditions and significant weather events for any given year, as these have a marked influence on wildfire potential.

¹ Chatham Islands is included in the Wellington District, Stewart Island is included in the Southland District

² Aguilar-Arguello, S., Woods, D., & Gross, S. 2025. 2023/2024 New Zealand Wildfire Summary. Fire and Emergency New Zealand Publication.

Wildfire statistics

National number of wildfires and area burnt

The 2019/2020 and 1998/1999 years remain the worst on record for number (5994) and area burnt (17693 ha), respectively (Figure 2).

At a national scale, the total number of fires in 2024/2025 is above the 2023/2024 values, above the 5-year average, above the 10-year average, and above the historical (1988-2025) average (Figure 2).

The total area burnt in 2024/2025 is above the 2023/2024 total, below the 5-year average, below the 10-year average, and below the historical (1988-2025) average (Figure 2).

- There were 4877 fires and 5477 ha burnt between 1st of July 2024 and 30th of June 2025. This is compared to 4211 fires and 4166 ha burnt during the 2023/2024 fire year.
- The most significant fires based on fire size during the 2024/2025 wildfire season include: Tiwai Point (Southland), Island Block (Waikato), Balmoral (Otago), and Bridge Hill (Canterbury).
- The last 5-year average for total number of wildfires was 4110 and the average area burnt was 5957 ha.
- The last 10-year average for total number of wildfires was 4278 and the average area burnt was 5851 ha.
- The historical average (1988-2025) for total number of wildfires was 3454 and the average area burnt was 5644 ha.

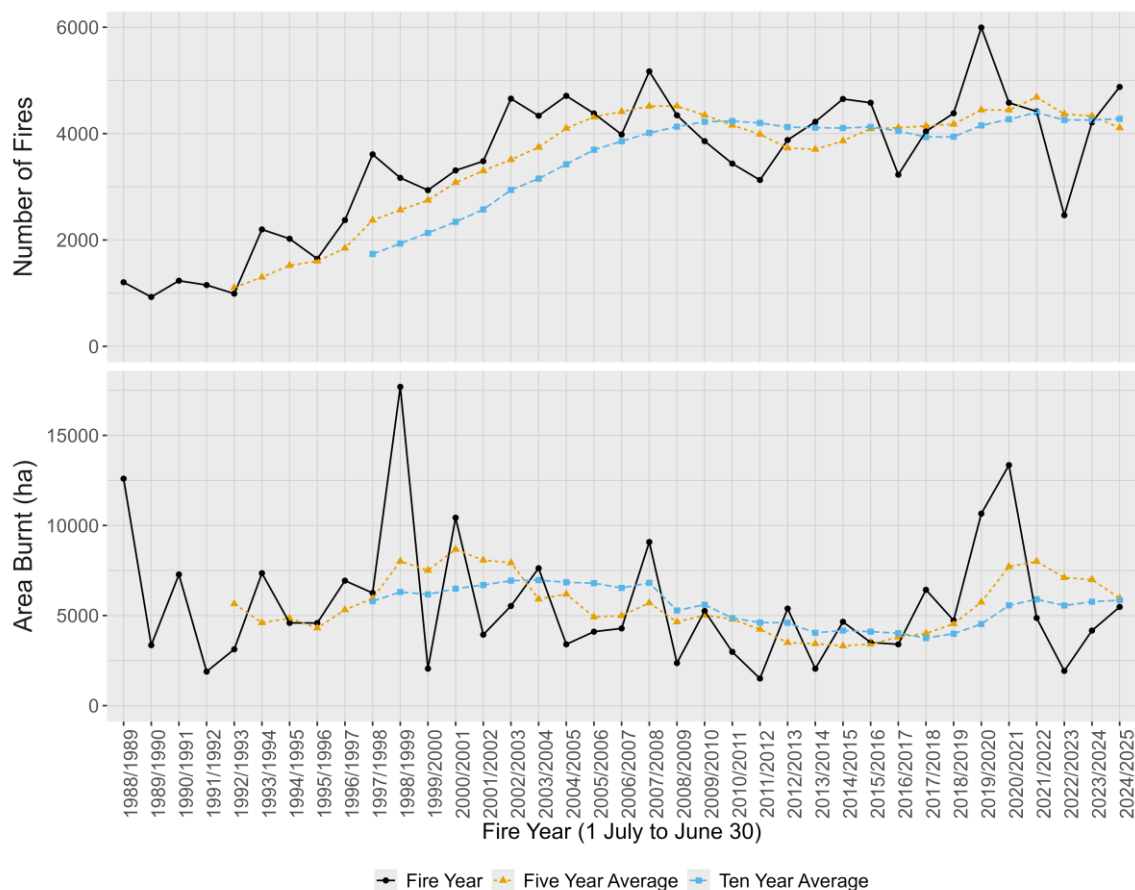


Figure 2. Total number of wildfires (top) and area burnt (bottom) for the last 37 years of wildfire records. Historical average for number of fires per year is 3454, and historical average for area burnt per year is 5644 ha. Note: this dataset includes vegetation fires but excludes non-responses or false alarms that required no action.

Number of wildfires and area burnt by District and Island

District breakdowns for the total number of wildfires and area burnt are detailed in the Appendices³.

For the 2024/2025 year:

- The North Island accounted for most of the country's wildfires (72%) (Figure 3). This is consistent with the patterns seen across the 32-year historical record (Figure 5).
- The South Island accounted for most of the country's area burnt by wildfires (67%) (Figure 4). This is consistent with the patterns seen across the 32-year historical record (Figure 5).
- Bay of Plenty (486) and Canterbury (575) Districts experienced the highest number of wildfires in the North and South Island respectively (Figure 3).
- Waikato (1110 ha) and Southland (1216 ha) Districts experienced the greatest area burnt on the North and South Island respectively (Figure 4).
- Districts that experienced an increase in both number of wildfires and area burnt compared to the previous year include: Northland, Counties Manukau, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Manawātū-Whanganui, West Coast, although the increase in area burnt for the West Coast is negligible (A1).
- Districts that experienced an increase in number of wildfires and a decrease in area burnt compared to the previous year include: Waitematā, Tairāwhiti, Hawke's Bay (A1).
- Districts that experienced an increase in number of wildfires and no change in area burnt compared to the previous year include: Auckland (A1).
- Districts that experienced a decrease in number of wildfires and an increase in area burnt compared to the previous year include: Otago (A1).
- Districts that experienced a decrease in both number of wildfires and area burnt compared to the previous year include: Wellington, Nelson Marlborough, Canterbury, Mid-South Canterbury (A1).
- Districts that experienced no change in number of wildfires and an increase in area burnt compared to the previous year include: Southland (A1).
- 11 districts experienced an increase, 5 experienced a decrease and 1 experienced no change in the total number of wildfires compared to the previous year (A1).
- 9 districts experienced an increase, 7 experienced a decrease and 1 experienced no change in the total area burnt compared to the previous year (A1).

³ Area burnt is considered to have increased/decreased when the change is +/- 1 ha. This buffer was added due to the quality of data.

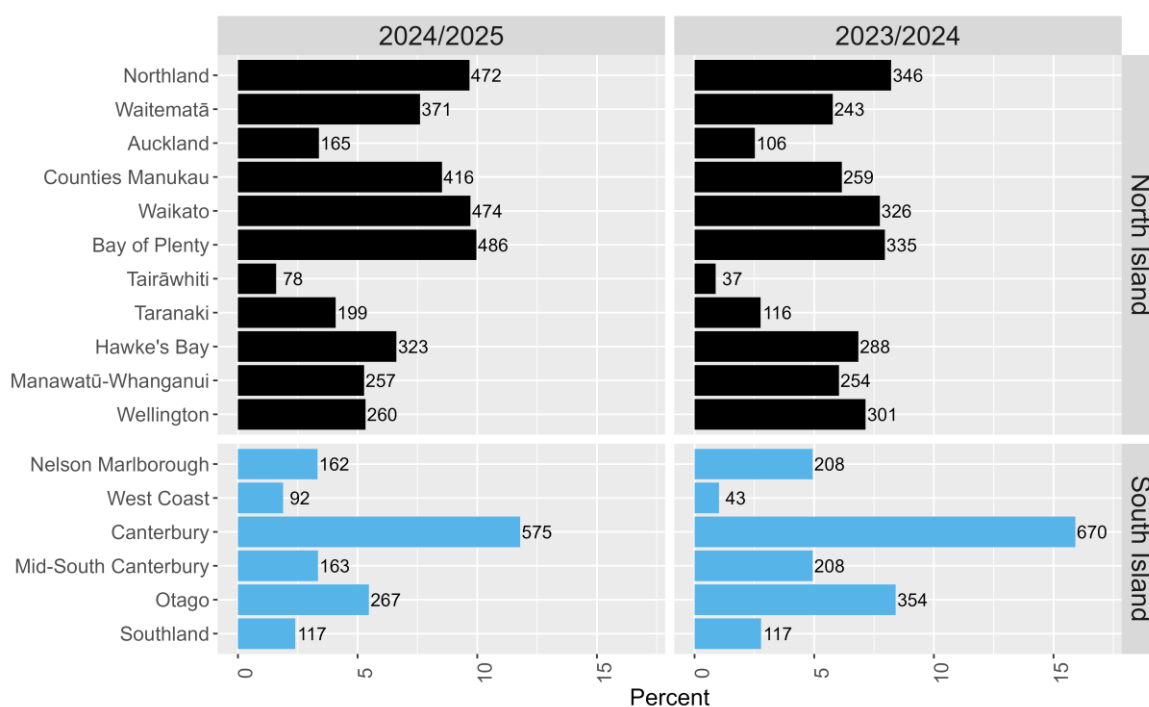


Figure 3. Percent of the total number of wildfires by District for North Island (black bars) and South Island (blue bars). Data is presented for 2024/2025 (left) and 2023/2024 (right). The number of wildfires is noted to the right of the bar.

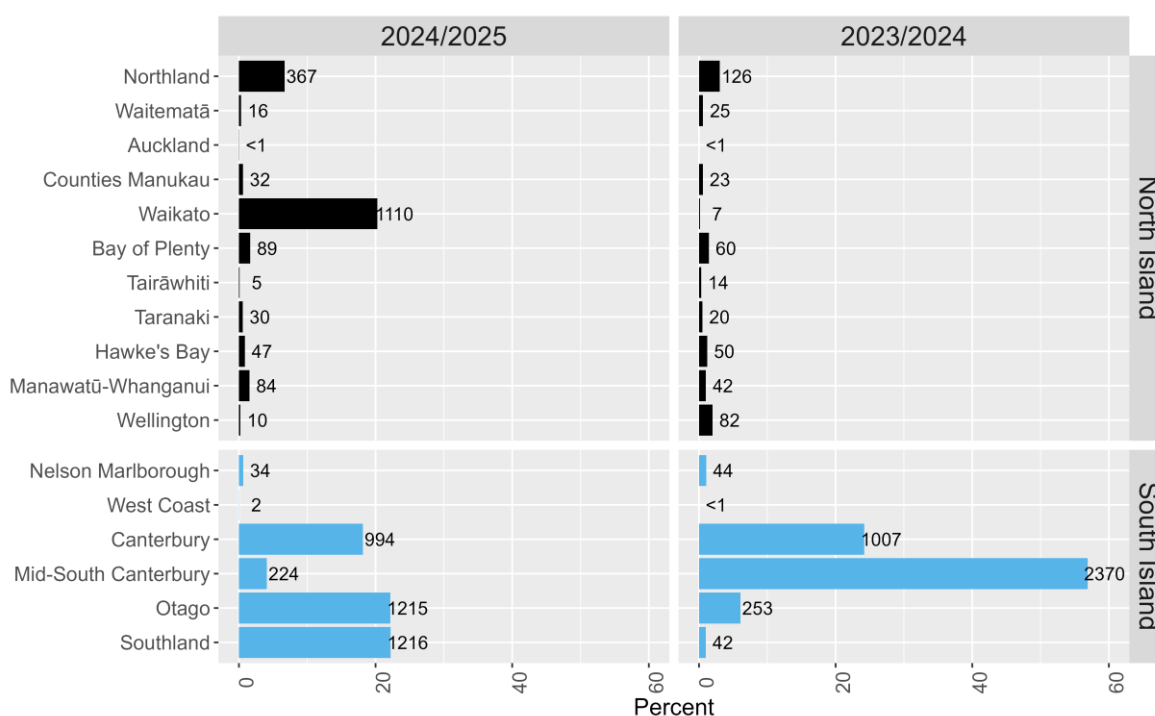


Figure 4. Percent of the total area burnt by District for North Island (black bars) and South Island (blue bars). Data is presented for 2024/2025 (left) and 2023/2024 (right). The total area burnt (ha) is noted to the right of the bar.

