

14 Hereturikōkā 2025

File Ref: OIA 50482

Tēnā koe

### Official Information Act request

Thank you for your information request dated 8 Hōngongoi 2025. You asked for the following information:

*"I make this request under the Official Information Act, for information held by Te Puni Kōkiri in relation to:*

- 1. Papakāinga (housing on Māori land) - research commissioned by Te Puni Kōkiri between 2021 - 2025 that defines issues relating to development of papakāinga, whether it has been published or not.*
- 2. Landlocked land - research commissioned by Te Puni Kōkiri between 2021 - 2025 that defines landlocked land and/ or case studies in Te Tairāwhiti, whether it has been published or not.*
- 3. Whenua Māori Overview - Advice provided by Te Puni Kōkiri to the Minister of Māori Development that defines the use of Māori freehold land, by region.*
- 4. Whenua Māori - Data held by Te Puni Kōkiri that defines the amount of Māori freehold land held by Amalgamation order."*

On 16 Hōngongoi 2025 we wrote to you in regard to questions three and four and asked that you clarify what timeframe you are seeking this information for.

On 17 Hōngongoi 2025 you responded as follows:

- 3. "Advice given to the Minister of Māori Development in 2024 that quantifies Whenua Māori usages across land use categories, by region.*

*My main interest is for academic purposes, and to identify the extent to which Māori freehold land is utilised (and the counter-factual, under-utilised) for housing in Te Tairāwhiti region.*

- 4. 2021 Māori Land Court's data that aggregates the order type of Māori freehold land. Specifically, I am interested in the total area of land held by 'Amalgamation order'."*

On 17 Hōngongoi 2025 you also directly contacted Policy kaimahi via MS Teams with the following clarification:

*“Here’s where the documents are:*

- 1. A final draft of the papakāinga research we commissioned - whatever we intend to publish.*
- 2. Search the Wai2750 folder for ‘Landlocked land’ research.  
Or, ask Dr Toni Carr to forward it to you. It is research we commissioned but it didn’t get published about landlocked land in Tairāwhiti. It’s recent. In the last 4years.*
- 3. Whenua Māori Land Use Capability A3, by regions was advice sent to the Minister in Q1 2024, as part of our initial advice. Ask Meg to get her hands on it.  
Or, Pedro in the Research and Evaluation team will be familiar with it.*
- 4. Land held by ‘Amalgamation order’, is a Disaggregation of the 2021 Māori Land data dump we received from the Māori Land Court, from which we base a lot of our quant analysis. It is contained in the email I sent to you.*

*If need be, you could ask [REDACTED] to search his Inbox for the email he sent me.*

*We have a data sharing agreement with MLC - so, perhaps check in with [REDACTED] about permissions to release.”*

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (**Act**).

Four documents have been identified in scope of your request. The documents and my decisions with regard to the release of the information are set out in the table attached as Appendix A.

Some information has been withheld in accordance with the Act on the following grounds:

- Section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons
- Section 9(2)(ba)(i) – to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied
- Section 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty
- Section 9(2)(j) – to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

In relation to information that has been withheld under section 9 of the Act, I am of the opinion that there are no countervailing considerations that make it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available at this time.

One document (item 4 refers) has been refused in full in accordance with section 18(d) of the Act as it will be published on our website in Mahuru 2025.

I trust my response satisfies your request.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that Te Puni Kōkiri publishes some of its OIA responses on its website, after the response is sent to the requester. The responses published are those that are considered to have a high level of public interest. We will not publish your name, address or contact details.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact us at [oiatpk@govt.nz](mailto:oiatpk@govt.nz).

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paula Rawiri'.

