

**National Climate Summary – May 2011: Warmest May on record**

- **Temperatures: Warmest May since records began in 1909. Temperatures more than 2°C above May average between Waikato and Christchurch, and in the Lakes District.**
- **Rainfall: A record wet May for Nelson. Extremely wet for much of the North Island, as well as the Tasman District, Marlborough, Otago and south Canterbury.**
- **Sunshine: Very cloudy for the South Island and southwest of the North Island.**

It was the warmest May on record, using NIWA's seven-station temperature series which began in 1909. The average temperature for May was 12.9°C (2.2°C above the 1971–2000 May average). The previous record-holder from this series was May 2007 (with an average temperature of 12.5°C, or 1.8°C above the 1971–2000 May average). Monthly mean temperatures for May were at least 2°C above May average between the Waikato and Christchurch, as well as in the South Island Lakes District, with many records broken. For the remainder of the country, monthly mean temperatures were also well above average (between 1.2°C and 2°C above May average).

New Zealand was affected by more northerly winds than usual during May, squeezed between low pressures over the Tasman Sea and anticyclones ('highs') parked east of the country. These northerly winds contributed to the record-breaking May warmth, a record wet May for Nelson, and extremely high rainfall totals for many regions of the North Island (with at least 120 percent of normal May rainfall), as well as for Marlborough, the Tasman District, Otago and south Canterbury. In contrast, southern Hawkes Bay, the Wairarapa, and Banks Peninsula experienced a very dry May (with rainfall about half of normal), and rainfall was below normal (between 50 and 79 percent of normal) in parts of Fiordland.

Overall, May was a month of extremes. May started with a heat wave on the West Coast of the South Island; on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, 26.7°C was observed at Hokitika and 25.0°C at Westport (both new May records). A tornado swept through Albany (Auckland) on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Flooding rains affected Otago on May 7/8, and Nelson and Takaka on May 25/26.

Sunshine totals in May were below normal (between 75 and 90 percent of normal) for much of the South Island, and from Taranaki to Wellington. It was the cloudiest May on record for Hokitika, Cromwell and Stratford. In contrast, sunshine totals were above normal (between 110 and 125 percent of May normal) on the east coast of the North Island, and in parts of Northland. Elsewhere, totals were close to normal (between 90 and 110 percent of May normal).

**Further Highlights:**

- The highest temperature recorded was 26.7°C at Hokitika on the 1<sup>st</sup> (a new May record there).
- The lowest temperature recorded was -4.8°C at Pukaki Aerodrome on the 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The highest 1-day rainfall of 289 mm was recorded at North Egmont on the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The highest gust was 184 km/hr recorded at Southwest Cape on the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Of the six main centres, Auckland was the wettest but also the warmest, Tauranga was the sunniest, and Christchurch was the driest.

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**TEMPERATURES: WARMEST MAY ON RECORD. TEMPERATURES MORE THAN 2°C ABOVE MAY AVERAGE BETWEEN WAIKATO AND CHRISTCHURCH.**

NIWA’s long-term temperature series from seven stations spread across New Zealand indicates this was the warmest May since the series began in 1909. The average temperature in May, based on this series, was 12.9°C (2.2°C above the 1971–2000 May average)<sup>1</sup>. The previous record-holder was May 2007 (with an average temperature of 12.5°C, or 1.8°C above the 1971–2000 May average).

Monthly mean temperatures for May were at least 2°C above May average between the Waikato and Christchurch, as well as in the South Island Lakes District, with many, many records broken (see Table below). For the remainder of the country, monthly mean temperatures were also well above average (between 1.2°C and 2°C above May average).

