

# Whenua Māori Land Use Capability distribution

The land use capability (LUC) units are used by New Zealand's agencies to classify land blocks into 8 classes according to their long-term productivity capacity. There are approximately 1,400,000 hectares of whenua Māori in Aotearoa New Zealand, where 7% (115,000 ha) is classified as highly productive, 63% (875,000 ha) is not arable but can be used for pastoral or forestry activities and 11% (157,000 ha) is unsuitable for cropping, pasture or forestry. The remaining 8% (106,000) is formed by estuaries, icefields, lakes, quarries, rivers and towns. About 74% of the highly productive whenua and 82% of pastoral and forestry whenua are governed.

## Te Tai Tokerau

The region contains approximately **133,000** hectares of whenua Māori, where **7%** is classified as highly productive, **69%** is not arable but can be used for pastoral or forestry activities and **4%** is unsuitable for cropping, pasture or forestry. **2%** of whenua is classified under 'other' categories (see LUC description below). About **37%** of the highly productive whenua and **59%** of pastoral and forestry whenua are governed.

LUC Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Other
%	0%	2%	5%	18%	0%	52%	17%	4%	2%
Area ha	0	2,160	7,090	24,060	580	68,700	22,830	5,220	2,160
Whenua Suitability	Highly productive <b>7%</b> Multiple use <b>25%</b>			Pastoral and forestry <b>69%</b>			Not suitable		

### Governed whenua area by LUC class

%	0%	25%	40%	59%	60%	57%	65%	76%
ha	0	540	2,860	14,290	350	39,470	14,840	3,960

## Tāmaki Makaurau

The region contains approximately **14,000** hectares of whenua Māori, where **17%** is classified as highly productive, **66%** is not arable but can be used for pastoral or forestry activities and **2%** is unsuitable for cropping, pasture or forestry. **4%** of whenua is classified under 'other' categories (see LUC description below). About **75%** of the highly productive whenua and **61%** of pastoral and forestry whenua are governed.

LUC Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Other
%	0%	7%	9%	11%	0%	48%	17%	2%	4%
Area ha	10	990	1,280	1,550	0	6,550	2,340	270	560
Whenua Suitability	Highly productive <b>17%</b> Multiple use <b>28%</b>			Pastoral and forestry <b>66%</b>			Not suitable		

### Governed whenua area by LUC class

%	100%	66%	83%	77%	0%	63%	57%	70%
ha	10	650	1,060	1,200	0	4,110	1,330	190

## Te Waipounamu

The region contains approximately **55,000** hectares of whenua Māori, where **4%** is classified as highly pro-ductive, **57%** is not arable but can be used for pastoral or forestry activities; only a fraction is unsuitable for cropping, pasture or forestry. **27%** of whenua is classified under 'other' categories (see LUC description below). About **68%** of the highly productive whenua and **84%** of pastoral and forestry whenua are governed.

LUC Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Other
%	0%	1%	3%	12%	0%	44%	12%	0%	27%
Area ha	0	440	1,520	6,530	180	24,340	6,880	220	14,980
Whenua Suitability	Highly productive <b>4%</b> Multiple use <b>15%</b>			Pastoral and forestry <b>57%</b>			Not suitable		

### Governed whenua area by LUC class

%	0%	52%	73%	61%	78%	81%	93%	95%
ha	0	230	1,110	3,980	140	19,750	6,410	210

### Description of Land Use Capability (LUC) class codes.

LUC 1	Virtually no limitations for arable use. Suitable for cultivated crops, pasture or forestry.	LUC 3	Moderate limitations for arable use, but suitable for cultivated crops, pasture or forestry.	LUC 5	High producing land unsuitable for arable use, but only slight limitations for pastoral or forestry use.	LUC 7	Non-arable land with severe limitations to use under perennial vegetation (e.g., pasture or forestry).	Other	Other categories such as estuaries, icefields, lakes, quarries, rivers and towns.
LUC 2	Very low limitations for arable use. Suitable for cultivated crops, pasture or forestry.	LUC 4	Moderate limitations for arable use, but suitable for occasional cropping, pasture or forestry.	LUC 6	Non-arable land with moderate limitations for use under perennial vegetation (e.g., pasture, forestry).	LUC 8	Very severe to extreme limitations or hazards that make it unsuitable for cropping, pasture or forestry.		

## Waikato-Waiariki

The region contains approximately **543,000** hectares of whenua Māori, where **7%** is classified as highly productive, **55%** is not arable but can be used for pastoral or forestry activities and **14%** is unsuitable for cropping, pasture or forestry. **12%** of whenua is classified under 'other' categories (see LUC description below). About **80%** of the highly productive whenua and **87%** of pastoral and forestry whenua are governed.

LUC Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Other
%	0%	2%	5%	12%	0%	30%	24%	14%	12%
Area ha	780	12,110	25,940	64,960	1,160	165,480	131,570	73,920	66,640
Whenua Suitability	Highly productive <b>7%</b> Multiple use <b>19%</b>			Pastoral and forestry <b>55%</b>			Not suitable		

### Governed whenua area by LUC class

%	65%	73%	84%	89%	74%	87%	87%	93%
ha	510	8,820	21,840	57,540	860	143,600	114,040	68,470

## Ikaroa-Rāwhiti

The region contains approximately **391,000** hectares of whenua Māori, where **9%** is classified as highly productive, **74%** is not arable but can be used for pastoral or forestry activities and **12%** is unsuitable for cropping, pasture or forestry. **2%** of whenua is classified under 'other' categories (see LUC description below).About **72%** of the highly productive whenua and **85%** of pastoral and forestry whenua are governed.

LUC Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Other
%	0%	3%	6%	3%	0%	31%	43%	12%	2%
Area ha	1,500	10,420	22,370	11,230	1,650	119,740	169,080	47,040	7,460
Whenua Suitability	Highly productive <b>9%</b> Multiple use <b>12%</b>			Pastoral and forestry <b>74%</b>			Not suitable		

### Governed whenua area by LUC class

%	63%	69%	74%	81%	47%	85%	85%	90%
ha	940	7,210	16,470	9,090	780	102,350	142,900	42,500

## Te Tai Hauāuru

The region contains approximately **245,000** hectares of whenua Māori, where **12%** is classified as highly productive, **63%** is not arable but can be used for pastoral or forestry activities and **12%** is unsuitable for cropping, pasture or forestry. **6%** of whenua is classified under 'other' categories (see LUC description below). About **81%** of the highly productive whenua and **84%** of pastoral and forestry whenua are governed.

LUC Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Other
%	2%	3%	7%	7%	1%	32%	29%	12%	6%
Area ha	5,420	6,430	16,670	18,400	2,630	79,390	72,040	30,000	14,400
Whenua Suitability	Highly productive <b>12%</b> Multiple use <b>19%</b>			Pastoral and forestry <b>63%</b>			Not suitable		

### Governed whenua area by LUC class

%	80%	74%	83%	89%	90%	83%	85%	91%
ha	4,340	4,750	13,880	16,330	2,380	66,080	61,140	27,390

Notes:  
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.  
2. LUC classes 1 to 8 sum 100 per cent by adding the percentage of 'other' category.  
Source: Te Puni Kōkiri, Toku Whenua, June 2022