Paula Rawiri  
Hautū, Te Puni Kaupapa | Deputy Secretary, Policy

Appendix A: Documents - OIA request from [REDACTED] dated 8 Hōngongoi 2025

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1.	1 October 2021	Whenua Māori by title order type (Tōku whenua, Oct 2021)  <u>Note:</u> Please cite Māori Land Court (2022) when referencing this document.	Released in full
2.	April 2023	Te Puni Kōkiri Landlocked Land Regional Case Study Pilot- Final Evaluation Report	Withheld in full under sections 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(i), 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(g)(i)
3.	8 May 2024	Briefing Paper 48403: <i>Options to progress access to and development of whenua Māori</i>	Withheld in full under sections 9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(j) of the Act
		Attachment 1 – Whenua Māori overview 2024	Released in full
		Attachment 2 – Whenua Māori Land Use Categorisation distribution	Released in full
		Attachment 3 - Roles and responsibilities for whenua Māori	Out of scope
		Attachment 4 – Whenua Māori - Options to enable its development and use	Out of scope
4.	16 April 2025	Papakāinga Research. Empowering whānau through papakāinga: Insights, Impacts and Pathways	Refused in full under section 18(d)

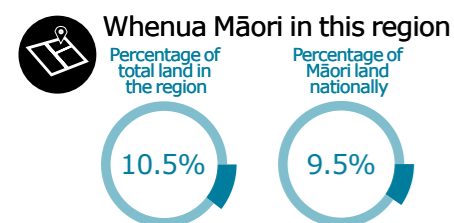
**Whenua Māori by title order type (Tōku whenua, Oct 2021)**

Title order type	Area (hectares)
Aggregation Order	7,153.80
Amalgamation Order	136,781.98
Certificate of Title	34,285.81
Combined Partition	407.87
Computer Freehold Register (CFR)	216.87
Computer Interest Register (CIR)	1.73
Consolidation Order	86,309.79
Crown Grant	25,800.97
Exchange Order	7,238.23
Freehold Order	49,462.29
Native Land Act Order	41,000.36
Order Excluding Land from an Incorporation	71.41
Order of Incorporation	73,720.84
Other	124,738.07
Partition Order	641,284.85
Private Subdivision (Land Transfer Act)	177.02
Revesting Order	66,082.61
Roadway Order	39.04
Status Order	64,088.10
Unit Title Subdivision (Unit Titles Act)	0.43
Vesting Order	30,836.74
(blank)	1,609.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,391,308.52</b>

The total number of whenua land blocks nationally is more than 28,000. These blocks collectively cover an area of about 1,400,000 hectares. Nearly 60% of these blocks lack a management structure. Each of these has an average area of 15 hectares. Approximately 40% of Māori land blocks have a management structure. These land blocks average 98 hectares in size.

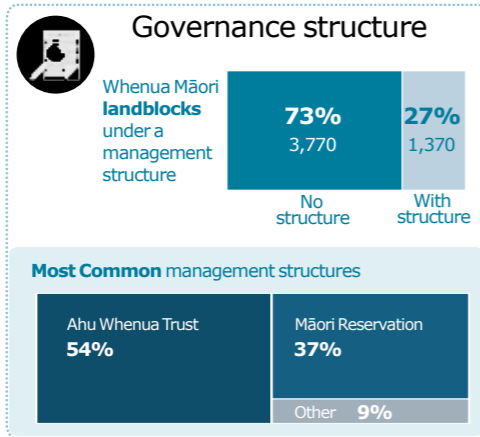
## Whenua Māori in Te Tai Tokerau

The total number of whenua landblocks in Te Tai Tokerau is about **5,100**, collectively covering an area of approximately **133,000** hectares.



**Land Status**

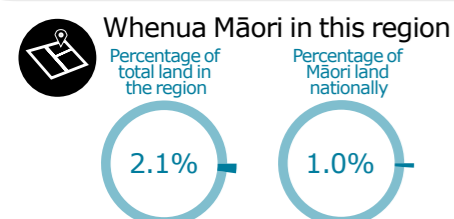
	Māori freehold land	Other categories
Area	<b>99%</b> 132,000 ha	<b>1%</b> 800 ha
Landblocks	<b>99%</b> 5,090	<b>1%</b> 40



Other management structures include Maori incorporation, Whenua Topu Trust, Whanau Trust, Reservation among others.