**Record or near-record high May mean air temperatures were recorded at:**

Location	Mean air temperature (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
Kerikeri	15.6	1.6	1981	Highest
Kaikohe	16.1	2.6	1973	Highest
Dargaville	16.0	2.1	1943	2nd-highest
Whangarei	15.8	1.6	1967	Highest
Leigh	16.7	1.6	1966	Highest
Whangaparaoa	15.9	1.6	1982	2nd-highest
Whenuapai	14.6	1.7	1945	2nd-highest
Whitianga	14.3	1.5	1962	4th-highest
Paeroa	14.7	2.5	1947	Highest
Tauranga	15.1	2.3	1913	Highest
Te Puke	14.2	2.2	1973	Highest
Whakatane	14.8	3.2	1974	Highest
Rotorua	12.6	2.1	1964	Highest
Taupo	12.0	2.6	1949	Highest
Auckland (Airport)	15.4	1.7	1959	4th-highest
Mangere	15.7	+1.9	1959	Highest
Whatawhata	13.9	1.9	1952	Highest
Hamilton	13.4	2.1	1946	3rd-highest
Port Taharoa	16.1	2.3	1973	Highest
Te Kuiti	13.0	1.6	1959	2nd-highest
Taumarunui	12.4	2.2	1947	3rd-highest
New Plymouth	14.8	2.5	1944	Highest
Masterton	12.4	1.9	1906	2nd-highest
Dannevirke	12.1	1.8	1951	3rd-highest
Castlepoint	14.4	1.6	1972	3rd-highest
Martinborough	12.5	1.9	1986	Highest
Ngawi	15.0	2.1	1972	2nd-highest
Hicks Bay	15.7	2.0	1969	Highest
Gisborne	14.7	2.5	1905	Highest
Hastings	13.7	2.1	1965	Highest
Waipawa	12.5	2.2	1945	Highest
Wairoa	14.3	2.3	1964	Highest
Mahia	14.6	2.1	1990	Highest

<sup>1</sup> Interim monthly value.

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Paraparaumu	13.8	2.4	1953	Highest
Palmerston North	13.5	2.4	1928	Highest
Levin	14.1	2.9	1895	Highest
Wellington (Airport)	14.2	2.0	1962	Highest
Wellington (Kelburn)	13.7	2.2	1928	Highest
Wallaceville	12.6	2.1	1939	2nd-highest
Stratford	12.7	2.5	1960	Highest
Hawera	14.0	3.0	1977	Highest
Ohakune	11.1	3.1	1962	Highest
Waiouru	9.4	2.4	1962	Highest
Wanganui	14.8	2.6	1937	Highest
Takaka	13.5	2.7	1978	Highest
Farewell Spit	14.4	2.3	1971	Highest
Westport	13.3	2.1	1937	Highest
Lake Rotoiti	9.5	3.0	1965	Highest
Hokitika	12.2	2.2	1963	Highest
Reefton	11.7	3.4	1960	Highest
Greymouth	12.5	1.8	1947	3rd-highest
Milford Sound	10.1	1.8	1934	2nd-highest
Puysgur Point	11.0	0.9	1978	4th-highest
Motueka	13.3	3.3	1956	Highest
Nelson	13.7	3.6	1943	Highest
Appleby	13.0	2.5	1943	2nd-highest
Blenheim	12.8	2.2	1941	2nd-highest
Hanmer Springs	10.1	2.5	1906	Highest
Kaikoura	12.7	1.7	1963	3rd-highest
Culverden	11.1	2.8	1928	2nd-highest
Mt Cook	7.9	1.7	1929	4th-highest
Winchmore	10.5	1.9	1927	4th-highest
Waipara West	12.3	2.6	1973	2nd-highest
Lincoln	11.3	2.1	1881	2nd-highest
Le Bons Bay	11.6	1.4	1984	3rd-highest
Lake Tekapo	8.3	2.3	1927	2nd-highest
Timaru	10.0	1.9	1990	2nd-highest
Tara Hills	8.3	2.3	1949	3rd-highest
Wanaka	9.2	2.0	1955	2nd-highest
Dunedin	11.0	1.7	1947	3rd-highest
Lumsden	8.7	1.4	1982	4th-highest
Cromwell	9.8	2.9	1949	2nd-highest
Alexandra	9.6	2.9	1983	2nd-highest
Gore	9.3	1.8	1971	3rd-highest
Invercargill	9.5	1.5	1948	3rd-highest
Tiwai Point	10.3	1.4	1970	3rd-highest
Balclutha	9.3	1.2	1964	4th-highest
Nugget Point	9.6	1.1	1970	4th-highest

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**RAINFALL: RECORD WET FOR NELSON. ALSO VERY WET FOR MUCH OF THE NORTH ISLAND, AS WELL AS MARLBOROUGH, TASMAN DISTRICT, OTAGO AND SOUTH CANTERBURY.**

It was a record wet May for Nelson and the northwest South Island (including Takaka, Lake Rotoiti, and Reefton), with rainfall between two-and-a-half times and three-and-a-half times May normal. Extremely high rainfall totals were also observed for many regions of the North Island (with at least 120 percent of normal May rainfall), as well as for Marlborough, the Tasman District, Otago and south Canterbury.

