Regional Fact Sheet

# Canterbury/Waitaha and West Coast/Te Tai Poutini

March 2025

This fact sheet provides a snapshot of the current state of the forestry and wood processing industries in the Canterbury and West Coast regions.

Te Uru Rākau New Zealand Forest Service

Canterbury is the largest region in New Zealand by regional boundary land area. From north to south the region extends from the Conway River catchment to the Waitaki River catchment. From west to east the region extends from the Southern Alps to the coast. The area is commonly divided into north Canterbury (north of the Rakaia River to the Conway River), mid Canterbury (from the Rakaia River to the Rangitata River), south Canterbury (south of the Rangitata River to the Waitaki River) and Christchurch City.

The West Coast is the longest region in New Zealand. It stretches approximately 600 km from Kahurangi Point in the north to Awarua Point in the south. The West Coast region receives the highest rainfall in New Zealand due to the westerly airflow from the Tasman Sea dropping moisture as it runs into the Southern Alps. An average annual rainfall between 1775 mm and 11,275 mm per year was reported from 2017 to 2021. Annual rainfall is generally higher in the mid to southern region, particularly in the Southern Alps at higher altitudes.

**Canterbury $47.9 billion**
**West Coast $2.1 billion**

Regional GDP for year ended March 2023 (12% and 0.5% of National GDP respectively).

**Canterbury $657 million**
**West Coast $217 million**

GDP in forestry, fishing and mining for year ended March 2022. West Coast GDP is for forestry, fishing, mining, electricity, gas, water and waste services.

**Canterbury 6,702**
**West Coast 196**

Number of new dwelling consents for all construction for the year ended September 2024.

**Canterbury 660,200**
**West Coast 32,800**

Estimated regional population for year ended June 2023 (13% and 1% of New Zealand's total respectively).

**Canterbury $72,620**
**West Coast $63,876**

GDP per capita for year ended March 2023.

**Canterbury 12.2%**
**West Coast 15.2%**

Population that identifies as Māori – 2023 Census (19.6% nationally).

*Source: StatsNZ*

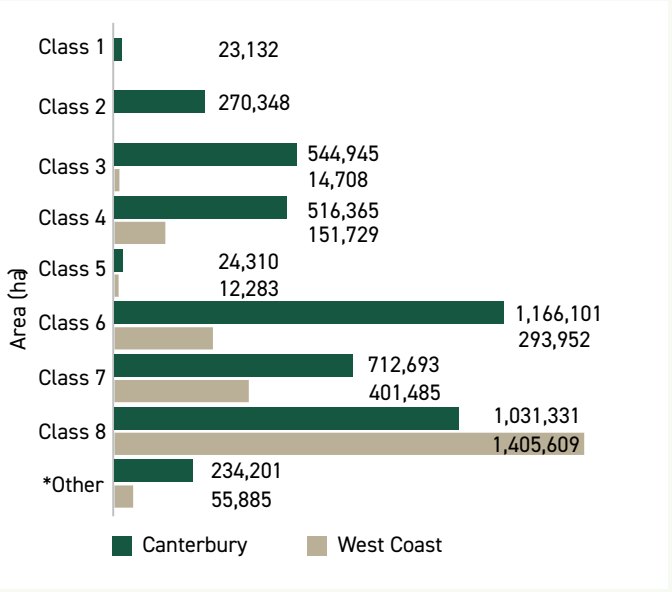
## Land Use Capability

The Land Use Capability (LUC) system classifies land into 8 categories based on its ability to support various productive uses over time. The classification considers physical attributes of land such as climate, soil, slope, vegetation and erodibility. Classes 1 to 4 are generally suitable for all ranges of cultivation. Classes 5 to 7 tend to be suitable for pastoral farming and forestry. Class 8 has severe limitations for primary production or forestry use.

30% of the land area in the Canterbury and 7.1% of the land area in the West Coast region is classified as LUC 1 to 4. In Canterbury, 42.1% of the land area, and the West Coast Region, 30.3% of the land area are classified as LUC 5 to 7. In Canterbury, 22.8% of land area and in the West Coast, 60.2% is classified as LUC 8.