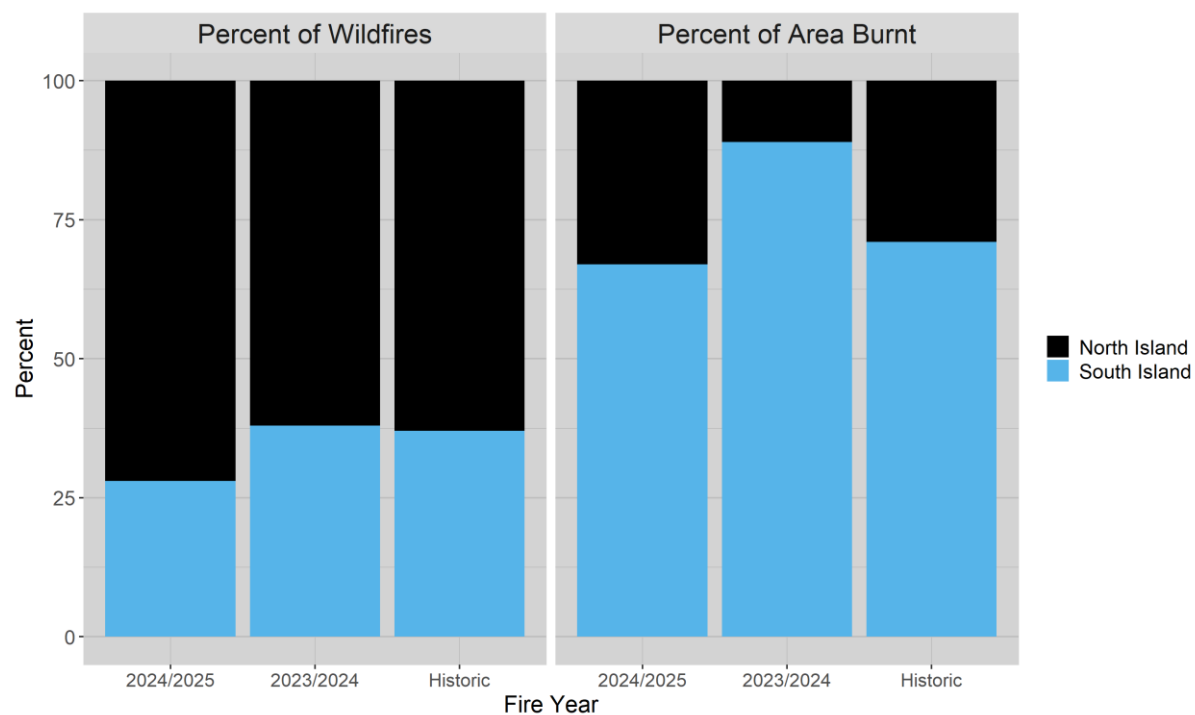


Figure 5. Overall percent of wildfires and percent of area burnt for North Island and South Island. Data is presented for 2024/2025, 2023/2024, and the 31-year historic record starting in 1991/1992 (not including 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and 2016/2017).

Cause categories

There are 40 individual heat source categories used in the fire incident reporting database for the 2024/2025 annual wildfire analysis. These were merged and grouped into 12 broad cause categories to simplify illustration of the data (Appendix 2). Cause statistics by District are summarised in the Appendices.

- For 2024/2025, the top two broad cause categories contributing to the total number of wildfires were Pile Burn and Cigarettes, Matches, Candles, which is the same as in 2023/2024 (Figure 6).
- For 2024/2025, the top two broad cause categories contributing to the total area burnt were Pile Burn and Prescribed Burn, compared to Industry and Equipment in 2023/2024 (Figure 7).

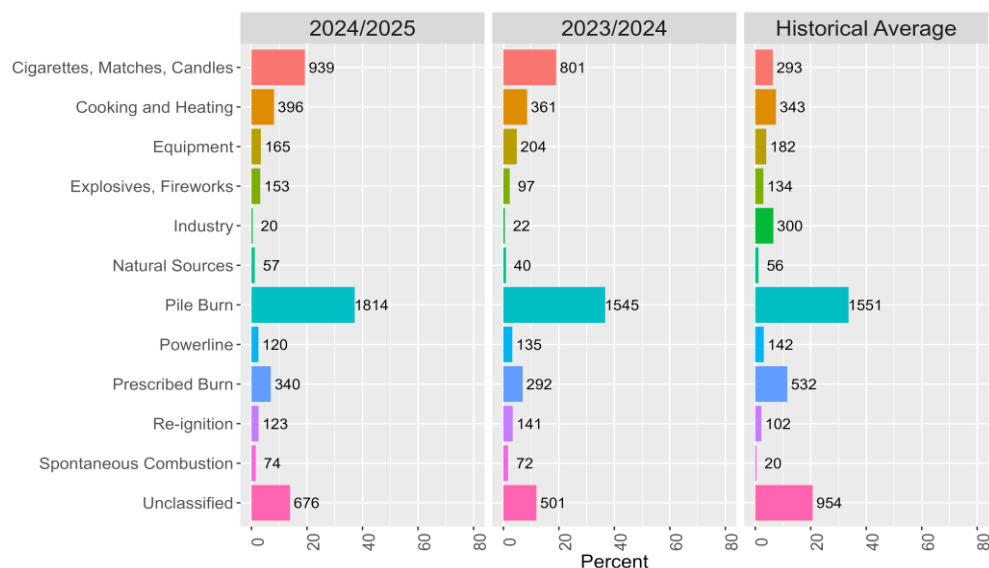


Figure 6. Percent of wildfires by broad cause category for 2024/2025 (left), 2023/2024 (middle), and the 34-year historical average (right) from 1988/1989 (not including 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and 2016/2017). The total number of wildfires is noted to the right of the bar. Note that powerlines were included as a new category in the 2021/2022 report. Data related to powerlines has only been summarised since the 2019/2020 fire year, therefore the powerline average is limited to the years that this category was considered.

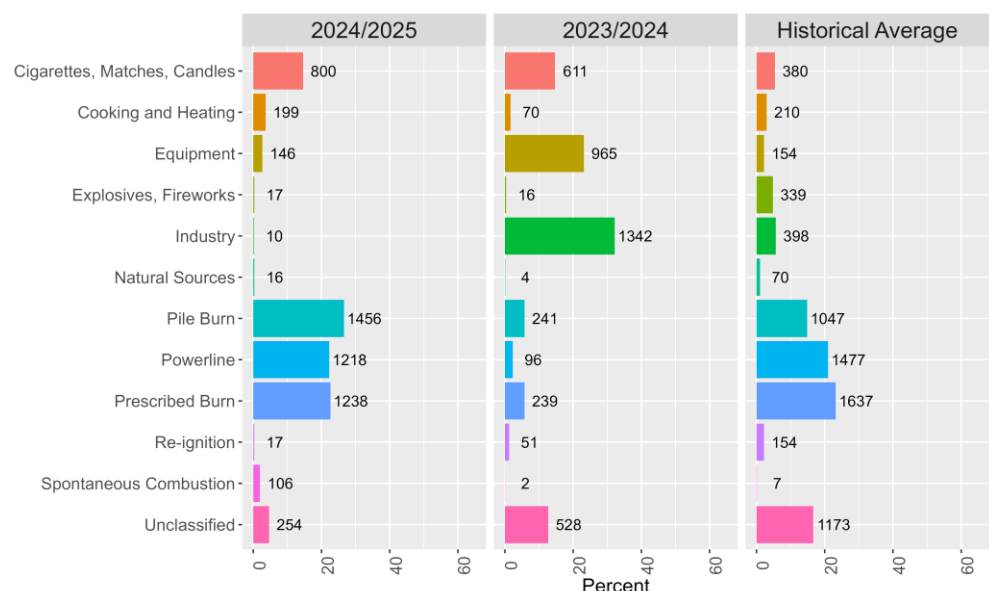


Figure 7. Percent of area burnt by broad cause category for 2024/2025 (left), 2023/2024 (middle), and the 34-year historical average (right) from 1988/1989 (not including 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and 2016/2017). The total area burnt (ha) is noted to the right of the bar. Note that powerlines were included as a new category in the 2021/2022 report. Data related to powerlines has only been summarised since the 2019/2020 fire year, therefore the powerline average is limited to the years that this category was considered.

Review of climate and weather for 2024/2025

The following provides annual and seasonal climate summaries derived from NIWA climate updates. Summaries for the period July 2024 through June 2025 are presented, therefore two winter summaries are included in this report. ENSO-neutral conditions prevailed throughout the 2024/2025 reporting period.

2024/2025 was characterised by higher-than-normal mean sea level air pressure (MSLP) over and around Aotearoa New Zealand, with frequent anticyclonic dominance. This period is considered among Aotearoa New Zealand's warmest years on record, dominated by conditions experienced in the first half of 2025. This ongoing warming trend observed both locally and globally is consistent with human-caused climate change, according to NIWA (now Earth Sciences New Zealand).

The prevalence of west-southwest winds through the year associated with frequent and sometimes persistent high-pressure systems (blocking highs) contributed to a dry year for many northern and eastern areas of the country, as these areas are relatively sheltered from weather systems arriving from the west-southwest. Most of the country experienced dry conditions from January to March 2025, except for eastern parts of the South Island which were wetter than usual. Despite dry conditions, several extreme rainfall events occurred throughout the year, with 4 local state of emergency declarations (Dunedin and Clutha District in October 2024; Westland District in November 2024; Selwyn District, Christchurch, and Banks Peninsula in April-May 2025; and Nelson-Tasman and Marlborough in June 2025).

Winter 2024

Winter 2024 MSLP was higher than normal over, east and south of Aotearoa New Zealand. This was associated with more easterly and northeasterly winds than normal, particularly over the South Island, with relatively few cold southerly outbreaks. Resulting temperatures were above average (+0.51-1.20°C) for most of the country. Overall, the nationwide average temperature for spring was 9.6°C, 1.0°C above the 1991-2020 average, making it New Zealand's 3rd-warmest winter since the earliest records in 1909. June and July were dry months for many parts of the country, with rainfall being below normal (50-79%) in parts of southern Northland, central Waikato, the Ruapehu District, and northern Canterbury. In contrast, rainfall was above normal (120-149%) for the Bay of Islands, Gisborne, Tasman, Nelson, Marlborough, the Mackenzie Basin, and eastern and central parts of Otago. At the end of winter, soil moisture levels were near normal for most of the country, and above normal for isolated parts of Central Otago.

Spring 2024

Spring 2024 was characterised by higher-than-normal MSLP over and surrounding Aotearoa New Zealand, with lower-than-normal MSLP to the southwest of the country. This generally resulted in more westerly winds than normal, except in October when there were more easterly winds over the lower South Island. Spring temperatures were above average (+0.51-1.20°C) for much of the North Island and eastern parts of the South Island, but mostly near average ($\pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$) for the remainder of the country. Overall, the nationwide average temperature for spring was 12.9°C, 0.8°C above the 1991-2020 average, making it New Zealand's 7th-warmest spring since the earliest records in 1909. It was a very wet season for Southland and Otago, and rainfall was well above normal (>149%) for many parts of these regions. Several locations in the southern South Island received more than double their usual spring rainfall. Consequently, a medium-scale adverse event classification was declared for Southland and the Clutha District in October due to exposure to frequent rain-bearing systems resulting in persistently wet conditions. In contrast, it was a very dry season in eastern parts of the North Island, with eastern parts of the Hawke's Bay region in particular recording well below normal spring rainfall (<50%). At the end of spring, soil moisture levels were below normal for northern, inland, and eastern parts of the North Island, as well as central and northern parts of Canterbury. Above normal soil moisture levels were observed in southern and western parts of Southland, and eastern parts of Otago.

Summer 2024/2025

Summer 2024-25 was also characterised by higher-than-normal MSLP over and surrounding Aotearoa New Zealand. This contributed to a rather mild and dry season for many areas overall with an average summer temperature of 17.3°C, 0.5°C above the 1991-2020 average, making it New Zealand's 21st-warmest summer since the earliest records in 1909. Temperatures were above average (+0.51-1.20°C) or well above average (>1.20°C) for many northern, central and western parts of the North Island, and for northern, western and southern parts of the South Island. Rainfall was below normal (50-79%) or well below normal (<50%) for northern, central and western parts of the North Island, and for many western, inland, and southern parts of the South Island. Rainfall was above normal (120-149%) or well above normal (>149%) for some eastern parts of Canterbury, northern Hawke's Bay, and Gisborne. A medium-scale adverse event was declared for Taranaki in late February 2025 due to prolonged hot, dry conditions and below-average rainfall resulting in drought. At the end of summer, soil moisture levels were lower than normal for most of the North Island, parts of the West Coast, inland northern Canterbury, coastal parts of the South Island from Dunedin to Invercargill, and Stewart Island.

