

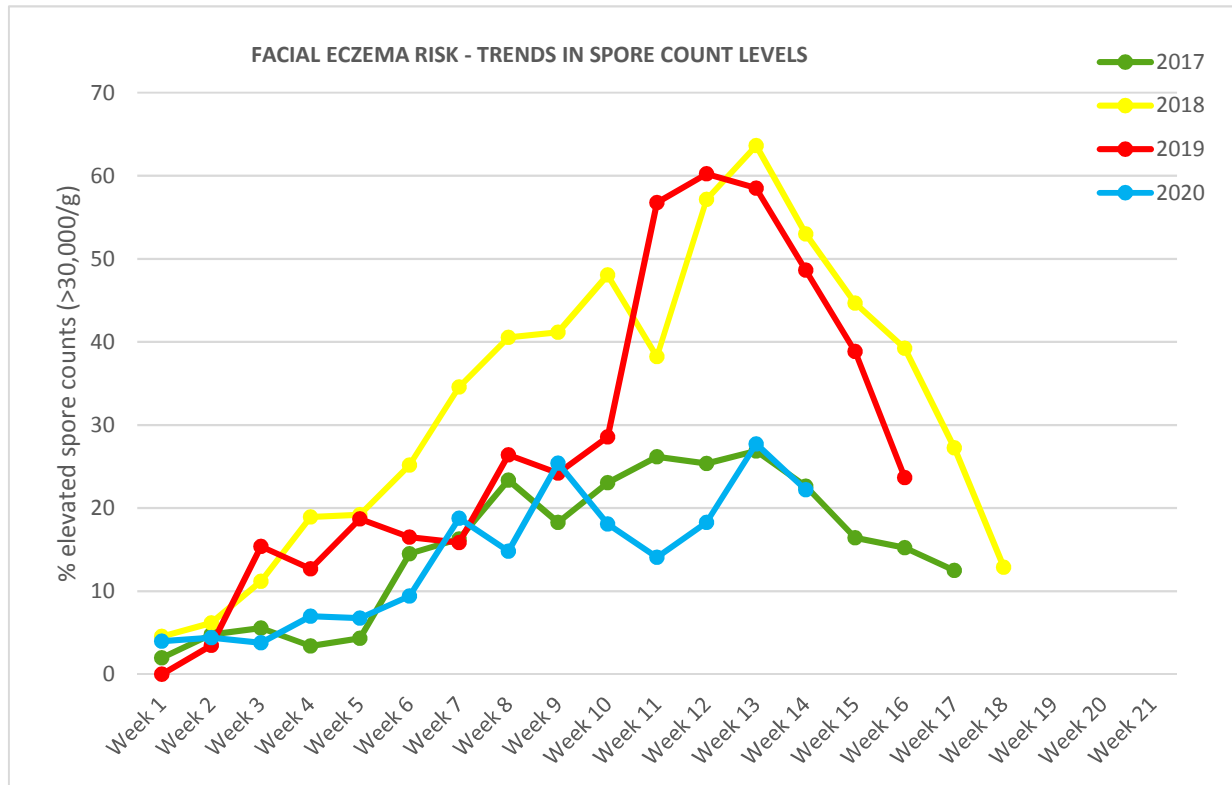


# Facial Eczema Risk and Incidence Report

## Weekly Summary

Week 14 - 16 April 2020

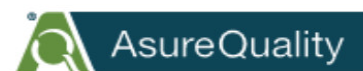
FE Risk -National trends in spore count levels (% elevated above 30,000 spg)



**NOTE:** This graph may have skewed results due to the significant decrease in spore counts received starting Week 11 (COVID-19 lock-down). Please interpret with caution and check regional data on following pages.

**Data provided by:** Whitianga Vets, Te Puke Vets, Vetora Hamilton, Vetora Reporoa, The Vet Centre Waipu, Anexa Vet Services Gordonton & Te Kauwhata, Franklin Vet Services Taupiri & Paeroa, Eastland Vet Services Gisborne

**AsureQuality contributors:** Levin/Horowhenua, Whangarei, Morrinsville, Pukekohe, Masterton



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## About facial eczema

Facial eczema (FE) affects most ruminants but especially cattle and sheep throughout most North Island regions plus the northern end of the South Island. FE is responsible for serious production losses estimated to be around \$200m annually with affected stock suffering liver and skin damage, which together contribute to ill-thrift, reduced fertility, reduced milk and meat production and, if left unprotected, in worst cases death.

During summer and autumn months warm, humid conditions together with dead litter in pasture support the growth of a fungus (*Pithomyces chartarum*) in pasture. Animals graze toxic pasture and once in the rumen the spores release a mycotoxin sporidesmin, which then enters the blood stream eventually finding its way into the liver. The toxin specifically attacks the cells of the bile duct resulting in the liver being unable to process and excrete waste products and phylloerythrin, a chlorophyll breakdown product. Infected animals display signs of photosensitisation and look distressed. The first signs are often reddening and swelling of skin exposed to the sun (i.e. around the eyes, ears, lips and nose) as well as restlessness, shaking and rubbing of the head and ears, and seeking shade.

## Prevention of facial eczema

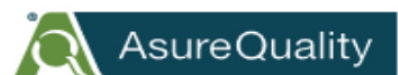
With careful planning and implementing a sound FE management plan, farmers can take control of the risk of facial eczema. Prevention is the only recognised method of avoiding FE. Ensure all staff are aware of the associated risks and dangers of FE but ensure the plan is implemented when spore counts are rising but before clinical signs are identified.