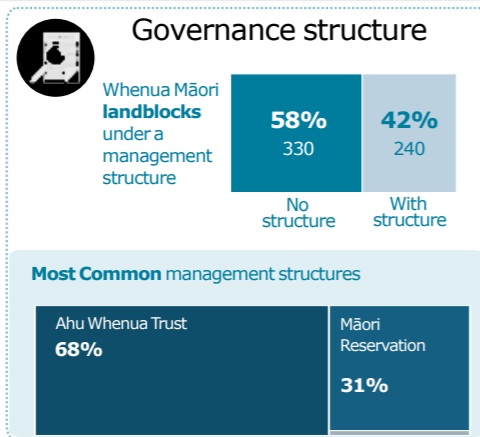
## Whenua Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau

The total number of whenua landblocks in Tāmaki Makaurau is about **600**, collectively covering an area of approximately **14,000** hectares.



**Land Status**

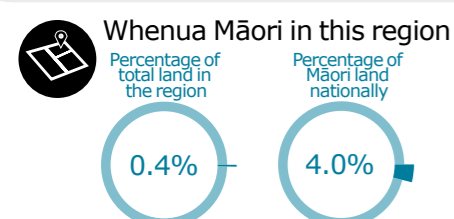
	Māori freehold land	Other categories
Area	<b>99%</b> 13,500 ha	<b>1%</b> 100 ha
Landblocks	<b>98%</b> 560	<b>2%</b> 10



Other management structures account for 1% and include Maori incorporation, Whenua Topu Trust, Whanau Trust, Reservation among others.

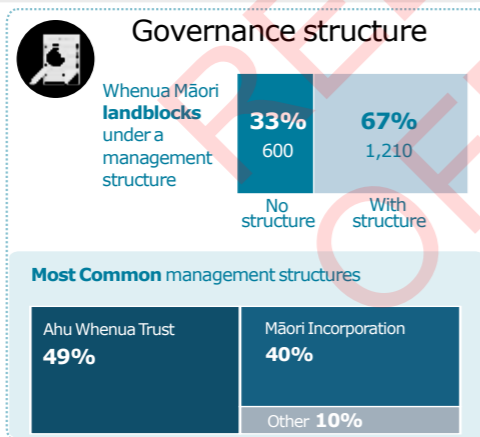
## Whenua Māori in Te Waipounamu

The total number of whenua landblocks in Te Waipounamu is about **1,800**, collectively covering an area of approximately **55,000** hectares.



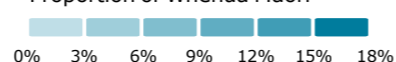
**Land Status**

	Māori freehold land	Other categories
Area	<b>83%</b> 45,600 ha	<b>17%</b> 9,400 ha
Landblocks	<b>98%</b> 1,780	<b>2%</b> 30



Other management structures include Maori Reservation, Whenua Topu Trust, Whanau Trust, Reservation among others.

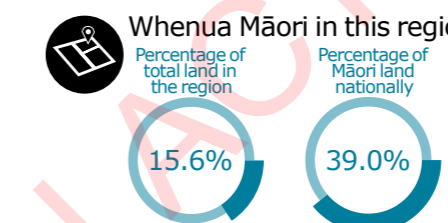
Proportion of Whenua Māori



Source: Te Puni Kōkiri - June 2022  
Notes: Other categories include aggregate, Crown Land, Crown Land Reserved for Maori, General Land Owned by Maori, and Maori Customary Land.