Autumn 2025

Autumn 2025 was characterised by higher-than-normal MSLP over and surrounding Aotearoa New Zealand, with more northeasterly winds than normal over the country. This resulted in seasonal temperatures being above (+0.51-1.20°C) or well above (>1.20°C) average for almost all the country. Overall, the nationwide average temperature for autumn was 14.5°C, 1.0°C above the 1991-2020 average, making it New Zealand's 5th-warmest autumn since the earliest records in 1909. It was a wet season for eastern and northern parts of the South Island, with above normal (120-149%) or well above normal (>149%) rainfall from northern Otago to Marlborough, Nelson and Tasman. Similarly, rainfall was also above normal or well above normal in Northland, parts of Auckland, Coromandel Peninsula, western Bay of Plenty, and parts of Wellington. In contrast, below normal (50-79%) rainfall was observed in parts of Hawke's Bay, Whanganui, the Tararua District, and Dunedin city, with well below normal (<50%) rainfall in Middlesbrough. A medium-scale adverse event was declared for drought conditions in the Northland, Waikato, Horizons and Tasman-Marlborough regions in March. One of the most significant events during the season was due to heavy rainfall over Canterbury from 30 April – 1 May 2025. This resulted in considerable surface flooding, with a state of emergency declared in Christchurch, Selwyn District and Banks Peninsula. The arrival of ex-tropical cyclone Tam on 16 April also brought widespread high-impact weather to the northern North Island, when thousands of people lost power due to downed power lines, while storm surges caused coastal erosion in some areas. At the end of autumn, soils were drier than normal for Whanganui, Manawatū, southern and central Hawke's Bay, Dunedin, and southern Otago. Soils were wetter than normal about eastern Canterbury, and Marlborough.

Winter 2025

Winter 2025 was characterised by a higher-than-normal MSLP over and to the southeast of Aotearoa New Zealand, resulting in more easterly winds than normal for northern and southern parts of the country, with fewer westerly winds. ENSO-neutral conditions remained present in the tropical Pacific but trended towards La Niña-like conditions during the season. The nationwide average temperature for winter was 9.1°C, 0.5°C above the 1991-2020 winter average, making it New Zealand's 9th-warmest winter since the earliest records in 1909. Temperatures were above average (+0.51-1.20°C) for Northland, Auckland, Bay of Plenty, eastern Waikato, much of the West Coast, coastal South Canterbury, Dunedin and Fiordland, but were near average ($\pm 0.50^\circ\text{C}$) for the remainder of the country. Rainfall was above normal (120-149%) or well above normal (>149%) for Dunedin, Marlborough, Nelson, Taranaki, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Auckland, and parts of Northland. Rainfall was below normal (50-79%) for central and southern Hawke's Bay, Christchurch, Banks Peninsula, limited parts of Otago, and coastal Fiordland. A very heavy rainfall event impacted the top of the South Island on 26-27 June 2025, causing considerable flooding, with a state of emergency declared⁴. At the end of winter, soil moisture levels were lower than normal for central parts of Hawke's Bay. Soil moisture was higher than normal for eastern Hurunui, and eastern parts of Central Otago.

⁴ A second significant rainfall event impacted the same area within 2 weeks, but as this occurred in the 2025/26 period it will be included in the subsequent annual wildfire report.

Fuel moisture status and Fire Danger

Weather is the most powerful factor driving vegetation fire behaviour. Weather factors (temperature, relative humidity, windspeed and rainfall) directly affect vegetation fuel conditions and whether a fire will start and spread. Areas that experience below normal soil and fuel moisture dryness are at an increased risk of having a higher number of fires and larger area burnt. The Drought Code (DC) and Buildup Index (BUI) as derived from the New Zealand Fire Weather Index (FWI) System are useful indicators of seasonal drought effects and the amount of fuel available for combustion.

The higher the rating, for DC and BUI, the drier the subsurface, medium, and heavy fuels are, and therefore, the more difficult and extended fire control will be. District summaries on how dry conditions were during this fire season are highlighted in the Appendices.

Graphs are also available on the Scion website for those who are interested in comparing how individual weather stations are tracking for BUI and DC, as well as Cumulative Daily Severity Ratings (CDSR), over the current and previous fire season and against historical averages: <https://www.scionresearch.com/rural-fire-research/tools/trends>

North Island

Across the North Island, average fuel moisture (BUI and DC) values were typically above or well above the historic average and the 2023/2024 trend, with significantly higher peaks in March, before dropping well below the trend from mid-late autumn. Peak drought (NZDI) conditions ranged from dry to extremely dry, with drought experienced in parts of Waikato and Taranaki during 2024/2025.

- 2024/2025 mean DC values for the North Island as a whole tended to be above or well above the historic mean, peaking significantly higher in March before dropping below the trend from May. At the local level, mean DC values were quite variable, with northern and western districts tending to be above or similar to both the historic trend and the 2023/2024 wildfire year, while eastern and southern districts tended to be below. Nearly all North Island districts recorded mean DC values below the historic trend from mid-late autumn. The exception was Manawatū-Whanganui which remained well above the historic mean and the 2023/24 wildfire year values for all but the months of spring. Northland experienced the highest DC value in the North Island during 2024/2025, with 962 recorded in April, well above the historical maximum (Appendix A6.2). New maximum DC values were recorded for Northland, Waikato, Taranaki and Manawatū-Whanganui. (Appendices 6-16)
- DC trends observed at individual representative weather stations on the North Island during 2024/2025 were similarly well above average during the summer and early autumn months, with a couple of notable exceptions. These were Northland (Waitangi Forest Raws), which experienced a significant drop below trend in late summer before bouncing back to a peak well above in early autumn, and Wellington (Stony Creek Raws), which briefly peaked above the historical average in December before dropping below for most of the remainder of the year. Bay of Plenty (Athol Raws) was also notable in that it tracked well above the long-term average from January to April, being close to or above its historical maximum DC values during this period. (Figure 9)
- 2024/2025 mean BUI values for the North Island as a whole tended to follow the historical trend, although fluctuating either side of the long-term average throughout the year. Peak dryness in March was a month later than usual, with both February and March being well above the average before dropping well below from April. At the local level, mean BUI values were variable, with all districts alternating between above, below and on trend across the report period. Northern and western districts started on



Figure 8. NIWA's New Zealand Drought Index (NZDI) maps, which highlights locations experiencing drought or dry conditions throughout the 2024/2025 wildfire year (top: 2024-07-12, middle: 2025-02-13, bottom: 2025-03-13). Dark red indicates severe drought conditions; light red indicates drought; orange indicates extremely dry to very dry conditions; yellow indicates dry conditions.

trend before typically being well above during summer and early autumn, then dropping below trend to end the year. Eastern districts tended to peak earlier before dropping well below average from January, while both Bay of Plenty and Wellington were largely on trend except for significant but brief dips below during summer. Manawatū-Whanganui was again the exception, having been largely below trend up until January, before rising to a peak and remaining above trend from February. Northland experienced the highest BUI value in the North Island during 2024/2025, with 237 recorded in April, well above the historical maximum (Appendix A6.3). New maximum BUI values were recorded for Northland, Waikato, Taranaki, Hawke's Bay and Manawatū-Whanganui. (Appendices 6-16)

- Based on the NZDI, the highest category reached at the local level during 2024/2025 was drought in two districts (Waikato and Taranaki), extremely dry in seven districts (Northland, Waitematā, Auckland, Counties Manukau, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, and Manawatū-Whanganui), and very dry in two districts (Tairāwhiti and Wellington). (Figure 8, Appendix 1)

South Island

Across the South Island, average fuel moisture (BUI and DC) values were typically below or well below the historic average and the 2023/2024 trend, with only brief periods above. Peaks were observed in February, with only the mean DC value being above the historical average at this time. Peak drought (NZDI) conditions ranged from dry to very dry during 2024/2025.

- 2024/2025 mean DC values for the South Island as a whole started the year well above the historic mean but from October were typically below or well below trend. The exception was during the months of December, February and March, which were above the historic trend, with the peak in February being well above. At the local level, DC mean values were highly variable. All but the West Coast started the period notably above the historic mean before dropping below the trend for a period from early to mid-spring, except for Canterbury where the transition to below trend occurred later in January and remained lower for the rest of the year. The West Coast typically followed or was below the historic mean but was well above for the period from January to March, with a significant peak in February. While not as pronounced as for the West Coast, northern and southern districts experienced above trend periods during the summer and early autumn, although the timing, duration and intensity varied. All districts ended the period below to well below the historic mean, except for Southland which peaked well above trend in February and remained higher for the rest of the year. Mid-South Canterbury was the other anomaly in that it was typically below to well below the trend after an initial period above in winter 2024. In general, 2024/2025 was typically damper than the 2023/2024 wildfire year for northern and eastern districts, while the West Coast and Southland were notably drier for significant parts of the current report period. Otago experienced the highest DC value in the South Island during 2024/2025, with 830 recorded in March, although this remained below the historical maximum (Appendix A21.2). New maximum DC values were recorded for Canterbury and Southland. (Appendices 17-22)
- DC trends observed at individual representative weather stations on the South Island during 2024/2025 were typically below to well below the historic average, with only short periods above the trend. Notable exceptions were the West Coast (Hokitika Aws), which was well above from mid-summer to mid-autumn, and both Mid-South Canterbury (Tekapo Raws) and Otago (Traquair Raws), which rose above the trend from late summer and remained higher. (Figure 10)
- 2024/2025 mean BUI values for the South Island as a whole were below to well below the historical average all year except for a brief but significant spike above in December. Peak dryness was in February but slightly below average. At the local level, mean BUI values typically followed the same pattern except for the West Coast, where it was above the historic average from a peak one month later in January through to March before dropping below again, and Southland, where the notable peak above trend occurred later still in February. Canterbury also experienced a sustained period above average from September until a peak in December, before dropping well below the trend for the rest of the year. New maximum BUI values were recorded for the West Coast and Southland. (Appendices 17-22)
- Based on the NZDI, the highest category reached at the local level during 2024/2025 was very dry in four districts (Nelson Marlborough, Canterbury, Otago and Southland), and dry in two districts (West Coast and Mid-South Canterbury). (Figure 8, Appendix 1)

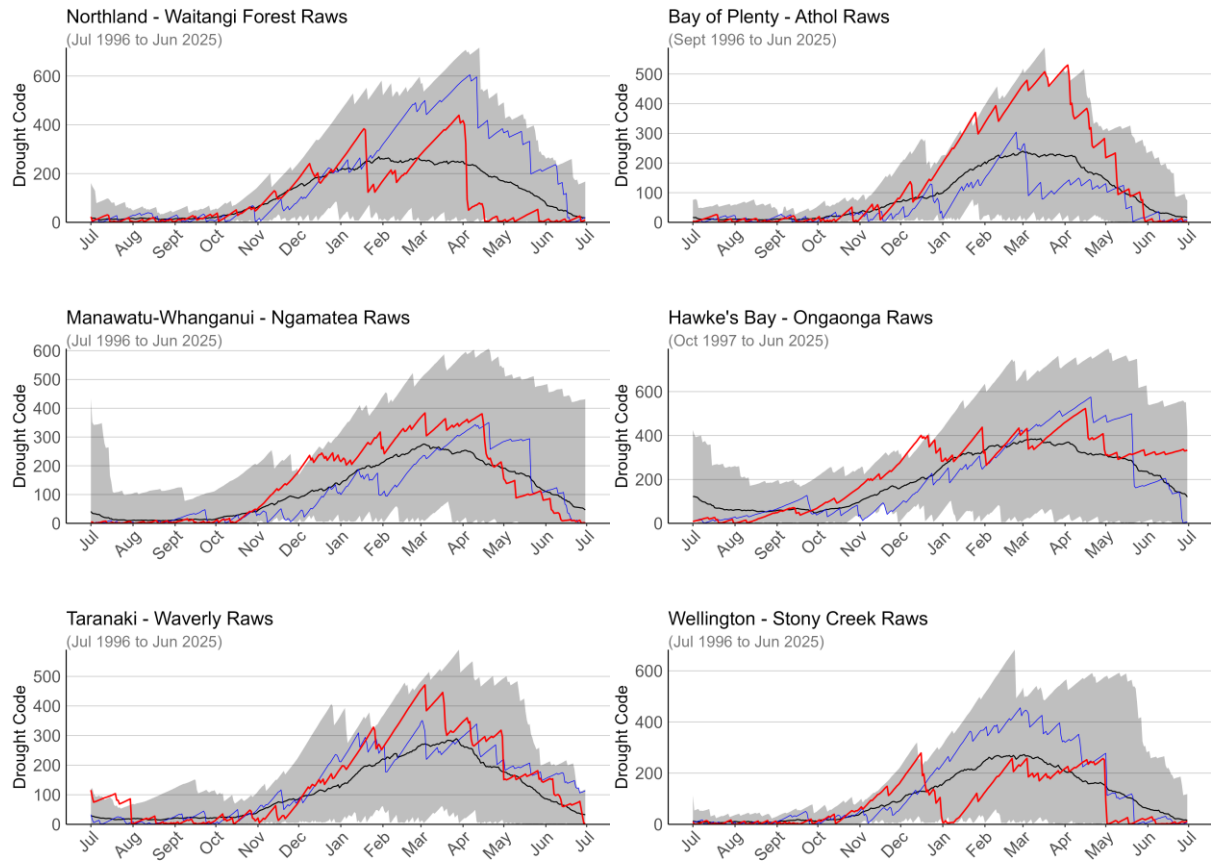


Figure 9. Daily Drought Code (DC) trends for a selection of representative stations across the North Island. 2024/2025 is represented by the red line, 2023/2024 is represented by the blue line, the historical average is represented by the black line, and the grey shaded area represents the historical minimum/maximum values over the length of the entire weather station record as noted below the station name. Note the y-axis scale varies between stations.