*Figure 1. Area in hectares (ha) by LUC class. Source: LUC database 2021.*

**Other: estuaries, lakes, quarries, rivers, towns.*




*Sources: Our Environment - Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research and Target land and land use capability classes - MPI*

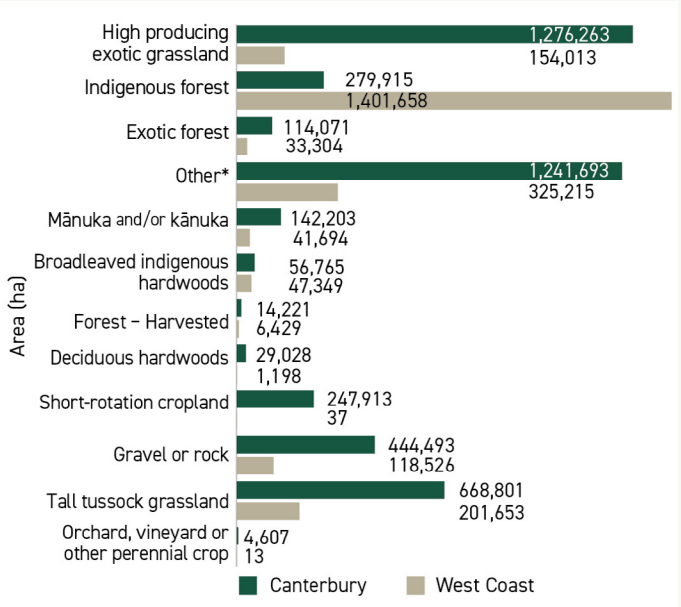
## Land cover

Canterbury's total land area is 4,519,973 hectares (ha), making up 17% of the total area of New Zealand. The indigenous forest and broadleaved indigenous hardwoods cover 7.4% of the region while the exotic forests cover 2.5% of the region. Canterbury Plains is a large, low-lying area in mid-Canterbury with high producing grassland (28.2% of total area), where most of the farming and agriculture occurs. The plains are prone to droughts, especially with the prevailing wind from the northwest, therefore, irrigation is essential for agriculture. The Canterbury Foothills are a mountainous region flanked by the Southern Alps to the west and the Canterbury Plains to the east. The area is typically covered by tall tussock grass and some indigenous forest.

West Coast's total land area is 2,331,088 ha, making up of the 9% of the total area of New Zealand. Tall tussock grass covers 8.7% of the region and the exotic forests cover 1.4% of the region. Indigenous forest and broadleaved indigenous hardwoods cover about 62% of the region. Indigenous forests in the West Coast are protected as part of the Te Wahipounamu-Southwest New Zealand World Heritage Area.

*Figure 2. Area of land cover types in the Canterbury and West Coast regions. Source and forest type definitions - Land Cover Database (LCDB5, 2018)*