## Predict risk/ monitor management programme

There are a variety of testing options that can assist determining if animals are at risk or to check that your management programme is working. It is recommended that 10 cows are selected to test for serum zinc and GGT 3-6 weeks after your management programme has started (Facial Eczema – Management for New Zealand dairy herds, Dairy NZ).

## Essential to start FE control early.

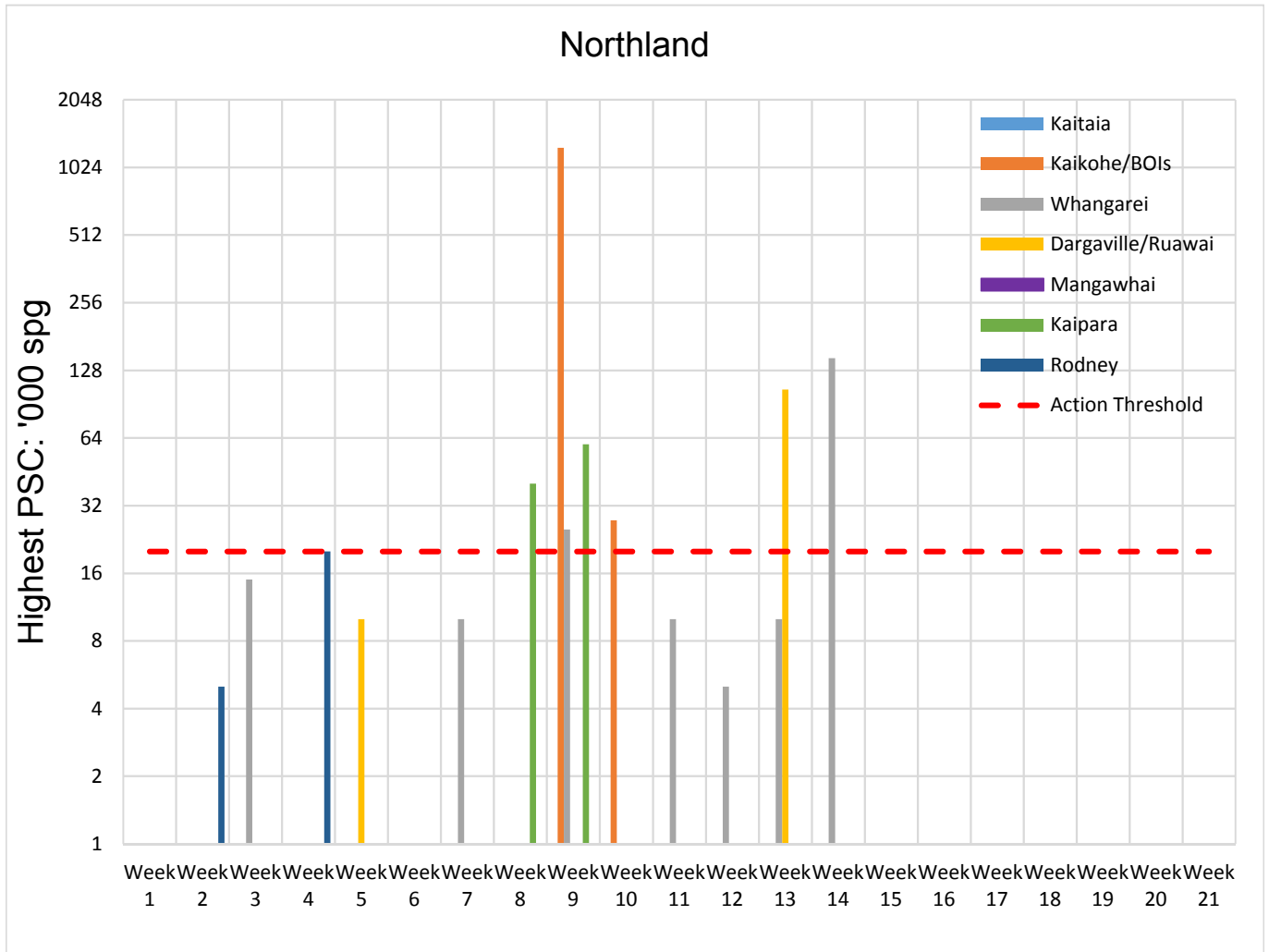
Ideally start prevention with zinc treatment and Fungicidal sprays, two or three weeks before the spore growth danger period for maximum protection.





## Northland

When local pasture spore counts are trending upwards of 20,000 spores/g and weather conditions look favourable for sporulation, monitor your own farm's pasture spore counts week to week and implement facial eczema control and prevention strategies. Data recorded below is the highest count received in each region per week.