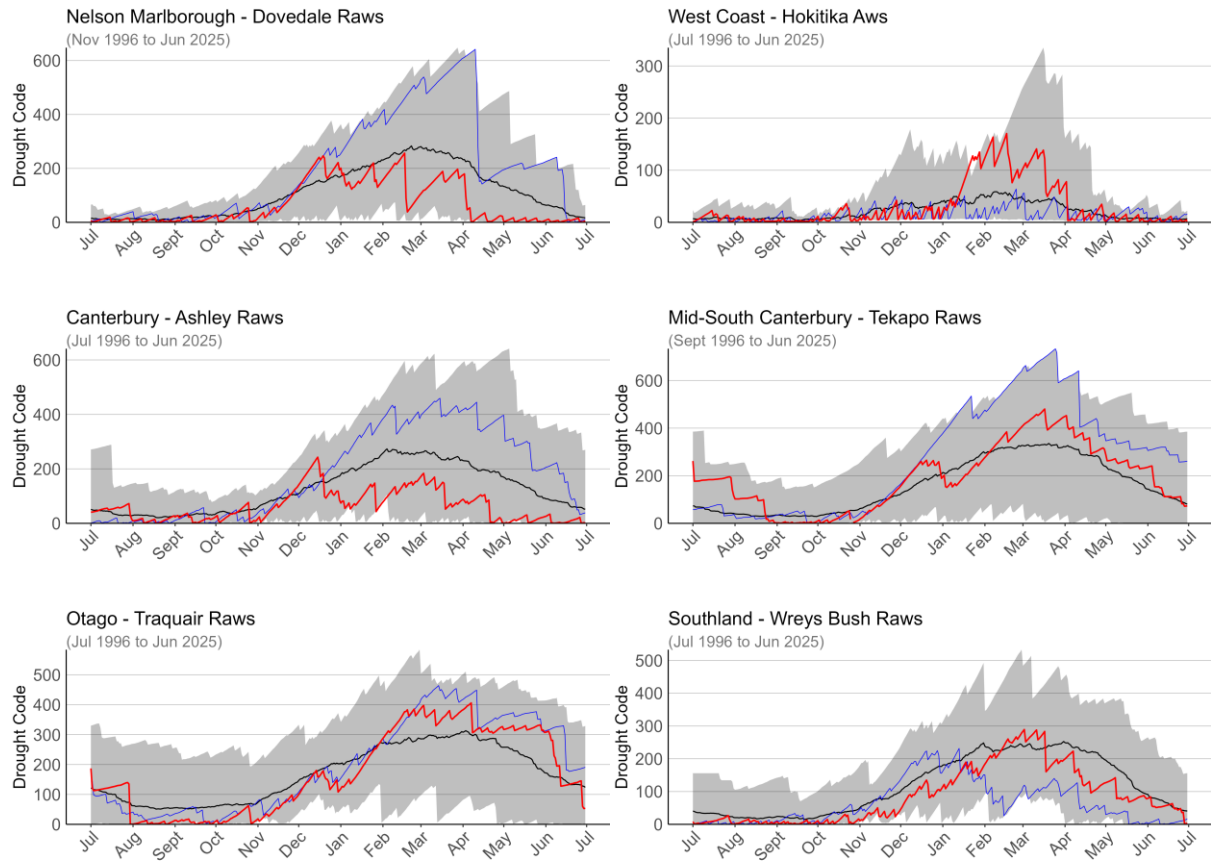


Figure 10. Daily Drought Code (DC) trends for a selection of representative stations across the South Island. 2024/2025 is represented by the red line, 2023/2024 is represented by the blue line, the historical average is represented by the black line and the grey shaded area represents the historical minimum/maximum values over the length of the entire weather station record as noted below the station name. Note the y-axis scale varies between stations.

Appendices

Appendix 1 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 incident wildfire statistics and fire weather indices/codes.

District	Number	% (#)	Comparison (#)	Top causes (#)	Ha	% (Ha)	Comparison (Ha)	Top causes (Ha)	BUI	DC	CDSR	Drought (NZDI)
Northland	472	10	Increase	Pile Burn	367	7	Increase	Cooking and Heating	Above	Above and Below	Well Above	Extremely Dry
Waitematā	371	8	Increase	Pile Burn	16	< 1	Decrease	Pile Burn	Similar	Slightly Above	Above	Extremely Dry
Auckland	165	3	Increase	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	1	< 1	No Change	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Slightly Below	Slightly Below	Well Above	Extremely Dry
Counties Manukau	416	9	Increase	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	32	1	Increase	Pile Burn	Similar	Above and Slightly Above	Above	Extremely Dry
Waikato	474	10	Increase	Pile Burn	1,110	20	Increase	Pile Burn	Similar and Slightly Above	Above	Well Above	Very Dry to Drought
Bay of Plenty	486	10	Increase	Pile Burn	89	2	Increase	Pile Burn	Below and Similar	Below	Above	Dry to Extremely Dry
Tairāwhiti	78	2	Increase	Pile Burn	5	< 1	Decrease	Pile Burn	Below	Below	Similar	Dry to Very Dry
Taranaki	199	4	Increase	Pile Burn	30	1	Increase	Prescribed Burn	Similar and Slightly Above	Similar	Above	Extremely Dry to Drought
Hawke's Bay	323	7	Increase	Pile Burn	47	1	Decrease	Pile Burn	Slightly Below	Slightly Below and Well Above	Above and Similar	Dry to Extremely Dry

District	Number	% (#)	Comparison (#)	Top causes (#)	Ha	% (Ha)	Comparison (Ha)	Top causes (Ha)	BUI	DC	CDSR	Drought (NZDI)
Manawatū-Whanganui	257	5	Increase	Pile Burn	84	2	Increase	Pile Burn	Above	Slightly Above	Similar	Dry to Extremely Dry
Wellington	260	5	Decrease	Pile Burn	10	< 1	Decrease	Pile Burn	Below	Below	Below	Dry to Very Dry
Nelson Marlborough	162	3	Decrease	Pile Burn	34	1	Decrease	Pile Burn	Below	Slightly Below	Below	Dry to Very Dry
West Coast	92	2	Increase	Pile Burn	2	< 1	Increase	Pile Burn	Below	Below and Well Above	Well Above	Dry
Canterbury	575	12	Decrease	Pile Burn	994	18	Decrease	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Below	Below and Well Above	Similar	Dry to Very Dry
Mid-South Canterbury	163	3	Decrease	Pile Burn	224	4	Decrease	Unclassified	Below	Below	Below	Dry
Otago	267	5	Decrease	Pile Burn	1,215	22	Increase	Prescribed Burn	Below	Slightly Below	Below	Dry to Very Dry
Southland	117	2	No Change	Pile Burn	1,216	22	Increase	Powerline	Above and Well Above	Above	Above	Dry to Very Dry

BUI, DC and CDSR comparisons are based on current year's percentage of deviation compared to the deviation of the previous year average. 'Well Above' $\geq 95\%$, 'Above' is between 35% and 95%, 'Slightly Above' between 15% and 35%, 'Similar' between 15% and -15%, 'Slightly Below' between -15% and -35%, 'Below' between -35% and -95%, 'Well Below' $\leq -95\%$. Comparisons were made per day and month, to identify the most frequent result per month and subsequently the most common result among the 12 months. More than one result is displayed in the table when more than one result had the same frequency.

Drought (NZDI) identifies the range of dryness categories recorded in each District at some point over the report period, noting that these may not be experienced in each zone contributing to the overall District summary.

Appendix 2 Broad wildfire cause categories and the underlying individual heat source categories

The following list outlines the broad wildfire cause categories used for analysis of the 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 incident statistics, along with the underlying individual heat source categories which contributed to the 2024/2025 statistics.

Cause Group	Heat Source
Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Candle
	Cigarette, Cigar or Smoking materials
	Matches or Lighters (Suspicious)
Cooking and Heating	BBQ
	Embers, Ashes
	Outside fire for warmth / Campfire
	Umu / Hangi
Equipment	Chainsaws
	Exhaust heat / Spark
	Farm machinery
	Malfunction
	Motorbike, Truck or Car
	Mowers and slashers
	Welding, grinding, cutting
Explosives, Fireworks	Fireworks / Pyrotechnics
	Flare: Warning, Safety, Boat
	Incendiary devices, Molotov cocktail
	Lantern
Industry	Earthwork or forestry machinery
	Electrical Fence
	Maintenance crews
Natural Sources	Animals
	Geothermal Activity
	Lightning discharge
	Solar heat: Sun (magnified through glass etc.)
Pile Burn	Debris burning
	Outside bonfire
	Refuse burning
	Windrow / slash pile
Powerline	Clashing / Arcing power lines
	Trees
Prescribed Burn	Broadcast slash burn
	Crop burn
	Scrub and tussock burn
Re-ignition	Re-ignition, Rekindle from previous fire
Spontaneous Combustion	Bark or sawdust spontaneous ignition
	Hay/silage spontaneous ignition
	Skid site spontaneous ignition
Unclassified	Exposure Fire - unable to classify
	Information not recorded/Unknown

Appendix 3 Average Monthly Fire Season Severity Ratings (MSR) for the 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 wildfire seasons (October through April).

Monthly Severity Rating (MSR) is the monthly average of the Daily Severity Rating (DSR) values from the Fire Weather Index System. DSR is a function of the FWI value, developed for use in comparing different years and weather stations. DSR and MSR capture the effects of both wind and fuel dryness on potential fire intensity, and therefore control difficulty and the amount of work required to suppress a fire. It allows the comparison of fire weather severity between years.

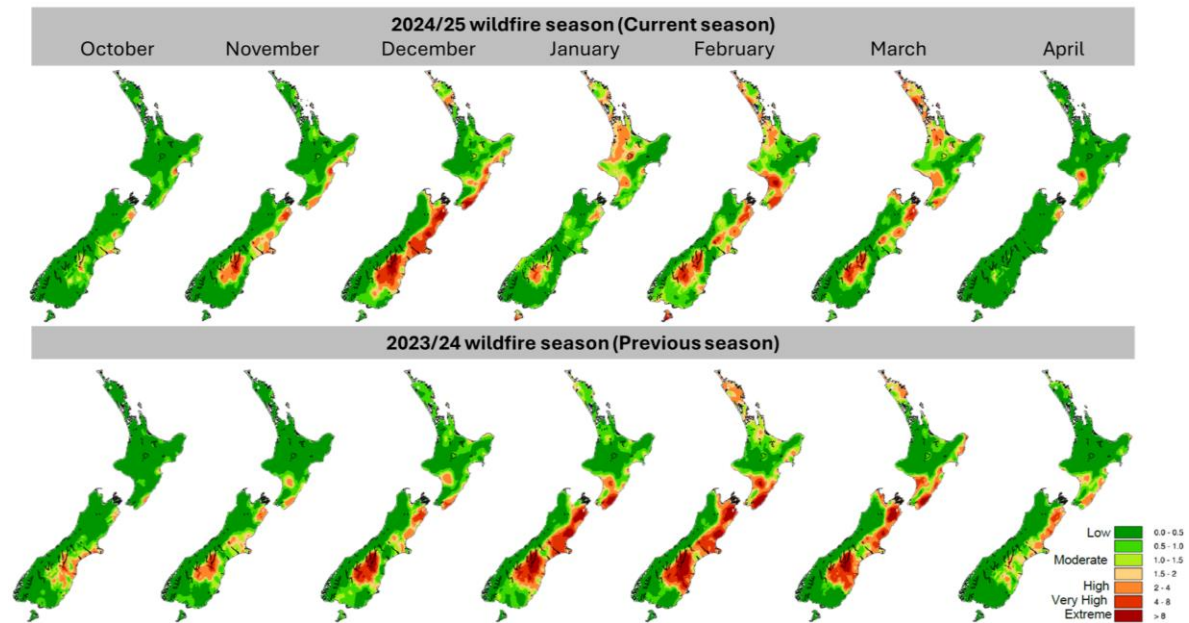


Figure A3. Monthly Severity Rating (MSR) across the country for 2024/2025 (top) and 2023/2024 (bottom).

Appendix 4 Average Monthly Drought Code (DC) values for the 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 wildfire seasons (October through April).

Drought Code (DC) is a rating of the average moisture content of deep, compact, organic soil layers. It is a useful indicator of the dryness of large woody material, seasonal drought effects on forest fuels and the amount of smouldering in deep duff layers and large logs. Little mop-up needs to happen with low values (white), whereas mop-up will be difficult and extensive with values over 300 points (dark brown colouration).

