

06 July 2023

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 08 June 2023, in which you asked:

*Are you able to find in the context of our nationally available public land, excluding waterways, what %age of land is currently under the active care of the DoC as it pertains to my previous request?*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

DOC manages about 8.6 million hectares of public conservation land (this information is available in DOC's annual report for 2022 which can be found on the Department's website).<sup>1</sup> The answers below relate to our work on public conservation land (PCL).

DOC reports on the area of PCL that is under sustained management. Sustained management may be periodic control (i.e. not every area is treated every year, but areas are treated at an appropriate frequency to gain the desired outcome).

The total area of PCL that is currently under sustained management is 4,438,640 hectares (approximately 52% of PCL). For weeds and wilding conifers (i.e. excluding areas being managed solely for animal pests) there are 1,725,406 hectares of PCL under sustained management (approximately 20% of PCL). DOC also contributes to the sustained management of weeds and wilding conifers on 478,677 hectares of land that is not PCL.

I am sorry that we are not able to provide the area data excluding waterways as requested, as we do not hold this information. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist in the form you have requested. While the data may exist in some form, such as maps of PCL, to provide you with this would

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<sup>1</sup> Pūrongo-ā-tau – Annual Report 2022 <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/about-doc/annual-reports/annual-report-2022/annual-report-2022.pdf> (doc.govt.nz)



require the creation of new information that could not be achieved without substantial collation and research and would be refused under section 18(f) of the Act accordingly.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Hilary Aikman  
Director, Terrestrial Biodiversity  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*