For the local weather forecast in your region please go to: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/weather>

Data provided: Kaitaia 0, Kaikohe 0, Whangarei 6, Dargaville/Ruawai 0, Mangawhai 0, Kaipara 0, Rodney 0

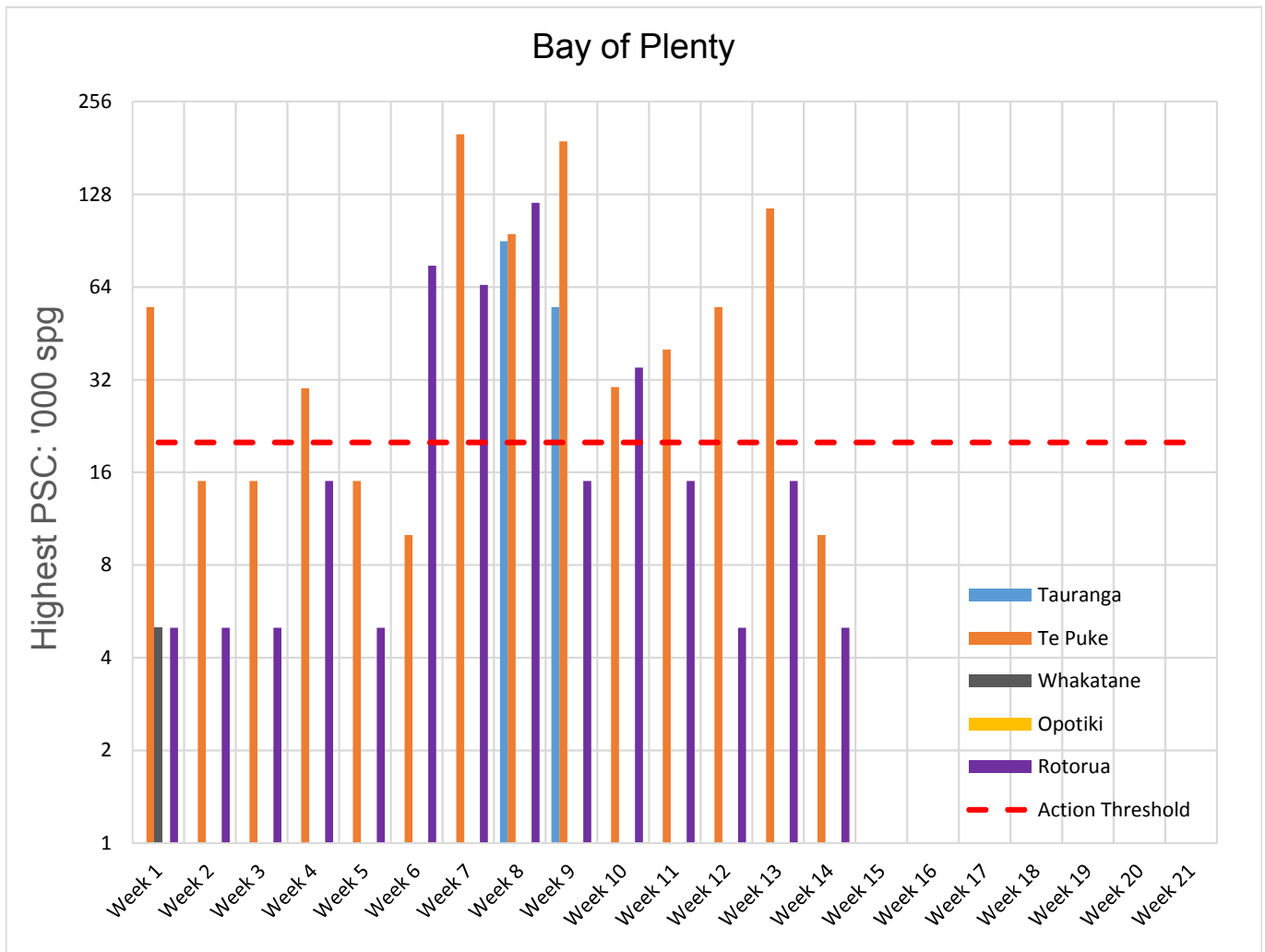
Please note: Due to high spore counts, the y axis has been transformed to a Log2 scale





# Bay of Plenty

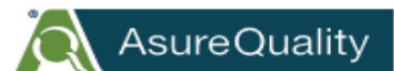
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Data provided by: Tauranga 0, Te Puke 8, Whakatane 0, Opotiki 0, Rotorua 2