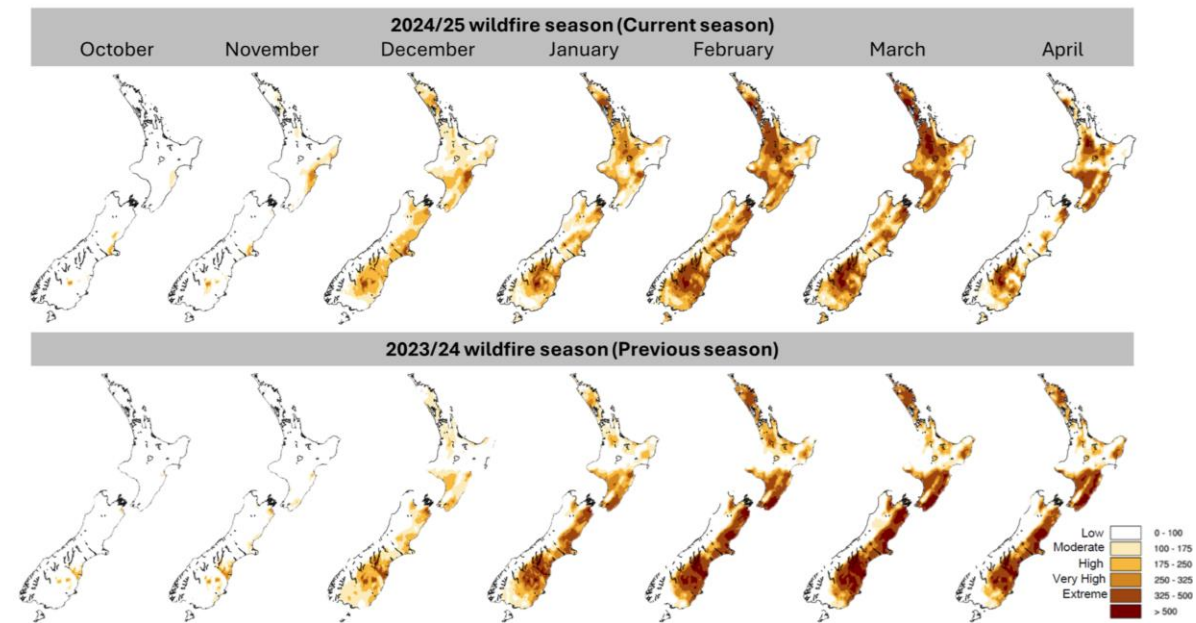


Figure A4. Monthly Drought Code (DC) across the country for 2024/2025 (top) and 2023/2024 (bottom).

Appendix 5 District Appendices

The following appendices contain District-specific summaries. For each District, information is provided on:

1. Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) by district and by broad cause categories,
2. Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean), and
3. Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean).

To view individual fuel moisture station trends, visit: <https://www.scionresearch.com/rural-fire-research/tools/trends>

Key considerations when reviewing the District Summaries:

- The Drought Code (DC) is a rating of the average moisture content of deep, compact, organic soil layers. A colour scale is used as a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values (A5.1).
- The Buildup Index (BUI) combines the Duff Moisture Code (DMC) and Drought Code (DC) to represent the total amount of fuel available for combustion. A colour scale is used as a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values (A5.1).
- The number of weather stations and years of station record for Drought Code and Buildup Index data varies by District. A true comparison between historic and current cannot be made because information presented is based on all available data at the time of the report. Over the length of the record stations are both added and discontinued.
- The reported total area burnt based on the broad cause categories in the individual District Summaries may differ to that displayed in Figure 4 and Appendix 1. This is due to the rounding that occurs within the individual category totals to generate the District Summaries compared to the combined total used for the overall summary graphics.
- New maximum values recorded in the 2024/2025 year are identified in bold within the DC and BUI tables for each district. Note that some of these new maximums may be questionable and require further investigation. This will influence the historical means.
- The period for calculating the historic mean includes the previous year (2023/2024) but does not include the current report year (2024/2025).

Table A5.1 Colour scale used as a visual indicator of high and low DC and BUI values.

DC	Mop-up Needs	BUI	Level of difficulty for controlling a fire	Fire Danger
0-99	Little mop-up needs	0-15	Easy Control	Low
100-175	Moderate	16-30	Not Difficult	Moderate
176-249	Difficult	31-45	Difficult	High
250-299	Difficult & Extended	46-59	Very Difficult	Very High
300+	Extreme & Extensive	60+	Extremely Difficult	Extreme

Appendix 6 Northland

Wildfire Statistics

- During the 2024/2025 wildfire season, Northland accounted for 10% of the total number of wildfires in the country and 7% of the area burnt (Figure 3 & 4, Appendix 1, Table A6.1).
- There has been an Increase in both the number of wildfires and the total area burnt during 2024/2025 compared to 2023/2024.
- The dominant cause of wildfires was Pile Burn.
- The primary cause that contributed to the total area burnt was Cooking and Heating.

Fuel Moisture Status

- In 2024/2025 Drought Code (DC) mean values typically followed the historical trend, although they were considerably higher from July through to a significant peak in March, before dropping well below the long-term mean from April. Maximum DC was in the “Extreme” category from December to May, peaking in April, with the autumn months typically drier than summer. New maximum DC values were observed in the months of February (720), March (897) and April (962), compared to the historic maximums of 718, 798 and 791 respectively for those months. (Table A6.2)
- Buildup Index (BUI) mean values typically followed or were above the historical trend, peaking well above in March before dropping back below the long-term mean from April. Maximum BUI was in the “Extreme” category from December to April, peaking in April. April had a new maximum BUI value of 237 compared to the historic maximum of 147 for that month. (Table A6.3)

Table A6.1 Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) in Northland for 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 fire years by broad cause categories.

Value	Fire Year	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Cooking and Heating	Equipment	Explosives, Fireworks	Industry	Natural Sources	Pile Burn	Powerline	Prescribed Burn	Re-ignition	Spontaneous Combustion	Unclassified	Total
Number of Wildfires	2024/2025	79	24	17	8	2	3	206	16	54	13	5	45	472
	2023/2024	43	17	10	3	4	4	191	6	36	7	3	22	346
Area Burnt (ha)	2024/2025	6	182	29	0	0	0	121	2	3	1	0	24	368
	2023/2024	4	1	22	0	0	0	32	0	14	1	1	52	127

Table A6.2 Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Northland District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024. Bolded maximum values indicate new maximum values for the district.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	22	275	282	280	244	237	356	516	720	897	962	326	114
	2023/2024	23	39	67	63	86	157	280	402	555	636	683	497	438
	Historic	28	320	335	355	400	511	617	630	718	798	791	708	484
Mean	2024/2025	22	25	20	30	44	98	203	255	278	429	142	29	12
	2023/2024	23	8	18	15	29	59	132	197	348	405	344	225	75
	Historic	28	15	15	16	35	67	128	196	252	280	237	145	51

Table A6.3 Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Northland District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024. Bolded maximum values indicate new maximum values for the district.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	22	21	27	30	30	43	64	85	152	218	237	14	15
	2023/2024	23	9	10	15	19	29	49	62	110	102	90	34	18
	Historic	28	30	32	59	75	95	140	167	213	223	147	132	38
Mean	2024/2025	22	3	3	5	9	17	27	30	40	71	14	4	2
	2023/2024	23	2	3	5	6	12	19	22	49	35	23	9	3
	Historic	28	2	3	5	9	14	21	30	37	31	18	7	2

Appendix 7 Waitematā

Wildfire Statistics

- During the 2024/2025 wildfire season, Waitematā accounted for 8% of the total number of wildfires in the country and < 1% of the area burnt (Figure 3 & 4, Appendix 1, Table A7.1).
- There has been an Increase in the number of wildfires and a Decrease in the total area burnt during 2024/2025 compared to 2023/2024.
- The dominant cause of both wildfires and total area burnt was Pile Burn.

Fuel Moisture Status

- In 2024/2025 Drought Code (DC) mean values typically followed the historical trend, although they were significantly higher from November through to April, peaking in March, before dropping below the long-term mean from May. Maximum DC was in the “Extreme” category from December to a peak in April, with the autumn months typically drier than summer. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A7.2)
- Buildup Index (BUI) mean values typically followed the historical trend, although they were significantly higher from January to a peak in March before dropping below the long-term mean from April. Maximum BUI was in the “Extreme” category from January to April, peaking in March. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A7.3)

Table A7.1 Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) in Waitematā for 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 fire years by broad cause categories.

Value	Fire Year	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Cooking and Heating	Equipment	Explosives, Fireworks	Industry	Natural Sources	Pile Burn	Powerline	Prescribed Burn	Re-ignition	Spontaneous Combustion	Unclassified	Total
Number of Wildfires	2024/2025	90	33	10	24	1	2	130	16	13	3	3	46	371
	2023/2024	55	16	7	9	1	0	112	12	10	1	4	16	243
Area Burnt (ha)	2024/2025	2	1	1	3	0	0	8	1	1	0	0	1	18
	2023/2024	0	1	0	2	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	2	25

Table A7.2 Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Waitematā District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	6	43	39	39	68	171	325	431	559	680	685	222	83
	2023/2024	6	31	36	34	104	155	295	279	412	414	455	311	64
	Historic	6	555	601	550	307	310	410	599	648	720	688	655	707
Mean	2024/2025	6	12	11	14	29	93	174	297	395	517	228	72	9
	2023/2024	6	7	10	12	44	69	149	155	267	238	209	108	15
	Historic	6	18	18	17	38	66	125	175	217	227	197	115	33

Table A7.3 Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Waitematā District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	6	13	11	15	22	35	47	87	91	128	90	15	6
	2023/2024	6	7	9	13	30	37	55	50	86	59	41	30	9
	Historic	6	44	62	61	51	92	112	114	155	137	157	180	154
Mean	2024/2025	6	3	3	5	9	18	22	41	53	66	12	5	1
	2023/2024	6	2	3	4	10	13	22	23	42	20	13	7	3
	Historic	6	2	3	5	10	14	21	29	34	30	17	9	3

Appendix 8 Auckland

Wildfire Statistics

- During the 2024/2025 wildfire season, Auckland accounted for 3% of the total number of wildfires in the country and < 1% of the area burnt (Figure 3 & 4, Appendix 1, Table A8.1)
- There has been an Increase in the number of wildfires and No Change in the total area burnt during 2024/2025 compared to 2023/2024.
- The dominant cause of both wildfires and total area burnt (although <1 ha), was Cigarettes, Matches, Candles.

Fuel Moisture Status

- There are only three weather stations included in NIWA's Fire Weather System representing the current Auckland District. Auckland MOTAT Ews was set up in February 2022, followed by Mangatawhiri Dam Ews and Skid Site Ews in November 2023. Therefore, there is currently limited data available to establish a reliable long-term trend, and no commentary is provided about new maximum values.
- In 2024/2025 Drought Code (DC) mean values were generally low through until December before a notable rise, peaking in March before dropping significantly from April. Maximum DC was in the "Extreme" category from January to a peak in April, with the first half of autumn considerably drier than summer. (Table A8.2)
- Buildup Index (BUI) mean values were generally low throughout the year, except for elevated values from January through to a peak in March. Maximum BUI was in the "Extreme" category from January to April, peaking in March. (Table A8.3)

Table A8.1 Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) in Auckland for 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 fire years by broad cause categories.

Value	Fire Year	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Cooking and Heating	Equipment	Explosives, Fireworks	Industry	Natural Sources	Pile Burn	Powerline	Prescribed Burn	Re-ignition	Spontaneous Combustion	Unclassified	Total
Number of Wildfires	2024/2025	81	12	1	16	1	1	18	2	2	0	3	28	165
	2023/2024	57	8	3	5	0	1	15	1	1	1	2	12	106
Area Burnt (ha)	2024/2025	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	2023/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table A8.2 Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Auckland District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 3 years of data. The historic period is from February 2022 through June 2024. Bolded maximum values indicate new maximum values for the district.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	3	41	38	29	65	157	229	374	565	729	738	38	23
	2023/2024	3	22	23	34	79	140	273	288	459	435	442	301	159
	Historic	3	22	23	34	111	140	273	288	459	435	442	301	159
Mean	2024/2025	3	11	10	9	22	58	98	199	306	433	149	13	6
	2023/2024	3	7	13	12	42	71	134	116	204	181	166	102	29
	Historic	3	6	10	12	47	59	109	94	138	125	121	73	19

Table A8.3 Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Auckland District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 3 years of data. The historic period is from February 2022 through June 2024. Bolded maximum values indicate new maximum values for the district.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	3	11	11	10	22	37	37	75	122	146	125	12	6
	2023/2024	3	6	8	13	19	28	53	55	87	49	41	26	12
	Historic	3	6	8	13	36	28	53	55	87	81	41	33	12
Mean	2024/2025	3	3	3	4	8	15	16	33	47	65	12	4	1
	2023/2024	3	2	4	5	10	20	21	21	36	13	12	7	3
	Historic	3	2	3	5	14	18	19	18	27	15	12	7	3

Appendix 9 Counties Manukau

Wildfire Statistics

- During the 2024/2025 wildfire season, Counties Manukau accounted for 9% of the total number of wildfires in the country and 1% of the area burnt (Figure 3 & 4, Appendix 1, Table A9.1).
- There has been an Increase in both the number of wildfires and the total area burnt during 2024/2025 compared to 2023/2024.
- The dominant cause of wildfires was Cigarettes, Matches, Candles.
- The primary cause that contributed to the total area burnt was Pile Burn.