**Other includes urban settlements, lakes, rivers, sand, among others.*

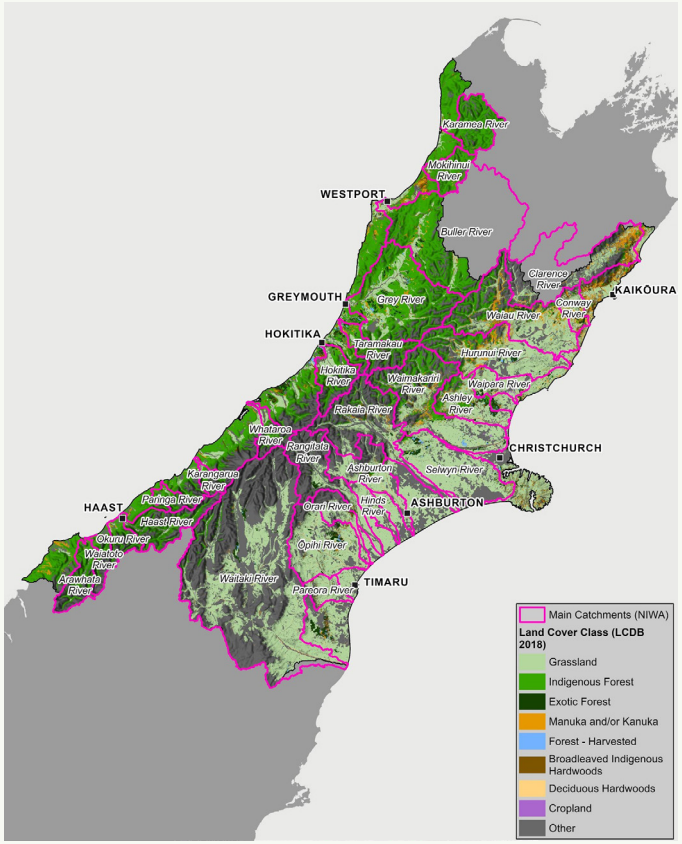


# Canterbury/Waitaha and West Coast/Te Tai Poutini

March 2025

Te Uru Rākau New Zealand Forest Service

*Figure 3. Map: Land cover in Canterbury and West Coast. Data source: Land Cover Database (LCDB5) – LRIS 2018/19.*




View a high-resolution version of the land cover in Canterbury and West Coast map

*Source:* Geographic boundary viewer - Stats NZ

New Zealand's regions are mainly determined by areas of water collection into rivers, known as catchments. There are 28 river catchments in the Canterbury region and the largest is the Waitaki River catchment (1.17 million ha). The other major catchments are the Waimakariri River (359,022 ha), the Waiau River (332,887 ha), the Rakaia River (287,726 ha), the Hurunui River (266,844 ha) and the Selwyn River (260,018 ha).

There are 23 river catchments in the West Coast region. The largest in the region is the Grey River catchment (392,513 ha). The other three major catchments are the Buller River (270,326 ha), the Selwyn River (260,018 ha), and the Haast River (135,468 ha).

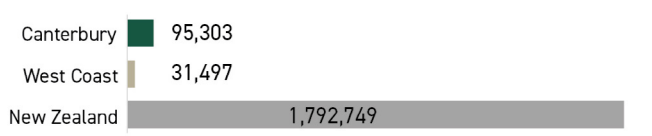
## Forestry in the region[1]

Compared to other regions across New Zealand, there is relatively less exotic forestry in the Canterbury and West Coast wood supply regions[2] (5% and 2% of New Zealand's exotic forest area, respectively).

*Figure 4. Comparing the Canterbury and West Coast regions and New Zealand on exotic forestry facts. Data source: NEFD 2024.*

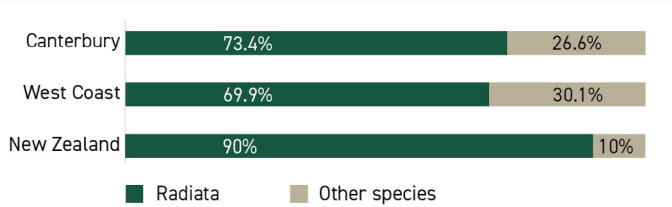
*Standing volume of planted forest, all exotic species (000 cubic metres)*


*Total area in all exotic species (ha)*




The average age of exotic forest in Canterbury is 23.4 years, and in the West Coast it is 19.7, compared to 18.6 years nationally.

*Figure 5. Proportion of exotic forest species in the Canterbury and West Coast in comparison to New Zealand. Source: NEFD 2024*




### Canterbury

In Canterbury, radiata pine comprises 73.4% of the exotic pine forest in the region, covering 69,969 ha. Other exotic forestry species are: 17.2% Douglas-fir (16,386 ha), 7% other softwoods such as redwoods (6,698 ha), 1.7% other hardwoods such as acacia and blackwood (1,612 ha), 0.5% cypress (484 ha), and 0.2% eucalyptus (154 ha).

In 2024, 34% (23,548 ha) of the total planted area of radiata pine forest in Canterbury was at harvestable age (26-30 years). This compares to 21% of the national total planted area of radiata in the same age range.