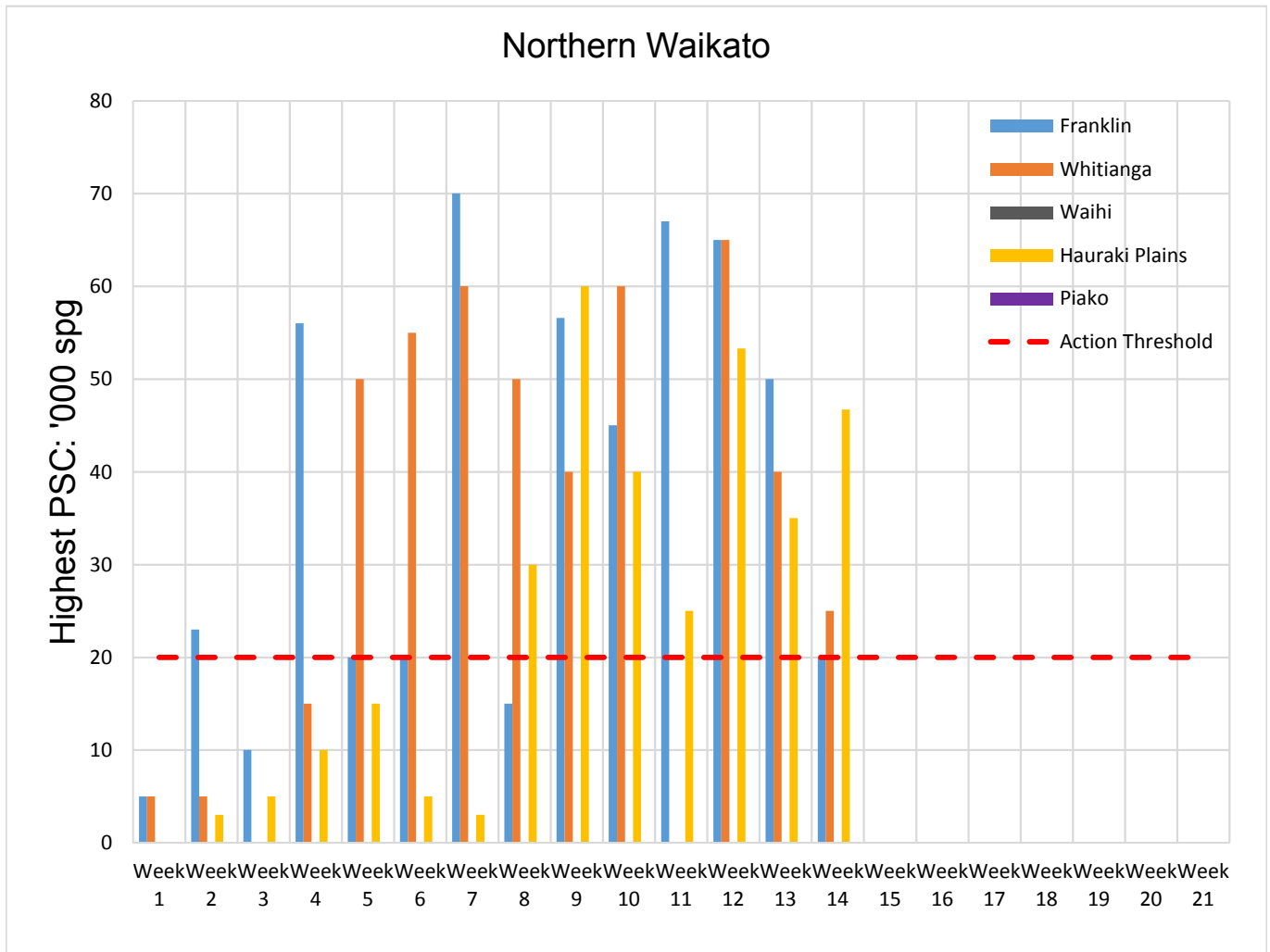
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## Northern Waikato

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Data provided by: Franklin 5, Whitianga 3, Waihi 0, Hauraki 6, Piako 0

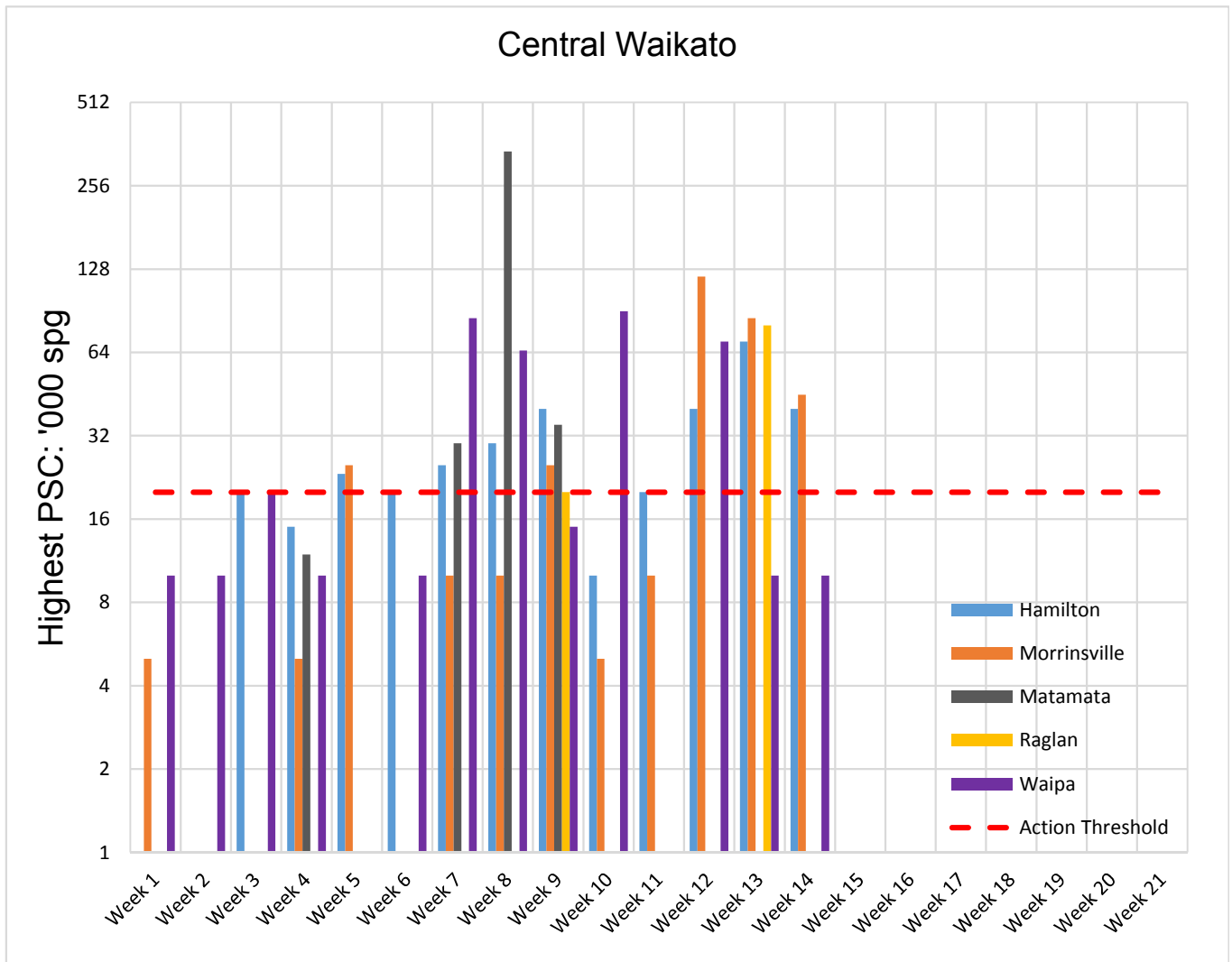
An outlier of 160,000spg from an irrigated property in Whitianga was not included in the above data