Fuel Moisture Status

- In 2024/2025 Drought Code (DC) mean values typically followed the historical trend, although they were significantly higher from January through to a peak in March, before dropping well below the long-term mean from April. Maximum DC was in the “Extreme” category from January to April, peaking in March, with the first half of autumn significantly drier than summer. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A9.2)
- Buildup Index (BUI) mean values typically followed the historical trend, although they were higher from February to a peak in March before dropping below the long-term mean from April. Maximum BUI was in the “Extreme” category from January to April, peaking in March. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A9.3)

Table A9.1 Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) in Counties Manukau for 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 fire years by broad cause categories.

Value	Fire Year	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Cooking and Heating	Equipment	Explosives, Fireworks	Industry	Natural Sources	Pile Burn	Powerline	Prescribed Burn	Re-ignition	Spontaneous Combustion	Unclassified	Total
Number of Wildfires	2024/2025	142	17	11	24	1	1	113	10	23	9	4	61	416
	2023/2024	85	10	6	10	1	0	95	5	11	4	4	28	259
Area Burnt (ha)	2024/2025	7	0	0	2	0	0	15	1	1	1	0	5	32
	2023/2024	1	7	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	22

Table A9.2 Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Counties Manukau District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	6	37	35	40	86	149	214	357	532	617	598	88	26
	2023/2024	5	34	39	34	91	139	276	334	475	420	406	367	152
	Historic	5	524	540	181	179	257	367	565	752	796	812	773	523
Mean	2024/2025	6	13	12	15	30	87	142	228	343	459	193	31	7
	2023/2024	5	8	12	11	44	75	150	163	278	275	263	155	30
	Historic	5	23	16	18	36	76	134	202	259	258	227	144	57

Table A9.3 Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Counties Manukau District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	6	11	10	14	27	37	35	74	94	112	71	14	7
	2023/2024	5	9	12	13	28	32	58	65	94	42	44	25	11
	Historic	5	40	32	33	41	61	90	137	198	168	146	72	80
Mean	2024/2025	6	3	4	5	10	19	19	36	48	59	12	5	2
	2023/2024	5	2	4	5	12	13	23	27	42	19	15	10	4
	Historic	5	3	3	6	10	16	23	34	41	34	21	10	4

Appendix 10 Waikato

Wildfire Statistics

- During the 2024/2025 wildfire season, Waikato accounted for 10% of the total number of wildfires in the country and 20% of the area burnt (Figure 3 & 4, Appendix 1, Table A10.1).
- There has been an Increase in both the number of wildfires and the total area burnt during 2024/2025 compared to 2023/2024.
- The dominant cause of both wildfires and total area burnt was Pile Burn.

Fuel Moisture Status

- In 2024/2025 Drought Code (DC) mean values typically followed the historical trend, although they were significantly higher from November through to April, peaking in March, before dropping below the long-term mean from May. Maximum DC was in the “Extreme” category from November to June, peaking in March, with the autumn months significantly drier than summer. December had a new maximum DC value of 436 compared to the historic maximum of 359 for that month. (Table A10.2)
- Buildup Index (BUI) mean values typically followed the historical trend, although they were significantly higher from January through to March, peaking in February, before dropping below the long-term mean from April. Maximum BUI was in the “Extreme” category from December to April, peaking in March and April. New maximum BUI values of 170 were observed in both March and April, compared to the historic maximums of 169 and 153 respectively for those months. (Table A10.3)

Table A10.1 Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) in Waikato for 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 fire years by broad cause categories.

Value	Fire Year	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Cooking and Heating	Equipment	Explosives, Fireworks	Industry	Natural Sources	Pile Burn	Powerline	Prescribed Burn	Re-ignition	Spontaneous Combustion	Unclassified	Total
Number of Wildfires	2024/2025	74	31	13	9	1	4	207	4	35	10	7	79	474
	2023/2024	89	7	11	9	0	4	129	3	31	0	9	34	326
Area Burnt (ha)	2024/2025	18	3	3	1	2	0	1,064	0	5	1	0	13	1,110
	2023/2024	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	7

Table A10.2 Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Waikato District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024. Bolded maximum values indicate new maximum values for the district.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	21	92	84	115	175	308	436	466	633	795	657	452	336
	2023/2024	23	45	48	46	87	171	299	362	505	524	592	522	209
	Historic	27	347	141	182	259	319	359	579	747	809	812	667	421
Mean	2024/2025	21	18	15	19	36	87	138	237	333	387	228	85	20
	2023/2024	23	10	12	12	29	64	131	139	200	176	172	107	35
	Historic	27	11	10	12	29	55	102	151	190	197	172	110	34

Table A10.3 Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Waikato District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024. Bolded maximum values indicate new maximum values for the district.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	21	16	19	21	34	52	88	114	159	170	170	19	10
	2023/2024	23	11	11	15	21	35	61	72	90	95	107	31	15
	Historic	27	26	43	59	67	87	91	139	203	169	153	155	58
Mean	2024/2025	21	3	3	4	8	16	18	37	48	45	11	4	1
	2023/2024	23	2	3	4	6	12	18	19	26	15	12	5	3
	Historic	27	2	3	4	8	12	17	26	31	27	16	7	2

Appendix 11 Bay of Plenty

Wildfire Statistics

- During the 2024/2025 wildfire season, Bay of Plenty accounted for 10% of the total number of wildfires in the country and 2% of the area burnt (Figure 3 & 4, Appendix 1, Table A11.1).
- There has been an Increase in both the number of wildfires and the total area burnt during 2024/2025 compared to 2023/2024.
- The dominant cause of both wildfires and total area burnt was Pile Burn.

Fuel Moisture Status

- In 2024/2025 Drought Code (DC) mean values typically followed the historical trend, although they were significantly higher from December through to April, peaking in March, before dropping well below the long-term mean from May. Maximum DC was in the “Extreme” category from January to May, peaking in April, with the autumn months significantly drier than summer. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A11.2)
- Buildup Index (BUI) mean values typically followed the historical trend, although they were below the long-term mean in February and had a later than usual peak above in March, before dropping back below the long-term mean from April. Maximum BUI was in the “Extreme” category from January to April, peaking in January. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A11.3)

Table A11.1 Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) in Bay of Plenty for 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 fire years by broad cause categories.

Value	Fire Year	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Cooking and Heating	Equipment	Explosives, Fireworks	Industry	Natural Sources	Pile Burn	Powerline	Prescribed Burn	Re-ignition	Spontaneous Combustion	Unclassified	Total
Number of Wildfires	2024/2025	103	31	13	20	2	17	185	10	24	3	10	68	486
	2023/2024	54	30	14	7	1	7	125	11	26	2	4	54	335
Area Burnt (ha)	2024/2025	5	1	1	0	0	3	56	0	9	0	0	14	89
	2023/2024	42	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	7	0	0	1	59

Table A11.2 Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Bay of Plenty District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	31	80	46	78	86	197	287	467	504	558	567	425	143
	2023/2024	33	51	86	63	107	135	276	309	434	390	434	401	260
	Historic	37	412	168	165	207	299	476	573	734	758	762	644	538
Mean	2024/2025	31	11	9	18	23	64	133	219	287	336	210	60	9
	2023/2024	33	14	23	16	39	35	97	110	168	172	166	108	32
	Historic	37	14	13	14	34	60	105	161	194	190	157	94	37

Table A11.3 Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Bay of Plenty District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	31	12	15	28	33	44	58	105	74	91	88	17	10
	2023/2024	33	16	23	17	32	34	57	52	84	47	51	47	23
	Historic	37	89	26	45	60	77	108	142	162	157	189	83	88
Mean	2024/2025	31	2	3	6	8	16	21	32	30	33	13	4	2
	2023/2024	33	3	6	5	10	9	17	17	29	17	12	10	4
	Historic	37	3	3	5	10	14	18	29	34	25	15	8	4

Appendix 12 Tairāwhiti

Wildfire Statistics

- During the 2024/2025 wildfire season, Tairāwhiti accounted for 2% of the total number of wildfires in the country and < 1% of the area burnt (Figure 3 & 4, Appendix 1, Table A12.1).
- There has been an Increase in the number of wildfires and a Decrease in the total area burnt during 2024/2025 compared to 2023/2024.
- The dominant cause of both wildfires and total area burnt was Pile Burn.

Fuel Moisture Status

- In 2024/2025 Drought Code (DC) mean values were highly variable compared to the historical trend, being initially below until a brief period of above average values from November, peaking in December, before dropping significantly below the long-term mean from January. Maximum DC was in the “Extreme” category for the months of December and March only, peaking in December. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A12.2)
- Buildup Index (BUI) mean values were highly variable compared to the historical trend, typically being below or well below the long-term mean except for a brief peak of above average values in November. Maximum BUI was in the “Extreme” category for the months of November, December and March only, peaking in December. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A12.3)

Table A12.1 Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) in Tairāwhiti for 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 fire years by broad cause categories.

Value	Fire Year	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Cooking and Heating	Equipment	Explosives, Fireworks	Industry	Natural Sources	Pile Burn	Powerline	Prescribed Burn	Re-ignition	Spontaneous Combustion	Unclassified	Total
Number of Wildfires	2024/2025	12	16	0	1	0	0	22	1	5	2	0	19	78
	2023/2024	6	2	1	2	0	0	8	2	1	2	0	13	37
Area Burnt (ha)	2024/2025	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	5
	2023/2024	0	0	0	1	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	14

Table A12.2 Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Tairāwhiti District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	11	25	52	83	156	271	368	213	292	317	286	178	156
	2023/2024	11	40	67	112	121	225	219	302	451	623	708	489	215
	Historic	11	357	363	407	213	385	610	866	910	769	831	695	614
Mean	2024/2025	11	7	10	29	40	118	170	70	139	139	76	32	20
	2023/2024	11	10	23	35	31	35	81	141	162	227	251	151	42
	Historic	11	19	19	21	41	68	121	191	215	186	145	96	39

Table A12.3 Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Tairāwhiti District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	11	9	18	26	38	70	77	39	58	61	42	18	15
	2023/2024	11	12	25	31	35	59	46	58	82	135	159	92	24
	Historic	11	52	42	66	75	134	197	278	291	144	160	92	79
Mean	2024/2025	11	2	3	10	11	26	24	11	21	18	9	5	3
	2023/2024	11	3	7	11	10	9	18	18	29	27	25	12	6
	Historic	11	3	5	7	12	16	23	32	34	21	14	10	5

Appendix 13 Taranaki

Wildfire Statistics

- During the 2024/2025 wildfire season, Taranaki accounted for 4% of the total number of wildfires in the country and 1% of the area burnt (Figure 3 & 4, Appendix 1, Table A13.1).
- There has been an Increase in both the number of wildfires and the total area burnt during 2024/2025 compared to 2023/2024.
- The dominant cause of wildfires was Pile Burn.
- The primary cause that contributed to the total area burnt was Prescribed Burn.

Fuel Moisture Status

- In 2024/2025 Drought Code (DC) mean values typically followed the historical trend, although they were significantly higher than the long-term mean in July and for the period December to April, peaking in March. Maximum DC was in the “Extreme” category from January to April, peaking in March, with the autumn months drier than summer. July had a new maximum DC value of 154 compared to the historic maximum of 125 for that month. (Table A13.2)
- Buildup Index (BUI) mean values typically followed the historical trend, although they were well above the long-term mean from January through to March, peaking in February, before dropping back below from April. Maximum BUI was in the “Extreme” category from January to March, peaking in February. February had a new maximum BUI value of 114 compared to the historic maximum of 101 for that month. (Table A13.3)

Table A13.1 Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) in Taranaki for 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 fire years by broad cause categories.

Value	Fire Year	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Cooking and Heating	Equipment	Explosives, Fireworks	Industry	Natural Sources	Pile Burn	Powerline	Prescribed Burn	Re-ignition	Spontaneous Combustion	Unclassified	Total
Number of Wildfires	2024/2025	27	24	1	0	0	3	91	2	28	9	3	11	199
	2023/2024	16	9	2	2	1	0	54	2	17	2	0	11	116
Area Burnt (ha)	2024/2025	4	1	0	0	0	0	8	0	14	0	0	3	30
	2023/2024	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	8	2	0	0	21

Table A13.2 Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Taranaki District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024. Bolded maximum values indicate new maximum values for the district.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	12	154	76	21	56	114	236	355	499	525	454	240	159
	2023/2024	11	49	49	45	54	125	236	332	361	376	389	297	228
	Historic	12	125	134	152	107	222	425	536	589	689	692	527	269
Mean	2024/2025	12	35	10	6	18	36	124	221	320	348	221	70	28
	2023/2024	11	15	9	14	20	50	109	175	203	230	186	101	64
	Historic	12	11	10	12	22	53	90	154	196	202	147	82	31

Table A13.3 Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Taranaki District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024. Bolded maximum values indicate new maximum values for the district.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	12	9	12	7	21	27	37	79	114	80	45	12	5
	2023/2024	11	8	8	14	15	31	47	45	52	50	29	23	11
	Historic	12	22	35	45	33	54	108	112	101	123	118	94	23
Mean	2024/2025	12	3	2	2	6	7	15	30	42	30	9	4	1
	2023/2024	11	2	2	5	5	8	13	17	24	14	10	5	3
	Historic	12	2	2	4	6	10	14	22	26	22	13	7	2

Appendix 14 Hawke's Bay

Wildfire Statistics

- During the 2024/2025 wildfire season, Hawke's Bay accounted for 7% of the total number of wildfires in the country and 1% of the area burnt (Figure 3 & 4, Appendix 1, Table A14.1).
- There has been an Increase in the number of wildfires and a Decrease in the total area burnt during 2024/2025 compared to 2023/2024.
- The dominant cause of both wildfires and total area burnt was Pile Burn.