[1] The data on forestry and silviculture regimes in these regions are sourced from the 2024 National Exotic Forest Description (NEFD) – MPI. This data set provides a detailed description of New Zealand's planted production forest.

[2] The Canterbury wood supply region includes Christchurch City, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie and Waimate Districts. The West Coast wood supply region includes Buller, Grey and Westland Districts.

### West Coast

On the West Coast, radiata pine comprises 69.9% of the exotic pine forest in the region, covering 22,026 ha. Other exotic forestry species are: 14% cypress (4,413 ha), 7% other hardwoods such as acacia and blackwood (2,196 ha), 4.5% Douglas-fir (1,406 ha), 3.1% other softwoods such as redwoods (990 ha), and 1.5% eucalyptus (467 ha).

In 2024, 11% (2,443 ha) of the total planted area of radiata pine forest on the West Coast was at harvestable age (26-30 years). This compares to 21% of the national total planted area of radiata in the same age range.

### Silviculture regimes in the regions

Unpruned without production thinning is the most popular regime of the radiata forest in these regions (Figure 6). This can have a significant implication on the future supply of radiata pine pruned logs in the regions (see Figures 7 and 9).

*Figure 6. Number of hectares of pruned and unpruned regimes of radiata pine in Canterbury and West Coast. Data source: NEFD 2024*

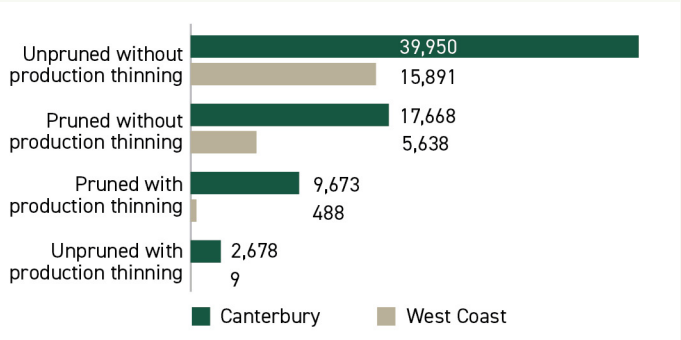



*Table 1. Number of forest owners and total forest area by national size class in Canterbury and West Coast wood supply regions. Data source: NEFD 2024.*

| | National size class | <40 ha | 40–99 ha | 100–499 ha | 500–999 ha | 1,000–9,999 ha | 10,000+ ha |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Canterbury wood supply region | Total Entities | n/a | 80 | 84 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| | Total ha | 32,744 | 5,021 | 15,569 | 2,663 | 8,721 | 30,584* |
| West Coast wood region | Total Entities | n/a | 7 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| | Total ha | 2,831 | 533 | 501 | 617 | 1,772 | 25,243 |

**at least one of the 10,000+ha owners have forests outside the Canterbury region hence the total number of ha is <40,000.*

# Canterbury/Waitaha and West Coast/Te Tai Poutini

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## Wood Availability Forecast (WAF)

*Figure 7. Radiata pine wood availability forecast (WAF) scenario 3 for the Canterbury wood supply region. Data source: WAF 2021. Scenario 3 assumes that large-scale owners harvest at stated intentions then at non-declining yield, and total wood availability is modelled at a split non-declining yield.*

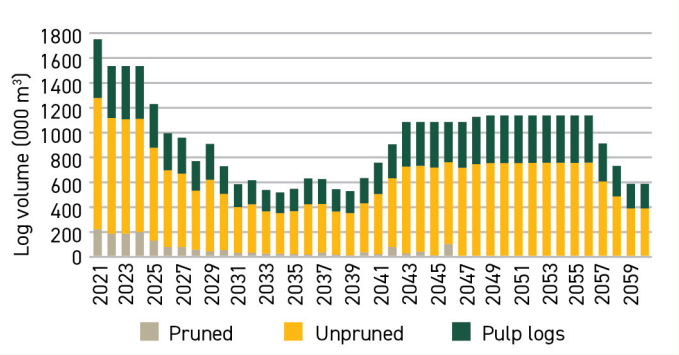
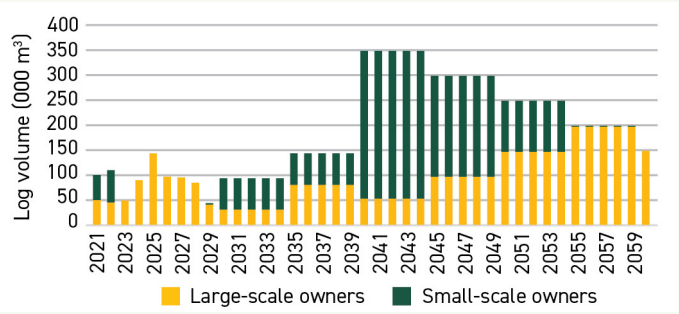