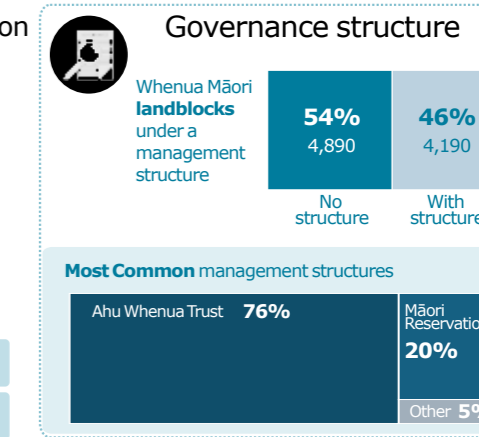
## Whenua Māori in Waikato-Wairariki

The total number of whenua landblocks in Waikato-Wairariki is about **9,100**, collectively covering an area of approximately **543,000** hectares.



**Land Status**

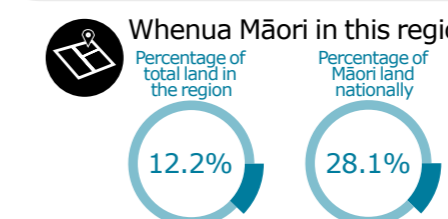
	Māori freehold land	Other categories*
Area	<b>99%</b> 539,900 ha	<b>1%</b> 2,700 ha
Landblocks	<b>99%</b> 8,960	<b>1%</b> 130



Other management structures include Maori incorporation, Whenua Topu Trust, Whanau Trust, Reservation among others.

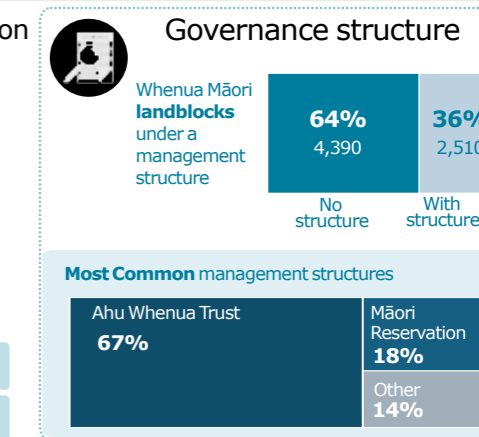
## Whenua Māori in Ikaroa-Rāwhiti

The total number of whenua landblocks in Ikaroa-Rāwhiti is about **6,900**, collectively covering an area of approximately **391,000** hectares.



**Land Status**

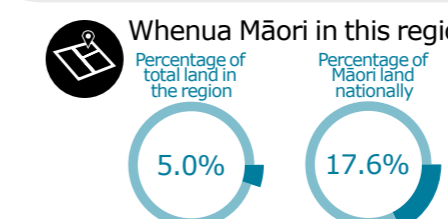
	Māori freehold land	Other categories
Area	<b>98%</b> 383,100 ha	<b>2%</b> 7,400 ha
Landblocks	<b>98%</b> 6,770	<b>2%</b> 120



Other management structures include Maori incorporation, Whenua Topu Trust, Whanau Trust, Reservation among others.

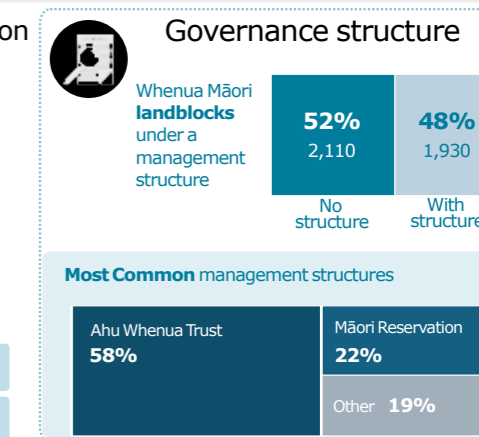
## Whenua Māori in Te Tai Hauāuru

The total number of whenua landblocks in Te Tai Hauāuru is about **4,000**, collectively covering an area of approximately **245,000** hectares.