Fuel Moisture Status

- In 2024/2025 Drought Code (DC) mean values were typically well above the historical trend from October, peaking in February, except for a notable drop below the long-term mean for the month of January. Maximum DC was in the "Extreme" category from November to June, peaking in April, with the autumn months drier than summer. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A14.2)
- Buildup Index (BUI) mean values were highly variable compared to the historical trend, being below or well below the long-term mean for most of the year except for higher values for the period September through to a peak in December. Maximum BUI was in the "Extreme" category from October to April, peaking in December. November had a new maximum BUI value of 118 compared to the historic maximum of 101 for that month. (Table A14.3)

Table A14.1 Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) in Hawke’s Bay for 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 fire years by broad cause categories.

Value	Fire Year	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Cooking and Heating	Equipment	Explosives, Fireworks	Industry	Natural Sources	Pile Burn	Powerline	Prescribed Burn	Re-ignition	Spontaneous Combustion	Unclassified	Total
Number of Wildfires	2024/2025	51	36	6	13	3	1	116	10	17	18	4	48	323
	2023/2024	37	19	10	7	4	1	125	4	25	21	2	33	288
Area Burnt (ha)	2024/2025	5	3	0	0	4	0	30	1	1	3	0	1	48
	2023/2024	0	3	1	0	0	0	34	0	10	2	0	0	50

Table A14.2 Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Hawke’s Bay District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	37	262	111	120	242	415	507	590	596	618	657	536	470
	2023/2024	38	229	177	201	169	225	405	537	528	609	670	576	470
	Historic	42	668	422	429	379	424	559	760	896	1,005	892	900	813
Mean	2024/2025	37	25	15	34	76	170	239	188	272	268	249	157	132
	2023/2024	38	15	27	52	34	51	115	216	233	309	321	238	104
	Historic	42	32	29	33	46	87	142	209	228	236	208	170	89

Table A14.3 Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Hawke’s Bay District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024. Bolded maximum values indicate new maximum values for the district.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	37	12	21	42	83	118	145	88	78	89	71	35	29
	2023/2024	38	57	26	58	42	46	67	78	90	119	130	97	40
	Historic	42	57	50	68	92	101	181	190	224	236	152	122	100
Mean	2024/2025	37	2	4	12	20	34	36	19	32	23	18	8	6
	2023/2024	38	3	6	17	10	10	18	26	31	33	29	19	7
	Historic	42	4	6	9	13	19	24	32	34	30	21	14	6

Appendix 15 Manawatū-Whanganui

Wildfire Statistics

- During the 2024/2025 wildfire season, Manawatū-Whanganui accounted for 5% of the total number of wildfires in the country and 2% of the area burnt (Figure 3 & 4, Appendix 1, Table A15.1).
- There has been an Increase in both the number of wildfires and the total area burnt during 2024/2025 compared to 2023/2024.
- The dominant cause of both wildfires and total area burnt was Pile Burn.

Fuel Moisture Status

- In 2024/2025 Drought Code (DC) mean values followed but were typically well above the historical trend, peaking in March, except for the period from September to November when they were below the long-term mean. Maximum DC was in the “Extreme” category from January to June, peaking in June, with the autumn months and early winter being significantly drier than summer. June had a new maximum DC value of 741 compared to the historic maximum of 484 for that month. (Table A15.2)
- Buildup Index (BUI) mean values typically followed the historical trend until January before peaking above the long-term mean in February and remaining higher through to the end of the year. Maximum BUI was in the “Extreme” category from January to June, peaking in June. New maximum BUI values were observed in the months of May (125) and June (128), compared to the historic maximums of 64 and 59 respectively for those months. (Table A15.3)

Table A15.1 Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) in Manawatū-Whanganui for 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 fire years by broad cause categories.

Value	Fire Year	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Cooking and Heating	Equipment	Explosives, Fireworks	Industry	Natural Sources	Pile Burn	Powerline	Prescribed Burn	Re-ignition	Spontaneous Combustion	Unclassified	Total
Number of Wildfires	2024/2025	45	25	7	6	0	4	85	6	22	5	2	50	257
	2023/2024	44	19	9	4	0	2	92	14	14	8	0	48	254
Area Burnt (ha)	2024/2025	8	2	0	5	0	3	25	1	16	1	0	23	84
	2023/2024	0	5	0	3	0	0	13	2	16	0	0	2	41

Table A15.2 Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Manawatū-Whanganui District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024. Bolded maximum values indicate new maximum values for the district.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	33	296	186	53	79	175	287	429	552	601	612	685	741
	2023/2024	33	131	98	79	62	132	301	405	507	519	550	468	343
	Historic	39	433	300	315	390	502	620	765	951	1,077	915	757	484
Mean	2024/2025	33	75	37	7	23	62	160	203	293	334	322	208	149
	2023/2024	33	26	8	23	19	53	131	190	221	252	252	180	114
	Historic	39	26	17	21	29	65	108	172	208	227	193	128	67

Table A15.3 Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Manawatū-Whanganui District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024. Bolded maximum values indicate new maximum values for the district.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	33	21	21	21	24	31	47	76	107	114	113	125	128
	2023/2024	33	19	10	24	18	34	54	70	93	79	87	37	22
	Historic	39	50	64	122	88	105	144	148	203	237	127	64	59
Mean	2024/2025	33	3	3	3	7	10	17	22	37	30	19	12	8
	2023/2024	33	2	2	7	5	10	16	20	28	21	16	8	4
	Historic	39	2	3	5	7	12	16	25	29	25	13	7	3

Appendix 16 Wellington

The Wellington District includes the Chatham Islands. In future iterations we are considering creating a sub-district specifically for the Chatham Islands because both fire occurrence and climate are different compared to the larger district.

Wildfire Statistics

- During the 2024/2025 wildfire season, Wellington accounted for 5% of the total number of wildfires in the country and < 1% of the area burnt (Figure 3 & 4, Appendix 1, Table A16.1).
- There has been a Decrease in both the number of wildfires and the total area burnt during 2024/2025 compared to 2023/2024.
- The dominant cause of both wildfires and total area burnt was Pile Burn.

Fuel Moisture Status

- In 2024/2025 Drought Code (DC) mean values were variable compared to the historical trend, starting the period well above and ending well below the long-term mean but with alternating values above and below in between, with a notable drop below in January and a later than usual peak above the mean in March. Maximum DC was in the “Extreme” category all year except for the period from September to November, peaking in February, with the autumn months typically drier than summer. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A16.2)
- Buildup Index (BUI) mean values typically followed the historical trend, with a notable drop well below the long-term mean in January before peaking above in February. Maximum BUI was in the “Extreme” category from December to April, peaking in March. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A16.3)

Table A16.1 Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) in Wellington for 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 fire years by broad cause categories.

Value	Fire Year	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Cooking and Heating	Equipment	Explosives, Fireworks	Industry	Natural Sources	Pile Burn	Powerline	Prescribed Burn	Re-ignition	Spontaneous Combustion	Unclassified	Total
Number of Wildfires	2024/2025	44	39	6	6	1	8	98	5	10	3	5	35	260
	2023/2024	53	62	17	12	1	1	74	12	11	9	7	42	301
Area Burnt (ha)	2024/2025	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	2	10
	2023/2024	5	1	36	0	0	0	6	6	6	1	1	20	82

Table A16.2 Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Wellington District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	26	409	338	167	141	223	351	498	631	629	598	408	330
	2023/2024	26	259	201	144	190	234	399	556	720	765	758	643	461
	Historic	28	554	592	622	434	475	636	657	766	805	862	867	648
Mean	2024/2025	26	99	39	17	39	84	176	164	311	351	314	128	68
	2023/2024	26	30	13	37	40	89	170	304	413	461	391	260	180
	Historic	28	43	27	29	41	89	147	236	296	299	227	165	92

Table A16.3 Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Wellington District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	26	14	12	13	39	59	100	67	100	117	70	43	48
	2023/2024	26	24	10	32	61	63	60	121	192	145	85	33	34
	Historic	28	74	97	111	82	80	117	138	192	170	141	139	63
Mean	2024/2025	26	3	3	3	10	16	28	17	43	28	16	6	4
	2023/2024	26	3	2	10	9	13	20	40	52	38	18	10	6
	Historic	28	3	3	6	9	17	22	34	40	33	16	10	4

Appendix 17 Nelson/Marlborough

Wildfire Statistics

- During the 2024/2025 wildfire season, Nelson/Marlborough accounted for 3% of the total number of wildfires in the country and 1% of the area burnt (Figure 3 & 4, Appendix 1, Table A17.1).
- There has been a Decrease in both the number of wildfires and the total area burnt during 2024/2025 compared to 2023/2024.
- The dominant cause of both wildfires and total area burnt was Pile Burn.

Fuel Moisture Status

- In 2024/2025 Drought Code (DC) mean values typically followed but were well above the historical trend except for in October and November which were below, with a peak in March before dropping below the long-term mean from April. Maximum DC was in the “Extreme” category for July and the period from November to May, peaking in April. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A17.2)
- Buildup Index (BUI) mean values typically followed but were below the historical trend across the entire year, including the peak in February, except for the month of December which was notably well above the long-term mean. Maximum BUI was in the “Extreme” category from November to April, peaking in December. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A17.3)

Table A17.1 Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) in Nelson/Marlborough for 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 fire years by broad cause categories.

Value	Fire Year	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Cooking and Heating	Equipment	Explosives, Fireworks	Industry	Natural Sources	Pile Burn	Powerline	Prescribed Burn	Re-ignition	Spontaneous Combustion	Unclassified	Total
Number of Wildfires	2024/2025	22	20	9	5	4	6	61	2	11	4	2	16	162
	2023/2024	22	34	17	3	0	2	69	0	13	11	9	28	208
Area Burnt (ha)	2024/2025	2	1	2	0	1	8	14	0	4	0	0	1	33
	2023/2024	2	3	7	0	0	0	6	0	0	24	0	2	44

Table A17.2 Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Nelson/Marlborough District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	26	329	283	175	244	400	560	623	742	763	782	374	299
	2023/2024	26	360	314	337	308	435	621	840	933	956	880	547	498
	Historic	30	628	541	562	590	521	708	922	1,120	1,186	1,167	1,089	933
Mean	2024/2025	26	86	61	39	40	73	203	241	334	350	224	72	36
	2023/2024	26	50	48	48	59	109	219	329	426	471	343	247	175
	Historic	30	44	33	35	50	98	161	236	293	298	230	160	89

Table A17.3 Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Nelson/Marlborough District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	26	16	21	31	54	90	146	86	128	107	100	23	17
	2023/2024	26	27	34	47	51	76	115	173	176	185	129	72	81
	Historic	30	37	47	65	97	150	168	213	264	268	191	161	81
Mean	2024/2025	26	3	4	7	10	18	42	26	45	41	16	5	2
	2023/2024	26	5	8	10	12	20	36	50	66	54	33	23	12
	Historic	30	4	5	8	13	21	27	40	49	39	22	13	6

Appendix 18 West Coast

Wildfire Statistics

- During the 2024/2025 wildfire season, West Coast accounted for 2% of the total number of wildfires in the country and < 1% of the area burnt (Figure 3 & 4, Appendix 1, Table A18.1).
- There has been an Increase in both the number of wildfires and the total area burnt during 2024/2025 compared to 2023/2024.
- The dominant cause of both wildfires and total area burnt was Pile Burn.

Fuel Moisture Status

- In 2024/2025 Drought Code (DC) mean values typically followed but were below the historical trend across the year, except for a period well above the long-term mean from January to March, peaking in February. Maximum DC was in the “Extreme” category for February and March, peaking in March. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A18.2)
- Buildup Index (BUI) mean values typically followed but were below the historical trend across the year, except for a period above the long-term mean from the peak in January through to March. Maximum BUI was in the “Extreme” category for January and February, peaking in February. June had a new maximum BUI value of 20 compared to the historic maximum of 18 for that month. (Table A18.3)

Table A18.1 Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) in West Coast for 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 fire years by broad cause categories.