Figure 7 shows the forecast volumes of pruned, unpruned and pulp logs between 2021 and 2060, for the Canterbury wood supply region. Proportionally, the pruned volume reduces throughout the forecast period as areas of pruned forest are replanted into an unpruned regime. Wood availability is forecast to drop to about 600,000 cubic metres per annum from 2031 to 2040, then increase to just over 1 million cubic metres per annum for a period of 12 years after which it drops again.

*Figure 8. Douglas-fir wood availability forecast (WAF) for the Canterbury wood supply region. Data source: WAF 2021.*




Douglas-fir comprises 17.2% of the exotic forest estate in Canterbury and helps to fill the gap in radiata wood availability. From 2031, the wood availability for Douglas-fir is forecast to increase from 93,000 cubic metres to a peak of approximately 350,000 cubic metres per annum in 2041.

*Figure 9. Radiata pine wood availability forecast (WAF) scenario 2 for the West Coast wood supply region. Scenario 2 assumes that large-scale owners harvest at stated intentions then at non-declining yield, and total wood availability is modelled at a non-declining yield. Please note that the only 2 WAF scenarios available for the West Coast. Data source: WAF 2021.*

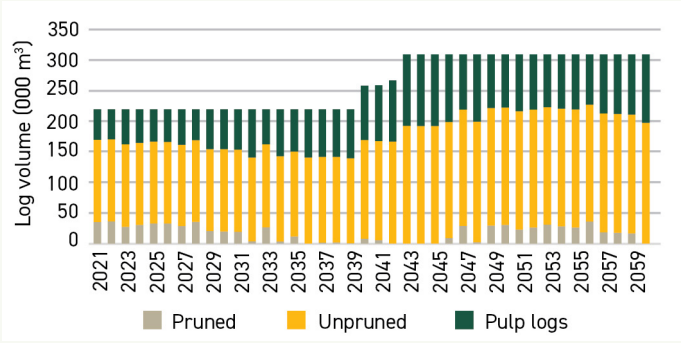
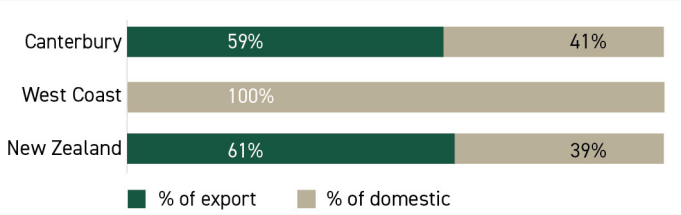



Figure 9 shows the forecast volumes of pruned, unpruned and pulp logs between 2021 and 2060, for the West Coast wood supply region. Unlike in many other wood supply regions where wood volumes are forecast to drop from 2030, the West Coast wood supply is forecast to gradually increase from 2021 to 2042 and to a peak of approximately 300,000 cubic metres per annum.

*Source:* WAF August 2021 - Scenario 3 - Canopy

## Markets for Canterbury and West Coast

*Figure 10. Percentage of exports vs domestic processing of logs for New Zealand, the Canterbury and the West coast wood supply regions for the year ended in December 2024. Data source: Levy trust data for year ended December 2024.*




In 2024:

- 296,858 tonnes of logs were exported from the Port of Timaru (Prime Port).
- 441,830 tonnes of logs were exported from the Lyttelton port.
- 521,301 tonnes of logs went to Canterbury sawmills contributing to 4% of the total log volume processed in New Zealand.
- 128,460 tonnes of logs went to West Coast sawmills contributing to 1% of the total log volume processed in New Zealand.