In contrast, southern Hawkes Bay, the Wairarapa, and Banks Peninsula experienced a very dry May (with rainfall about half of normal), and rainfall was below normal (between 50 and 79 percent of normal) in parts of Fiordland.

**Record or near-record May rainfall totals were recorded at:**

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
Kerikeri	315	249	1981	2nd-highest
Kaikohe	274	245	1956	3rd-highest
Te Puke	283	249	1973	3rd-highest
Stratford	328	176	1960	2nd-highest
Takaka	430	254	1976	Highest
Lake Rotoiti	333	241	1933	Highest
Hokitika	428	175	1963	3rd-highest
Reefton	360	187	1960	Highest
Greymouth	404	193	1947	2nd-highest
Motueka	292	258	1943	3rd-highest
Nelson	271	353	1941	Highest
Appleby	250	317	1941	2nd-highest
Blenheim	138	230	1927	4th-highest
Alexandra (Pioneer)	93	289	1983	Highest

**SUNSHINE: VERY CLOUDY FOR THE SOUTH ISLAND AND SOUTHWEST OF NORTH ISLAND.**

Sunshine totals in May were below normal (between 75 and 90 percent of normal) for much of the South Island, and from Taranaki to Wellington. In fact, it was the cloudiest May on record for Hokitika, Cromwell and Stratford, with between only half and three quarters of usual May sunshine totals observed. In contrast, sunshine totals were above normal (between 110 and 125 percent of May normal) on the east coast of the North Island, and in parts of Northland. Elsewhere, totals were close to normal (between 90 and 110 percent of May normal).

**Record or near-record May sunshine hours were recorded at:**

Location	Sunshine (hours)	Percentage Of normal	Year records began	Comments
Kaitaia	159	107	1985	4th-highest
New Plymouth	109	76	1972	4th-lowest
Stratford	89	71	1963	Lowest
Hokitika	68	59	1964	Lowest
Cromwell	59	50	1979	Lowest

## MAY CLIMATE IN THE SIX MAIN CENTRES

Of the six main centres in May 2011, Auckland was the wettest but also the warmest, Tauranga was the sunniest, and Christchurch was the driest. For all of these six main centres, it was a record or near-record warm May, and for all except Christchurch, it was a very wet month.

### May 2011 main centre climate statistics:

Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)		Rainfall (mm)	% of normal		Sunshine (hours)	% of normal	
Auckland <sup>a</sup>	15.7	+1.9	Highest on record	180	177%	Well above normal	145	105%	Near normal
Tauranga <sup>b</sup>	15.1	+2.3	Highest on record	173	195%	Well above normal	165	100%	Normal
Hamilton <sup>c</sup>	13.4	+2.1	3rd highest on record	136	129%	Above normal	117 <sup>g</sup>	89%	Below normal
Wellington <sup>d</sup>	13.7	+2.2	Highest on record	139	119%	Near normal	128	100%	Normal
Christchurch <sup>e</sup>	11.0	+2.1	2nd highest on record	53	101%	Near normal	116	82%	Below normal
Dunedin <sup>f</sup>	11.0	+1.7	3rd highest on record	95	136%	Above normal	101	101%	Near normal

<sup>a</sup> Mangere <sup>b</sup> Tauranga Airport <sup>c</sup> Hamilton Airport <sup>d</sup> Kelburn <sup>e</sup> Christchurch Airport <sup>f</sup> Musselburgh <sup>g</sup> Ruakura

## HIGHLIGHTS AND EXTREME EVENTS

### Rain and slips

The highest 1-day rainfall of 289 mm was recorded at North Egmont on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

On 2 May, heavy rain caused flooding in Kaeo, and reduced SH10 to one lane north of Kaeo after a section of the road slumped by 60 cm. In Houhora Harbour the storm sank a launch at its mooring. Whangarei Harbour was closed for shellfish gathering after the heavy rain caused overflows from the city's sewerage system. In the Western Bay of Plenty, the heavy rain caused surface flooding in many areas, and slips on SH33 near Paengaroa, and on No3 Rd, Te Puke.

