



## Land Use Capability (LUC) Map 2002

Landcare Research

Data Documentation

Motu Economic and Public Policy Research

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### Restrictions

Restricted

Raw data set

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## Data Documentation

(Please note that this is informal documentation intended to help users.  
It is not a polished document. Additions/corrections are welcome at [info@motu.org.nz](mailto:info@motu.org.nz).)

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### 2. Abstract

Landcare Research developed a GIS database that classifies land based on its limitations for productive use. The classification, referred to as Land Use Capability (LUC), gives an indication of what uses the land is able to support in the long term.

### 3. More information:

Each polygon was classified on a discrete scale from 1 to 8. Class 1 land is best for sustained agricultural production, while class 8 land has severely limited uses (Froude, 1999). Classes 1 to 4 are considered suitable for multiple land uses including arable cropping, while classes 5 to 7 are only suitable for pastoral grazing and forestry. Class 8 is not suitable for any productive use. LUC subclasses and units further classify land based on dominant limitation and management requirements.

### 4. Motu Working Papers using this data set:

Hendy, Joanna and Suzi Kerr. 2006. "Land-Use Intensity Module: Land Use in Rural New Zealand Version 1," Motu Working Paper 06-05.

Todd, Maribeth and Suzi Kerr. 2009. "Changing Land Cover and Use in New Zealand: How Does It Related to Land-Use Capability and Slope?," *Forthcoming Motu Working Paper*, Wellington, New Zealand.