Logs are not directly exported from the West Port region as there is no deep seaport in the region. They are transported either by train or truck, mainly to the Lyttelton port and small volumes to the port of Nelson.

## Indigenous forestry

The largest podocarp broadleaved indigenous forests of New Zealand are found in the lowlands of the West Coast. Main podocarp species found on the West Coast are rimu, kahikatea, miro, mataī and tōtara.

For the year ending June 2023, black beech and rimu were the largest volumes of indigenous species delivered to mills in the Canterbury and West Coast regions, respectively.

*Table 2. Log volumes delivered to mills from July 2022 to June 2023 in Canterbury region. Source: Indigenous forestry - MPI.*

| Species | Cubic metres |
|---|---|
| Black beech | 161 |
| Silver beech | 20 |
| Hard beech | 15 |
| Red beech | 11 |

*Table 3. Log volumes delivered to mills from July 2022 to June 2023 in West Coast region. Source: Indigenous forestry - MPI.*

| Species | Cubic metres |
|---|---|
| Rimu | 1,159 |
| Red beech | 112 |
| Kahikatea | 88 |
| Matai | 65 |
| Silver beech | 38 |
| Miro | 34 |

### Wood products made from beech

Silver beech wood grown on the west and south of South Island is made into food grade products such as skewers, spatulae, spoons, toothpicks and coffee stirrers in Canterbury. Sawdust produced in the manufacturing process is used to produce wood briquettes for bioenergy.

*Source:* www.starwood.co.nz

### Continuous Cover Forestry

Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) in New Zealand refers to a forest management practice that aims to maintain a continuous canopy by harvesting only individual trees or small coupes at a time, instead of clear-felling large areas. CCF focuses on mixed species and uneven-aged stands in a single forest area.

The Woodside Forest in Canterbury region is an example of CFF practice in New Zealand. In Woodside Forest, continuous canopy is maintained by selective harvesting across the black beech and pine forests, based on target harvest diameter (where a tree is harvested once it meets a chosen target diameter). The forest is used as a model study to show how radiata pine can be managed with CCF principles whilst providing comparable financial returns to the landowner.

*Source:* Continuous cover forestry business models for New Zealand.

# Canterbury/Waitaha and West Coast/Te Tai Poutini

March 2025



## Forestry and wood processing

### Nurseries

There are at least 36 nurseries in the Canterbury and West Coast region producing exotic and native seedling stock. These exotic nurseries supply seedlings and cutting of radiata pine, Douglas-fir, cypresses, and a number of eucalypt species including *Eucalyptus nitens, Eucalyptus fastigata* and several durable heartwood eucalypts and radiata x attenuata hybrid seedlings and cuttings.

### Wood processing

There are at least 30 wood processors in Canterbury. These produce sawn timber, medium density fibreboard (MDF), remanufactured lumber, poles and posts, pallets, bins and cable drums. In the region there is a portable sawmill processing eucalyptus (mainly *E. nitens*) timber for production of solid timber flooring and skirting boards, mouldings, laminated bench tops, and timber for decking, yard rails, etc.

There are at least five wood processors in the West Coast region, including several sawmills and a plywood manufacturing plant. Plywood manufactured in the region is used domestically and exported.

High volumes of logs and chip are moved out of the region, mainly to Canterbury and also to Nelson for processing and exporting. From the same regions, mainly pruned logs are back-loaded[3] to the West Coast for the mills processing pruned logs. The backloading opportunity helps move logs out of the region through transportation cost savings.

### Woody biomass

The Regional Energy Transition accelerator program (RETA) is conducted by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA). The RETA has estimated current demand for bioenergy and woody biomass supply available for bioenergy in north Canterbury, mid-south Canterbury and West Coast regions from 2024–2050.