### Central Waikato

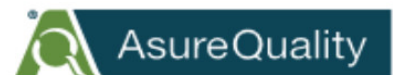
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Data provided by: Hamilton 6, Morrinsville 3, Matamata 0, Raglan 0, Waipa 2

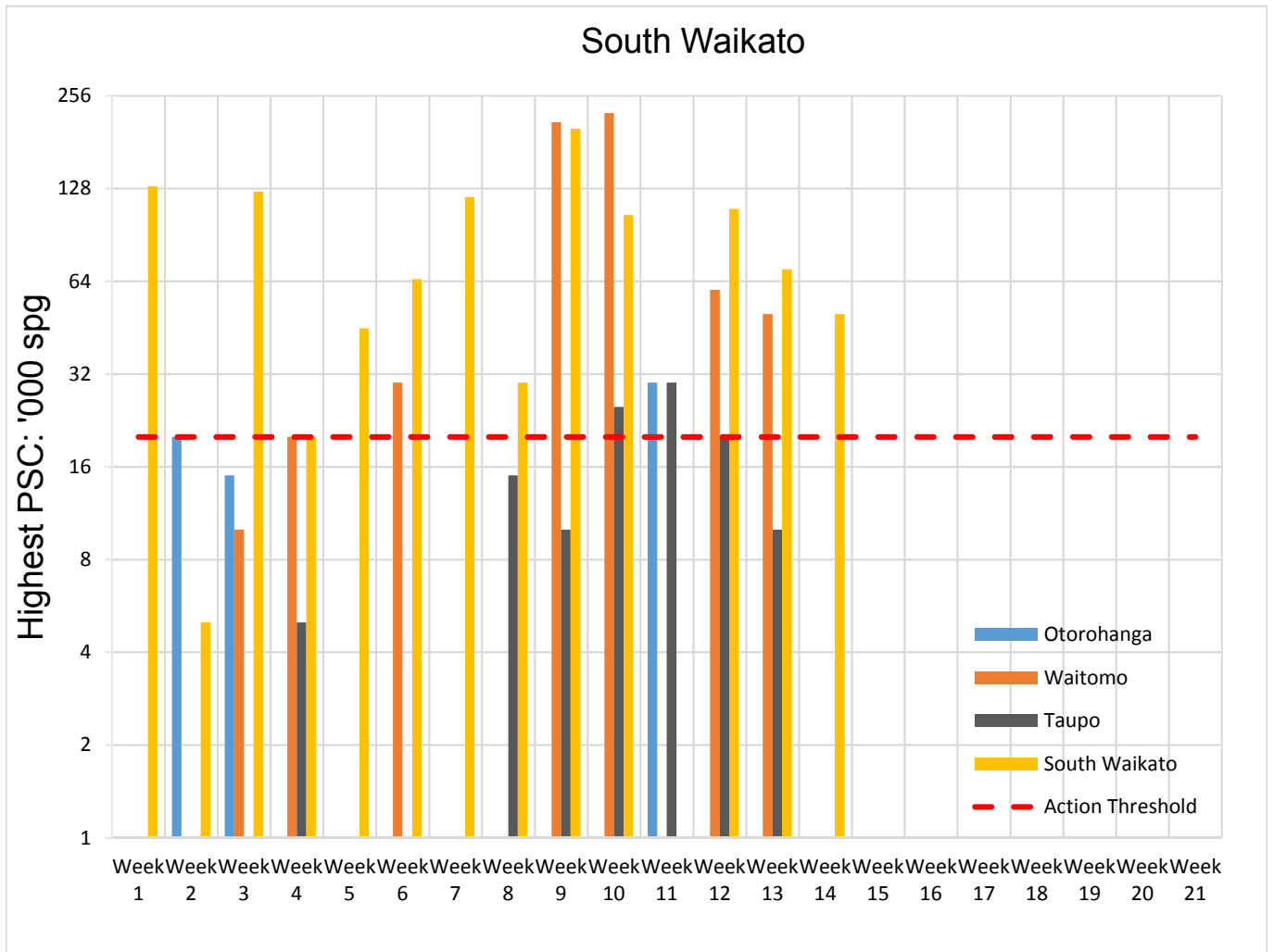
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## Southern Waikato

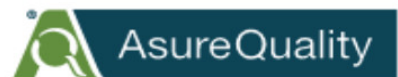
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Data provided by: Otorohanga 0, Waitomo 0, Taupo 0, South Waikato 2