Value	Fire Year	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Cooking and Heating	Equipment	Explosives, Fireworks	Industry	Natural Sources	Pile Burn	Powerline	Prescribed Burn	Re-ignition	Spontaneous Combustion	Unclassified	Total
Number of Wildfires	2024/2025	17	12	1	1	0	1	35	2	9	1	0	13	92
	2023/2024	9	8	1	0	0	0	19	0	2	0	0	4	43
Area Burnt (ha)	2024/2025	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
	2023/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table A18.2 Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all West Coast District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	14	31	18	8	57	71	147	252	347	352	264	46	52
	2023/2024	14	16	20	31	37	96	138	131	131	174	164	52	51
	Historic	15	87	64	120	193	204	316	371	427	422	310	214	57
Mean	2024/2025	14	8	4	3	12	16	37	112	153	112	20	9	3
	2023/2024	14	4	5	6	11	27	28	37	41	49	25	17	7
	Historic	15	6	5	7	12	29	44	74	76	60	27	10	7

Table A18.3 Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all West Coast District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024. Bolded maximum values indicate new maximum values for the district.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	14	8	7	4	20	23	34	64	69	59	37	10	20
	2023/2024	14	5	7	12	12	27	26	43	41	39	14	15	15
	Historic	15	24	25	33	53	63	90	86	84	101	53	23	18
Mean	2024/2025	14	2	1	1	3	4	7	20	18	14	3	2	1
	2023/2024	14	1	1	2	3	7	6	8	9	7	3	4	1
	Historic	15	1	2	3	4	7	9	15	13	10	5	2	2

Appendix 19 Canterbury

Wildfire Statistics

- During the 2024/2025 wildfire season, Canterbury accounted for 12% of the total number of wildfires in the country and 18% of the area burnt (Figure 3 & 4, Appendix 1, Table A19.1).
- There has been a Decrease in both the number of wildfires and the total area burnt during 2024/2025 compared to 2023/2024.
- The dominant cause of wildfires was Pile Burn.
- The primary cause that contributed to the total area burnt was Cigarettes, Matches, Candles.

Fuel Moisture Status

- In 2024/2025 Drought Code (DC) mean values diverged from the historical trend, being well above the long-term mean up until December before dropping well below from January, with a below average peak in February. Maximum DC was in the “Extreme” category all year, peaking in March. August had a new maximum DC value of 515 compared to the historic maximum of 485 for that month. (Table A19.2)
- Buildup Index (BUI) mean values diverged from the historical trend, being above the long-term mean for the period from September to the peak in December before dropping well below from January. Maximum BUI was in the “Extreme” category from October to March, peaking in December. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A19.3)

Table A19.1 Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) in Canterbury for 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 fire years by broad cause categories.

Value	Fire Year	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Cooking and Heating	Equipment	Explosives, Fireworks	Industry	Natural Sources	Pile Burn	Powerline	Prescribed Burn	Re-ignition	Spontaneous Combustion	Unclassified	Total
Number of Wildfires	2024/2025	111	23	25	9	1	3	242	7	39	24	9	82	575
	2023/2024	165	50	48	11	3	12	180	20	36	42	14	89	670
Area Burnt (ha)	2024/2025	741	2	75	2	0	0	19	0	41	7	105	1	993
	2023/2024	515	42	29	0	0	4	27	2	20	18	0	351	1,008

Table A19.2 Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Canterbury District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024. Bolded maximum values indicate new maximum values for the district.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	37	563	515	337	418	340	453	515	553	570	499	335	328
	2023/2024	38	287	125	177	143	250	437	668	695	804	846	763	719
	Historic	45	622	485	453	479	536	640	781	862	891	853	826	719
Mean	2024/2025	37	242	148	122	136	141	260	224	311	277	200	49	39
	2023/2024	38	58	21	50	44	101	193	340	441	510	512	463	361
	Historic	45	72	43	56	70	121	178	282	343	338	320	282	184

Table A19.3 Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Canterbury District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	37	30	28	55	74	79	139	83	119	107	54	29	32
	2023/2024	38	18	21	55	40	67	120	203	208	144	142	115	78
	Historic	45	47	52	64	95	120	169	237	239	203	178	191	85
Mean	2024/2025	37	6	6	17	23	29	47	20	38	23	14	7	5
	2023/2024	38	3	6	18	12	22	27	56	64	59	45	29	14
	Historic	45	5	7	14	17	26	29	47	51	42	30	21	9

Appendix 20 Mid-South Canterbury

Wildfire Statistics

- During the 2024/2025 wildfire season, Mid-South Canterbury accounted for 3% of the total number of wildfires in the country and 4% of the area burnt (Figure 3 & 4, Appendix 1, Table A20.1).
- There has been a Decrease in both the number of wildfires and the total area burnt during 2024/2025 compared to 2023/2024.
- The dominant cause of wildfires was Pile Burn.
- The primary cause that contributed to the total area burnt was Unclassified.

Fuel Moisture Status

- In 2024/2025 Drought Code (DC) mean values were typically below to well below the historical trend, including at the peak in February, with only the months of July, August and December being above the long-term mean. Maximum DC was in the “Extreme” category for July, August and the period from December to May, peaking in March, with the autumn months drier than summer. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A20.2)
- Buildup Index (BUI) mean values were typically well below the historical trend all year, except for the peak in December which was the only month to be markedly above the long-term mean. Maximum BUI was in the “Extreme” category for the months of December, February and March, peaking in February. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A20.3)

Table A20.1 Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) in Mid-South Canterbury for 2024/2025 and 2023/2024 fire years by broad cause categories.

Value	Fire Year	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Cooking and Heating	Equipment	Explosives, Fireworks	Industry	Natural Sources	Pile Burn	Powerline	Prescribed Burn	Re-ignition	Spontaneous Combustion	Unclassified	Total
Number of Wildfires	2024/2025	12	21	12	2	0	2	63	6	20	5	3	17	163
	2023/2024	17	18	17	2	2	2	82	15	19	12	3	19	208
Area Burnt (ha)	2024/2025	0	0	10	4	0	0	37	2	19	0	0	152	224
	2023/2024	1	7	837	0	1,341	0	3	1	82	1	0	97	2,370

Table A20.2 Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Mid-South Canterbury District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	29	472	327	289	242	224	343	434	508	551	503	356	262
	2023/2024	29	497	292	338	326	383	473	615	746	856	768	610	602
	Historic	31	617	521	443	477	464	598	771	890	958	778	731	670
Mean	2024/2025	29	176	101	69	50	78	183	193	258	245	182	87	37
	2023/2024	29	105	61	84	81	120	194	301	365	433	378	314	261
	Historic	31	97	63	71	85	114	160	233	278	282	262	221	165

Table A20.3 Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Mid-South Canterbury District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	29	28	19	30	41	58	106	58	110	106	55	18	21
	2023/2024	29	24	41	64	57	74	138	189	157	170	99	48	40
	Historic	31	54	65	93	107	122	138	189	171	170	157	95	73
Mean	2024/2025	29	8	5	8	11	21	34	16	31	23	9	6	3
	2023/2024	29	6	9	21	15	20	30	47	50	50	27	15	9
	Historic	31	6	7	14	16	20	25	36	41	32	22	15	10

Appendix 21 Otago

Wildfire Statistics

- During the 2024/2025 wildfire season, Otago accounted for 5% of the total number of wildfires in the country and 22% of the area burnt (Figure 3 & 4, Appendix 1, Table A21.1).
- There has been a Decrease in the number of wildfires and an Increase in the total area burnt during 2024/2025 compared to 2023/2024.
- The dominant cause of wildfires was Pile Burn.
- The primary cause that contributed to the total area burnt was Prescribed Burn.

Fuel Moisture Status

- In 2024/2025 Drought Code (DC) mean values typically fluctuated around the historical trend, starting above the long-term mean before dropping significantly below for the period from September to January, then briefly rising above from February and peaking in March before once again dropping below from April. Maximum DC was in the “Extreme” category all year except for the month of October, peaking in March, with the autumn months significantly drier than summer. No new maximum values were observed. (A21.2)
- Buildup Index (BUI) mean values were typically below to well below the historical trend except for brief spikes above in the months of December and at the peak in February. Maximum BUI was in the “Extreme” category from November to April, peaking in December. No new maximum values were observed. (Table A21.3)

Table A21.1 Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) in Otago by broad cause categories.

Value	Fire Year	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Cooking and Heating	Equipment	Explosives, Fireworks	Industry	Natural Sources	Pile Burn	Powerline	Prescribed Burn	Re-ignition	Spontaneous Combustion	Unclassified	Total
Number of Wildfires	2024/2025	19	26	30	9	1	1	93	15	20	9	13	31	267
	2023/2024	32	39	29	10	4	4	126	16	33	15	9	37	354
Area Burnt (ha)	2024/2025	1	1	25	0	2	2	46	0	1,125	3	1	9	1,215
	2023/2024	31	1	32	4	1	0	25	83	75	1	0	1	254

Table A21.2 Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Otago District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	33	476	392	351	263	310	512	615	739	830	803	596	517
	2023/2024	33	389	336	361	301	408	573	698	848	871	837	676	653
	Historic	36	573	576	591	621	665	810	1,017	922	891	865	855	692
Mean	2024/2025	33	203	149	99	56	95	220	277	377	388	329	278	190
	2023/2024	33	130	103	112	102	148	260	350	423	493	425	386	317
	Historic	36	155	117	121	132	171	243	308	347	360	350	289	220

Table A21.3 Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Otago District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	33	25	23	41	54	97	170	138	145	149	97	38	26
	2023/2024	33	32	47	72	53	83	161	147	164	175	109	72	81
	Historic	36	71	73	80	133	139	171	205	217	202	178	137	92
Mean	2024/2025	33	6	7	9	12	21	45	35	47	37	17	13	4
	2023/2024	33	6	8	19	20	22	42	45	53	54	29	20	10
	Historic	36	7	8	16	20	26	34	42	45	40	29	16	9

Appendix 22 Southland

The Southland District includes Stewart Island.

Wildfire Statistics

- During the 2024/2025 wildfire season, Southland accounted for 2% of the total number of wildfires in the country and 22% of the area burnt (Figure 3 & 4, Appendix 1, Table A22.1).
- There has been No Change in the number of wildfires and an Increase in the total area burnt during 2024/2025 compared to 2023/2024.
- The dominant cause of wildfires was Pile Burn.
- The primary cause that contributed to the total area burnt was Powerline.

Fuel Moisture Status

- In 2024/2025 Drought Code (DC) mean values typically followed the historical trend, although they were initially above the long-term mean until dropping below from November through to January, before rising significantly above to the peak in February and remaining higher for the rest of the year. Maximum DC was in the “Extreme” category from November to June, peaking in June, with the autumn months and early winter significantly drier than summer. Numerous new maximum BUI values were observed, these being in the months of September (204), November (320), December (377), March (562), April (591), May (642) and June (670), compared to the historic maximums of 179, 251, 334, 514, 488, 444 and 310 respectively for those months. (Table A22.2)
- Buildup Index (BUI) mean values followed the historical trend, although they were typically at or below the long-term mean all year except for being above at either end of the reporting period and for the month of February, with the peak in February being a month later than historically. Maximum BUI was in the “Extreme” category for the months of November, December, February and March, peaking in December. New maximum BUI values were observed in the months of July (24), November (89), December (101) and June (48), compared to the historic maximums of 22, 78, 89 and 21 respectively for those months. (Table A22.3)

Table A22.1 Number of wildfires and area burnt (ha) in Southland by broad cause categories.

Value	Fire Year	Cigarettes, Matches, Candles	Cooking and Heating	Equipment	Explosives, Fireworks	Industry	Natural Sources	Pile Burn	Powerline	Prescribed Burn	Re-ignition	Spontaneous Combustion	Unclassified	Total
Number of Wildfires	2024/2025	10	6	3	0	2	0	49	6	8	5	1	27	117
	2023/2024	17	13	2	1	0	0	49	12	6	4	2	11	117
Area Burnt (ha)	2024/2025	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1,211	0	0	0	2	1,217
	2023/2024	1	0	0	5	0	0	34	0	1	0	0	0	41

Table A22.2 Drought Code (DC) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Southland District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) DC values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024. Bolded maximum values indicate new maximum values for the district. Bolded maximum values indicate new maximum values for the district.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	26	171	183	204	172	320	377	339	495	562	591	642	670
	2023/2024	26	29	26	47	61	131	255	348	433	475	460	326	234
	Historic	29	261	195	179	191	251	334	502	533	514	488	444	310
Mean	2024/2025	26	16	18	13	20	41	78	121	188	173	117	78	41
	2023/2024	26	4	4	9	17	49	103	116	76	90	69	44	22
	Historic	29	10	8	10	18	46	87	131	138	136	111	58	23

Table A22.3 Buildup Index (BUI) values (maximum and mean) for 2024/2025, 2023/2024 and the historical average, based on values averaged across all Southland District weather stations. The colour scale is a visual indicator of high (red, orange, and yellow) and low (blue) BUI values. Fuel moisture data covers the last 28 years of data. The historic period is from 1996 through June 2024. Bolded maximum values indicate new maximum values for the district. Bolded maximum values indicate new maximum values for the district.

Statistic	Period	Stations	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Max	2024/2025	26	24	21	21	47	89	101	56	78	84	39	46	48
	2023/2024	26	5	6	14	16	26	41	49	36	45	21	21	21
	Historic	29	22	24	38	49	78	89	114	123	103	92	56	21
Mean	2024/2025	26	2	3	3	5	9	13	17	23	13	6	5	4
	2023/2024	26	1	1	3	4	9	12	12	8	7	4	2	2
	Historic	29	1	2	3	5	10	14	19	16	14	8	3	2