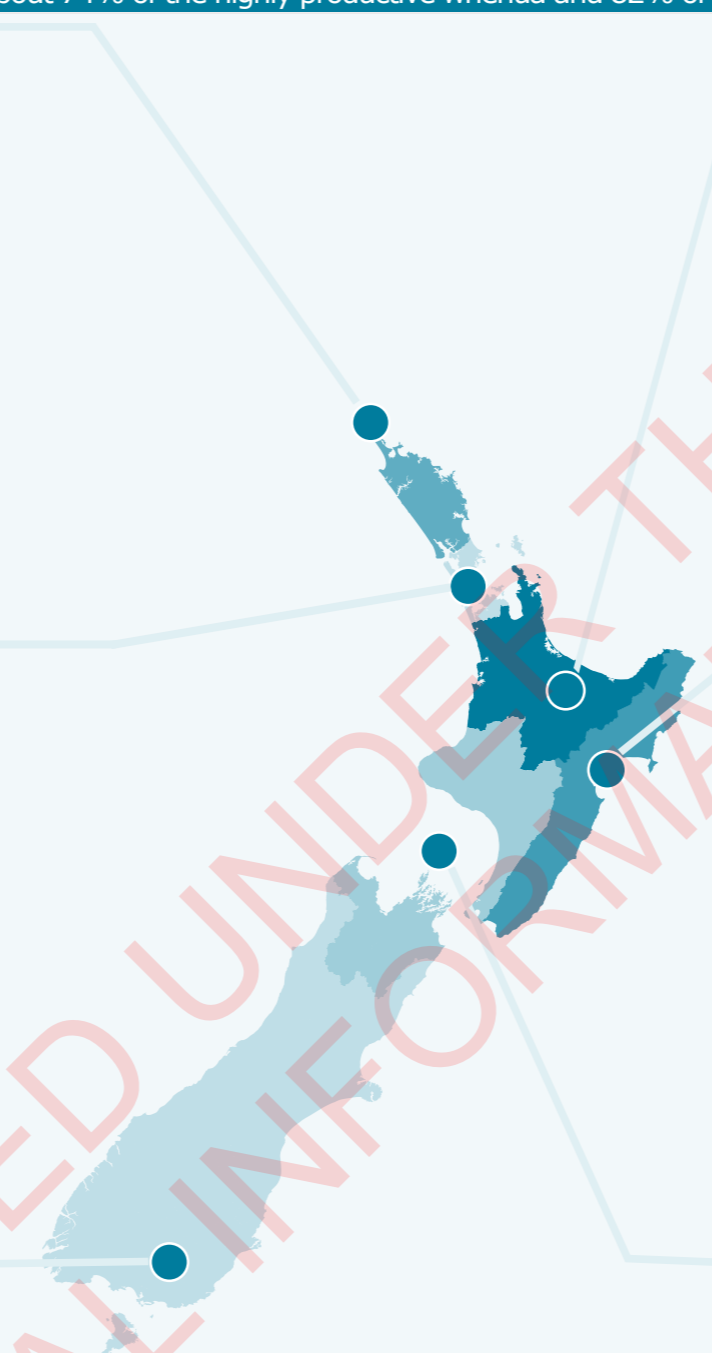
**Land Status**

	Māori freehold land	Other categories
Area	<b>98%</b> 241,200 ha	<b>2%</b> 4,100 ha
Landblocks	<b>98%</b> 3,950	<b>2%</b> 90



Other management structures include Maori incorporation, Whenua Topu Trust, Whanau Trust, Reservation among others.

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

## 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

## 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

## 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 Waipounamu

The region contains approximately **55,000** hectares of whenua Māori, where **4%** is classified as highly productive, **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

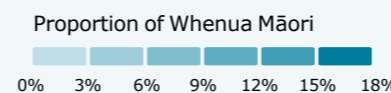
## Te Tai Hauāuru

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



### 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	Slight 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.		

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, Toki Whenua, June 2022