



Land Environments of New Zealand (LENZ) map 2002

Landcare Research  
Data Documentation  
Motu Economic and Public Policy Research

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Can Motu put this data on our website? No

Can Motu put this document on our website? Yes

**Contact Details**

Motu Economic and Public Policy Research  
Level 1, 97 Cuba St, Te Aro,  
PO Box 24390, Wellington 6142  
New Zealand

Email [info@motu.org.nz](mailto:info@motu.org.nz)

Telephone +64 4 9394250

Website [www.motu.org.nz](http://www.motu.org.nz)

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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).)

1. Main Motu contact for this data: Motu Research analyst: Wei Zhang [wei.zhang@motu.org.nz](mailto:wei.zhang@motu.org.nz).  
(Motu senior fellow: Suzi Kerr).

### 2. Data keywords:

Land quality, climate, slope

### 3. Dataset Abstract:

LENZ (Land Environments of New Zealand) provides an environmental classification for New Zealand. It identifies climatic and landform factors likely to influence the distribution of species, and uses these factors to define a landscape classification that groups together sites that have similar environmental conditions. One important advantage of this approach, as opposed to directly mapping land cover for example, is its ability to predict the potential character of sites where natural ecosystems have been substantially modified.

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

Todd, Maribeth and Suzi Kerr. 2009. "How Does Changing Land Cover and Land Use in New Zealand relate to Land Use Capability and Slope?" *Motu Working Paper 09-17*.

### 5. Additional notes.

The Land Environments of New Zealand Underlying Data Layers CD contains ESRI grid files of the 15 environmental variables that underpin the LENZ classification. The layers can be used individually, in combination, or with other layers to help address particular conservation and resource management questions or issues. The 15 variables are listed below.

Climate:

Annual Temperature

Minimum Winter Temperature

Annual Solar Radiation  
Winter Solar Radiation  
Annual water deficit  
Monthly water balance  
October vapour pressure deficit

Parent material:

Soil drainage  
Phosphorus  
Calcium  
Hardness  
Particle size  
Soil age

Landform:

Slopes