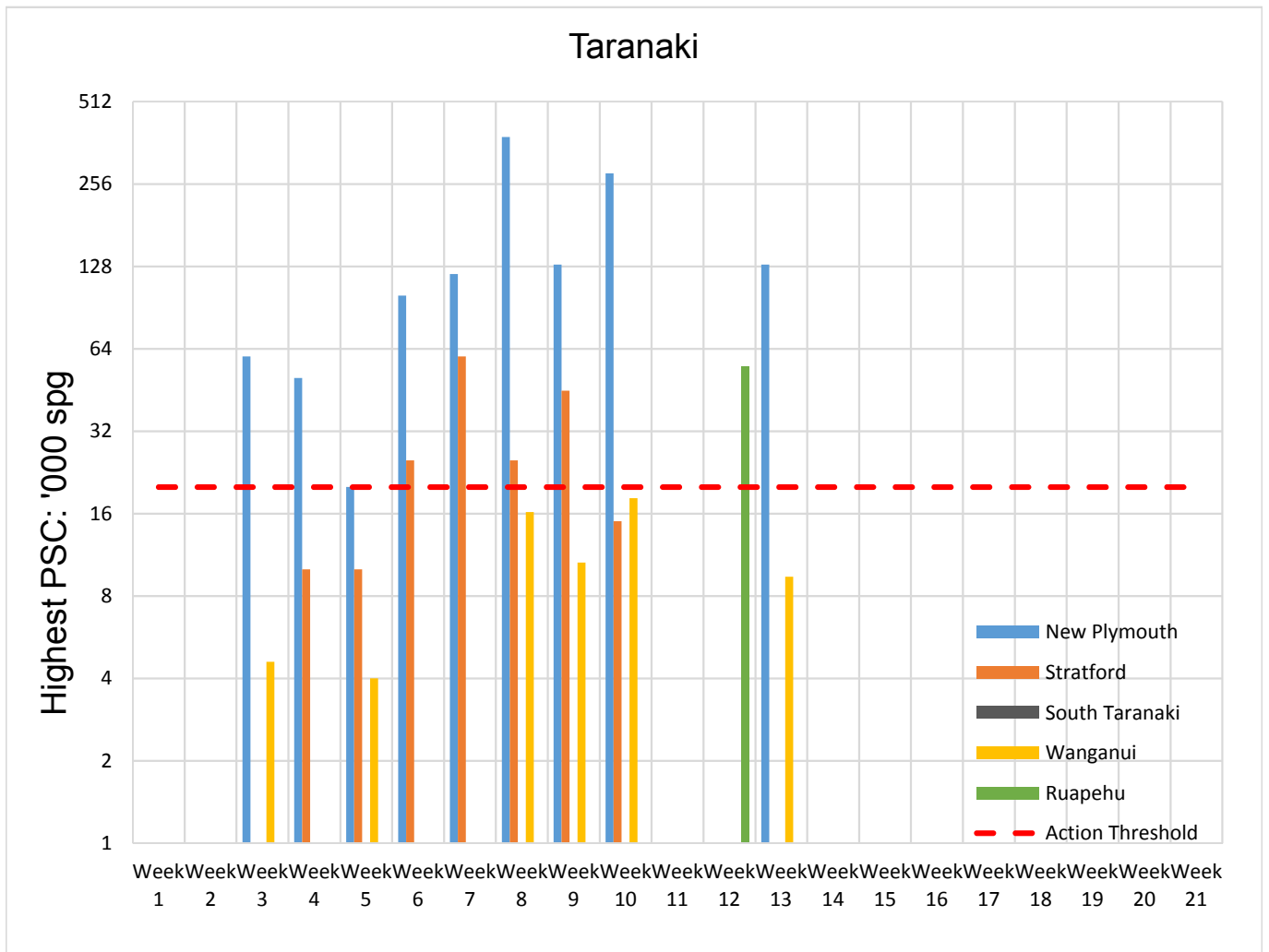
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# Taranaki

When local pasture spore counts are trending upwards of 20,000 spores/g and weather conditions look favourable for sporulation, monitor your own farm's pasture spore counts week to week and implement facial eczema control and prevention strategies. Data recorded below is the highest count received in each region per week.



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Data provided by: New Plymouth 0, Stratford 0, South Taranaki 0, Wanganui 0

Please note: Due to high spore counts, the y axis has been transformed to a Log2 scale