On 4 May, SH30 was closed between Awakeri and Te Teko after storm damage caused subsidence of the road surface. A large slip wiped out the main pipeline carrying water from the two top springs to the public pools at Morere Hot Springs, and the Reserve was closed because of damaged tracks.

Heavy rain caused flooding in Sumner on 7 May, and many homes with roofs damaged by the earthquake suffered more water damage. Record rainfall amounts were also observed on the 7<sup>th</sup> in Otago (see extreme rainfall table below). On 8 May, heavy rain over a 12 hour period caused slips and surface flooding, and blocked drains in Alexandra and Dunedin. On the Otago Peninsula, multiple small slips closed Portobello Road between Dunedin and Macandrew Bay, as well as Highcliff Road. More slips and fallen trees blocked roads across the harbour at Carey's Bay, and at least one house suffered significant damage. Parts of SH1 near Waimate were covered in surface water, with flooding at the intersection of SH1 and SH82, and many buildings in the town were flooded. Local roads were disrupted by slips and flooding, and at least five areas through the Waimate Gorge were washed out.

On 11 May, a "boil-water" notice was issued for Patearoa, Ranfurly, Omakau, Naseby and Lake Roxburgh residents after the heavy rain on 8 May discoloured water supply sources. At Omokoroa, near Tauranga, a huge slip came down leaving a house near the edge of a cliff.

Heavy rain in Eastland on 13 May caused slips and flooding, closing SH2 at Waimana, and causing several slips on SH35, the coast road north of Opotiki. The wet weather was also blamed for the sudden appearance of large potholes along SH3 in Waiwhakaiho Valley just out of New Plymouth.

On 15 May, heavy rain caused flooding in Wellington, with SH2 closed by a slip in Hutt Valley, and a slip near Johnsonville blocking train tracks and stopping services for several hours.

Flooding closed some rural roads in Southland on 19 May. Heavy rain also flooded farmland north of Invercargill, and closed several roads, on May 20.

On 25 May, heavy rain caused flooding in Ferntown, Golden Bay and around Sharlands Creek in Nelson. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, further heavy rain flooded SH6 at Brightwater and between Havelock and Rai Valley, and SH60 at Takaka, with flood warnings issued for SH63 between Renwick and St Arnaud. Houses were evacuated at Hope and Brightwater. A house was evacuated in Nelson after a massive slip undermined its foundations. Slips closed the Takaka Hill Road, Matai Valley Road, and SH6 at Havelock. Further north, there was severe surface flooding in the northbound lanes of the Waikato Expressway at Rangiriri. Surface flooding up to 600 mm deep was reported in Tokoroa. In the Far North, SH1 was closed at the Rangiahua Bridge which was under water. SH1 was also closed by flooding between Pakaraka and Kaitaia. Surface flooding also covered SH10 at Kaeo.

**Record or near record high extreme 1-day rainfall totals were recorded at:**

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
Kerikeri	105	25th	1981	2nd-highest
Te Puke	102	2nd	1973	4th-highest
Wanganui	37	15th	1987	Highest
Takaka	123	25th	1976	4th-highest
Greymouth	92	25th	1947	2nd-highest
Ranfury	52	7th	1943	Highest
Cromwell	47	7th	1949	Highest
Alexandra	67	7th	1983	Highest
Invercargill	36	16th	1939	Equal 4th-highest
Balclutha	35	7th	1964	4th-highest
Nugget Point	62	7th	1930	Highest

• **Temperature**

The highest temperature observed in May 2011 was 26.7°C observed at Hokitika on 1 May – a new May record there. The lowest temperature as recorded was -4.8°C at Pukaki Aerodrome on the 29<sup>th</sup> (not a record).