#### Canterbury

Much of the domestic pulp, processing residues and roadside harvesting residues are used for bioenergy or MDF production. Roadside harvest residues are recovered, stored, and transported within the mid-south Canterbury region for bioenergy use. Currently, about 17,000 tonnes of roadside residues are being recovered at a rate of around 3,500 tonnes per annum. The MDF plant in Rangiora is the single largest user of low-grade domestic chip logs and woodchip in North Canterbury, using 450,000 tonnes per year.

Over the next 15 years, an estimated volume of around 270,000 tonnes per year of woody biomass could be recovered or diverted to bioenergy in Canterbury. These could be harvesting residues, wood processing residues, minor species, wildings or divertible low-grade logs.

#### West Coast

In the West Coast region there is no significant market for pulp logs as pulp is not made in the region. Some export and pulp grade logs are trucked to MDF plants in Nelson or Canterbury, but the distances are considerable, and this is sometimes dependent on sawlogs being back-loaded to the West Coast.

According to the West Coast RETA report, there is scope to increase the use of bioenergy from the relatively low level today. Only a smaller portion of the total wood processing residues produced in the West Coast (21,000 out of total 71,621 tonnes) is currently used for bioenergy (wood pellets and boiler fuel). The rest are mostly post peelings (50,618 tonnes) and are stockpiled by the processors.

Over the next 15 years, an estimated volume of around 110,000 tonnes per year of woody biomass could be recovered or diverted to bioenergy in West Coast.

*Sources:*

RETA-Mid South Canterbury

RETA-North Canterbury

RETA-West Coast

## The University of Canterbury – School of Forestry

The University of Canterbury (UC) in Christchurch offers a professional degree in Forestry Science or Forestry Engineering. A wide range of research is carried out within the School of Forestry department, providing valuable information on remote sensing in forestry, forest economics, timber engineering and processing, and biosecurity and forest health.

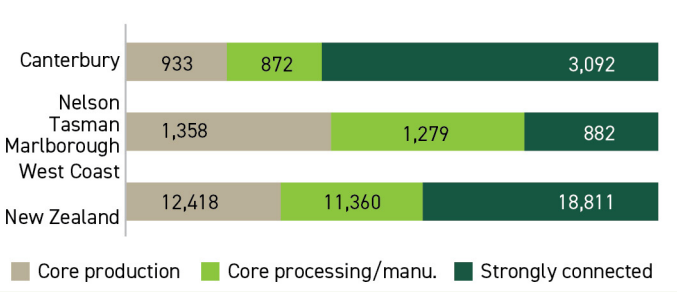
The 2011 Christchurch earthquake initiated the development of the new timber technology, Pres-Lam, by academics in the UC Engineering Department. Pres-Lam is a method of mass engineered timber construction that uses high strength unbonded steel cables or bars to create connections between timber beams and columns. This engineered timber product allows the structure's ability to bounce back to the original position and shape after movement. This type of technology will allow future infrastructure to be more resilient to earthquakes.

*Sources:* About – Pres-Lam

## Workforce

An estimated 42,589 people worked in the forestry and wood processing sectors in New Zealand, for the year ending March 2023, nearly 11% of these work in Canterbury.

*Figure 11. Comparing the numbers of workers in forestry and wood processing for Canterbury and West Coast including Nelson, Tasman, Marlborough regions with New Zealand. Source: www.workforceinsights.govt.nz/workforce-today/forestry-wood. Please note that the work force data for West Coast is only available as a combined total of Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough regions.*




| | |
|---|---|
| Core production | Core production includes forestry, logging and forestry support services. |
| Core processing/ manufacturing | Core processing/manufacturing includes log sawmilling, wood chipping, timber resawing and dressing, veneer and plywood manufacturing, reconstituted wood product manufacturing and pulp, paper and paperboard manufacturing. |
| Strongly connected | Strongly connected activities include wooden structural fitting and component manufacturing, other wood product manufacturing, corrugated paperboard and paperboard container manufacturing, paper bag manufacturing, wooden furniture and upholstered seat manufacturing, timber wholesaling. |

## Erosion

The Erosion Susceptibility Classifications (ESC) for the Canterbury and West Coast regions (see Figure 12) are:

- Around 5.9% (264,769 ha) and 24.3% (1,097,959 ha) of Canterbury and West Coast region's land, respectively, is classified as very highly susceptible to erosion. This compares to around 13.1% (3,472,477 ha) for New Zealand.
- Around 15.5% (702,356 ha) and 10.4% (486,149 ha) of Canterbury and West Coast region's land, respectively, is classified as highly susceptible to erosion. This compares to 19.2% (5,083,013 ha) for New Zealand.