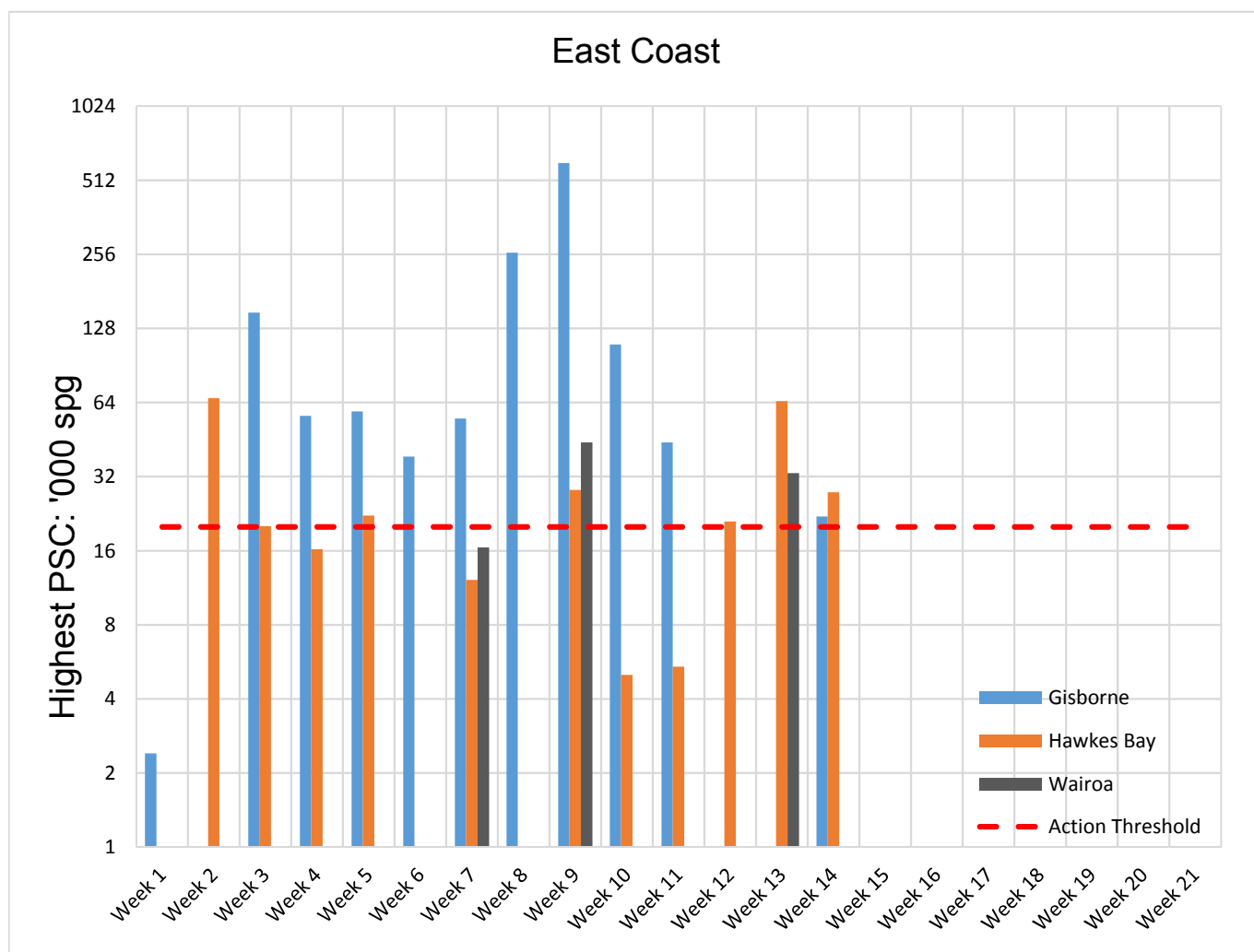






## East Coast

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Data provided by: Gisborne 1, Hawkes Bay 3, Wairoa 0

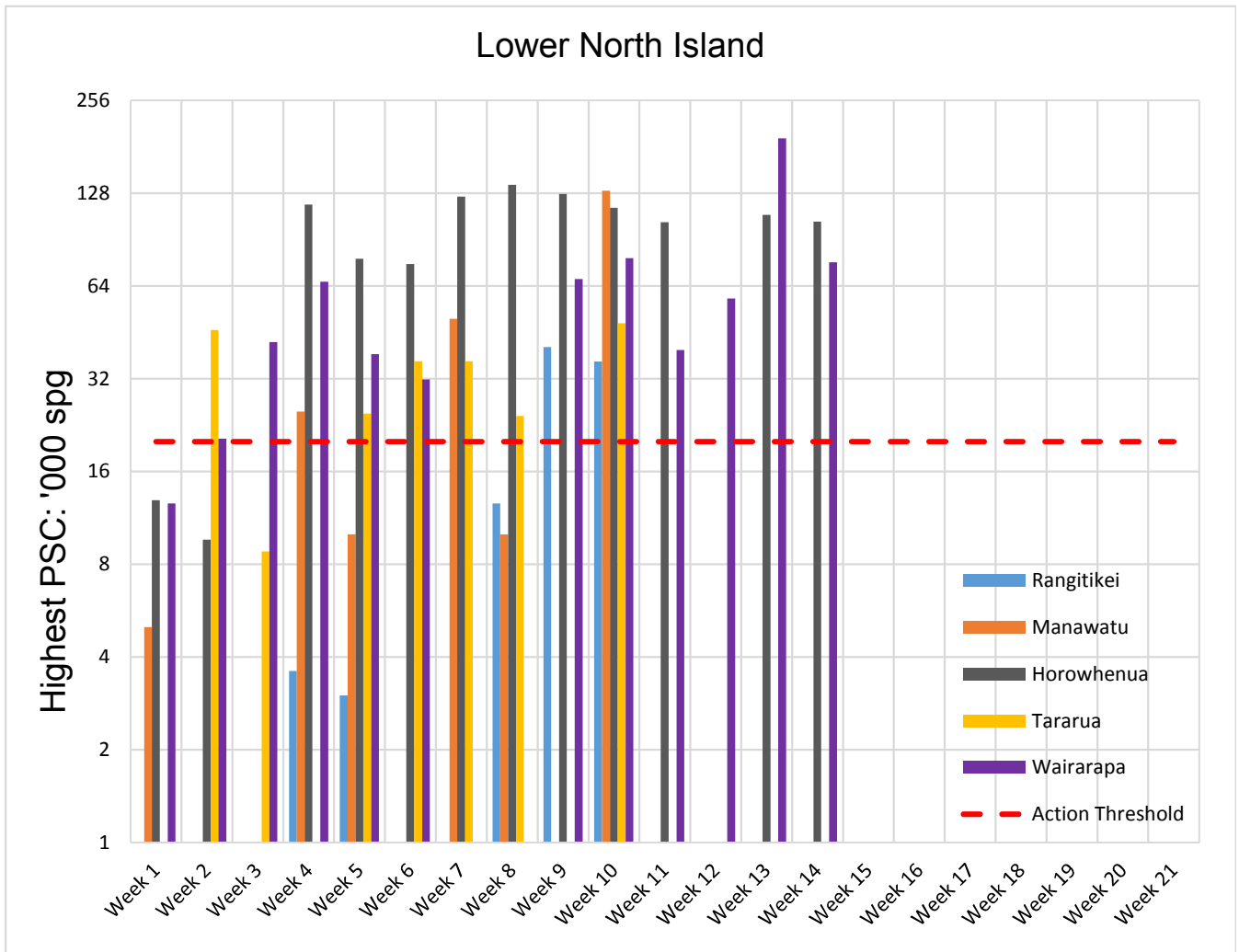
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## Lower North Island