Many locations set new all-time May records during the month. In particular, the first two weeks of the month were exceedingly warm. A record-breaking heat wave event occurred on the West Coast of the South Island and in Nelson, on May 1<sup>st</sup>, caused by foehn warming in strong easterly winds. Auckland also broke a long-standing May temperature record on the 13<sup>th</sup>, hitting 24.6°C, as did Wanganui (with 22.7°C) on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Record or near-record daily maximum air temperatures were recorded at:**

Location	Extreme maximum temperature (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year Records Began	Comments
Kaitaia	23.2	2nd	1985	Equal 4th-highest
Kerikeri	22.8	2nd	1981	2nd-highest
Kaikohe	23.1	5th	1973	Equal highest
Leigh	23.4	12th	1966	2nd-highest
Warkworth	22.6	12th	1966	3rd-highest
Whangaparaoa	21.8	13th	1982	Equal 2nd-highest

Tauranga	22.5	12th	1913	3rd-highest
Te Puke	22.3	5th	1973	3rd-highest
Whakatane	22.0	4th	1975	Equal 4th-highest
Auckland	24.6	13th	1959	Highest
Whatawhata	23.0	12th	1952	Highest
Port Taharoa	23.1	3rd	1973	3rd-highest
New Plymouth	21.7	1st	1944	Equal highest
Castlepoint	21.5	4th	1972	Equal 4th-highest
Ngawi	23.4	11th	1972	Highest
Hastings	24.6	12th	1965	Equal 4th-highest
Levin	24.3	3rd	1895	Highest
Wallaceville	22.8	3rd	1939	3rd-highest
Hawera	20.7	3rd	1977	Equal 3rd-highest
Ohakune	22.0	11th	1962	Highest
Waiouru	19.0	4th	1962	2nd-highest
Wanganui	22.7	3rd	1987	Highest
Takaka	22.8	1st	1978	3rd-highest
Westport	25.0	1st	1937	Highest
Hokitika	26.7	1st	1963	Highest
Reefton	21.2	6th	1960	3rd-highest
Greymouth	23.2	1st	1947	Highest
Haast	21.5	1st	1949	Highest
Milford Sound	20.3	11th	1934	3rd-highest
Motueka	23.8	4th	1956	2nd-highest
Appleby	22.6	1st	1943	2nd-highest
Nelson	22.8	1st	1943	Highest

**Record or near-record daily minimum air temperatures were recorded at:**

Location	Extreme minimum temperature (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
Kaikohe	17.5	3rd	1973	Highest
Tauranga	17.8	7th	1941	3rd-highest
Te Puke	17.0	7th	1973	Equal highest
Whakatane	18.1	7th	1975	3rd-highest
Rotorua	16.2	12th	1972	Equal highest
Ngawi	17.8	5th	1972	2nd-highest
Hicks Bay	18.1	4th	1972	Highest
Mahia	16.0	13th	1990	4th-highest
Hawera	15.3	26th	1977	4th-highest
Wanganui	15.4	26th	1987	Equal 4th-highest
Takaka	15.1	26th	1978	4th-highest
Westport	15.0	2nd	1966	Equal 3rd-highest
Lake Rotoiti	11.1	26th	1972	2nd-highest
Reefton	13.6	26th	1972	3rd-highest
Puysegur	13.6	24th	1978	4th-highest
Motueka	14.5	7th	1972	2nd-highest

• **Wind**

The highest gust recorded during May 2011 was 184 km/hr, recorded at Southwest Cape on the 12th.

On 2 May, high winds are thought to have blown tree branches on to overhead power lines causing a power

cut at Matua, Bay of Plenty.

On 3 May, a tornado crossed the Auckland region, killing a man in Albany and injuring many others. Significant damage was done to property and vehicles, and many trees were blown over. One tree, with a 1 m thick trunk, was picked up and thrown into a nearby house, crushing the roof. Road were closed, causing serious traffic problems.

On 11 May, storm damage resulted in a power outage lasting about an hour in western Auckland. At least two large trees were blown over, including one in the courtyard of St Matthew-in-the-City church in downtown Auckland, which toppled onto Wellesley Street, striking a man and causing minor injuries. Three ferry trips between Auckland and Waiheke Island were cancelled because of the high winds. In the Bay of Islands, yachts broke free of their moorings.