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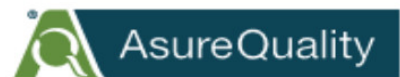


For the local weather forecast in your region please go to: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/weather>

Data provided by: Rangitikei 0; Manawatu 0, Horowhenua 5, Tararua 0, Wairarapa 3

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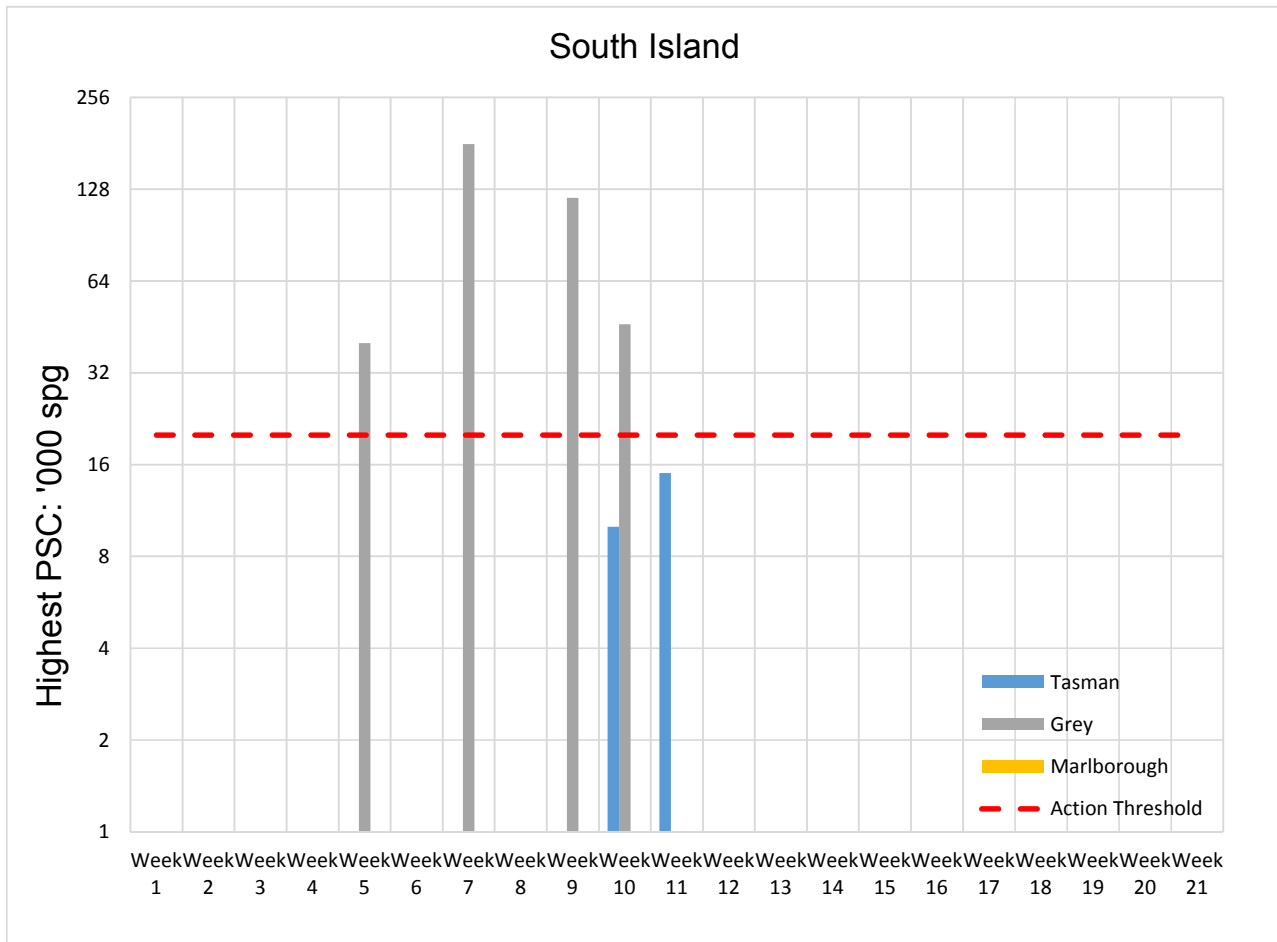
An outlier of 103,000spg from an irrigated property in Wairarapa was not included in the above data





## South Island

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For the local weather forecast in your region please go to: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/weather>

Data provided by: Tasman 0, Grey 0, Marlborough 0

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