On 12 May, wind warnings were issued early morning for SH1 between Kaikoura and Waipara, SH80 between Pukaki and Mt Cook, SH8 at both Burke's Pass and Lindis Pass, and SH87 between Kyburn and Outram. During the day, serious damage was observed, with several people injured, 12,000 consumers losing power, roofs blown off buildings, cars damaged, and many roads closed between Mosgiel and Waikouaiti. One man was seriously injured when his car was badly damaged by a falling tree on SH1 near the Karitane turnoff. In Dunedin, people were blown over, and large trees were uprooted blocking Portobello Road, SH1 and SH88. Trucks were backed up on the northern motorway until fallen trees had been cleared. At Dunedin International Airport, six inbound and outbound flights were delayed, with one inbound flight cancelled, and two flights diverted, one to Invercargill and one to Queenstown. There was significant damage at Woodhaugh Gardens and in the Dunedin Botanic Gardens. The historic Matanaka Farm buildings at Waikouaiti were closed to clear fallen trees in the car park and along the tracks. In Hampden downed power lines arced, sparking together and setting the power pole's crossbeams alight. Fallen trees and power lines also closed SH97 in northern Southland.

On 15 May, a mini-tornado in Atawhai, Nelson battered homes and swept away two trampolines, one of which flew 60 m over a house and caught on the top of a power pole. Power was cut for about an hour and a half. Mini-tornadoes also struck Wellington and the Kapiti Coast, felling 30 m trees.

On 16 May, wind warning were issued for SH1 between Waiholo and Gore, SH90 between Raes Junction and Gore, SH8 between Raes Junction and Milton, and SH87 between Outram and Kyburn.

On 17 May, high winds again caused damage, pulling off half the roof of an operations building at Napier Port, and a section of roof from a Hastings farm house, and in the harbour, a yacht broke from its mooring. In Wairarapa, gales cut power, brought down branches, and blew a four-tonne truck off SH2 near Mt Bruce. In the Nelson region, gales brought down trees and closed roads, including the Motueka Valley Highway where several hundred pine trees snapped off, and about 40 of the trees fell across the road trapping two trucks between them. Other local roads, including SH60 over Takaka Hill, were closed for short periods. At Ngatimoti, also in the Motueka Valley, five large macrocarpa trees were blown over, crushing two caravans and a truck. In Invercargill, trampolines were lifted and trees blown over, and in Waimate, a hay bale was blown off a truck.

On 26 May, high winds in Wellington brought down a tree on to overhead lines on the Johnsonville railway line between Ngaio and Wadestown, halting trains. At Cooks Beach on the Coromandel Peninsula, two people were injured when a tree fell on their car in strong winds. In Waimate, the track to the White Horse monument was closed after high winds left more than four hectares of pine trees blown down along the mountain bike track and footpath.

**Near-record high extreme wind gusts for May were recorded at:**

Location	Extreme wind gust speed (km/hr)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Cape Reinga	148	1st	1974	Equal 4th-highest
Pukekohe	63	11th	1986	Equal 4th-highest



Napier	115	17th	1973	2nd-highest
Levin	91	17th	1971	3rd-highest
Hawera	85	11th	1986	3rd-highest
Nelson	91	11th	1972	3rd-highest
Tara Hills	82	12th	1985	4th-highest
Dunedin	115	12th	1972	Highest
Gore	96	12th	1987	2nd-highest
Tiwai Point	128	17th	1971	Equal 3rd-highest

- **Snow and ice**

On 16 May, SH94 between Te Anau and Milford Sound was closed overnight by snow.

On 18 May, road warnings for ice were issued for SH94, Lower Hollyford Valley to Milford Sound.

On 20 May, snow was well below Stratford Mountain House on Mt Taranaki, with at least 8 cm in the upper car park.

- **Lightning and hail**

On 11 May, a Qantas passenger plane was struck by lightning soon after take-off from Auckland Airport. It re-landed safely.

On 15 May, MetService reported nearly 6000 lightning strikes throughout New Zealand, with a garage set on fire in Paraparaumu, and radio transmitters hit, interrupting broadcasts in Wellington. Power was also cut to properties in the Riwaka Valley after lightning struck transformers on the Takaka Hill.

- **Fog**

On 3 May, thick fog obscured vision in the shipping lanes of Wellington Harbour. The fog also caused the cancellation of a flight from Blenheim.

On 5 May, heavy fog delayed 15 domestic flights in and out of Auckland but did not affect international flights.

On 24 May, fog caused cancellations and delays of both incoming and outgoing domestic flights from Auckland International Airport. Heavy fog in Christchurch also caused the diversion and cancellation of flights, including two international flights which were diverted to Wellington.

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