## Wind risks to forests in Canterbury

The climate in Canterbury is influenced by the effects of the Southern Alps on the prevailing westerly airflows, resulting in a steep precipitation gradient eastward from the western ranges. These have periodically caused major damage to the plantation forest resource, as experienced in 1975 and 2013 north-west gales.

3 In transportation, back-loading is an arrangement for an empty vehicle to transport goods on its return journey, resulting in cost-savings.

Recent modelling predicts that climate change will result in more frequent westerly winds with greater risks of severe winds and storms. Climate change is also expected to result in higher fire risk along the eastern parts of the South Island, including Canterbury.

*Sources:*

Wind damage to the forests and the consequences

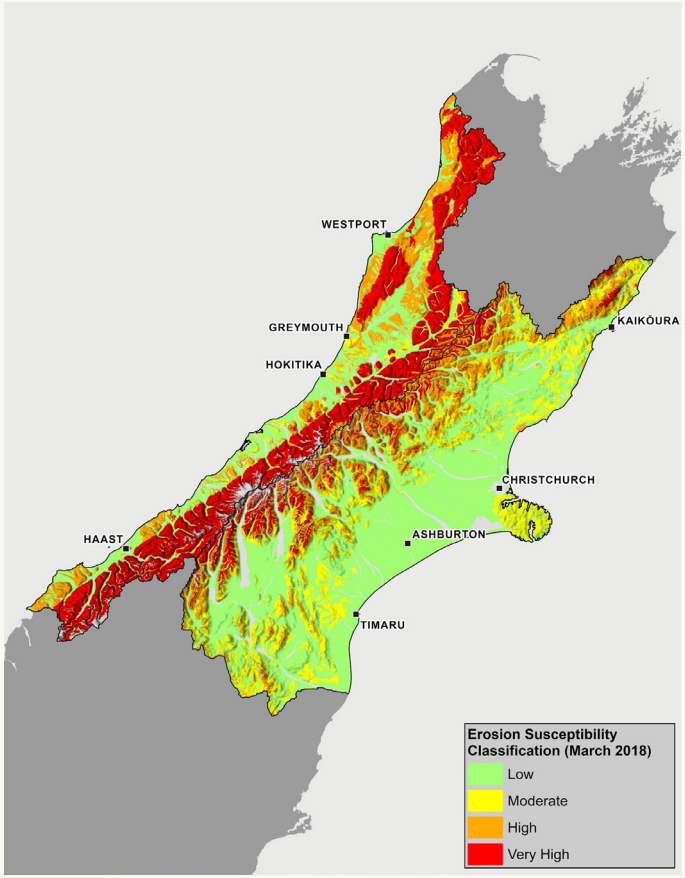
Canterbury's changing climate

Climate change projections for the Canterbury Region (PDF, 16.5MB)

Climate and Wildfire Risk Evidence Brief _2023 (PDF, 952KB)

*Figure 12. Erosion Susceptibility Classification (ESC) for Canterbury and West Coast regions. Source: MPI.*

View a high-resolution version of the Erosion Susceptibility Classification map.




## Government funding

### One Billion Trees

As of January 2024, $17.7 million in funding has been approved for direct landowner and partnership grants in the Canterbury region and $1.7 million in the West Coast region. From the fund, 4,599 hectares have been planted in the Canterbury region and 51 hectares have been planted in the West Coast region.

The One Billion Trees Fund (part of the One Billion Trees programme) is now closed to new applications. The programme's goal is to plant a billion trees by 2028.

Progress towards planting one billion trees

### Hill Country Erosion (HCE) Programme

The HCE Programme is a partnership between the MPI, councils, and landowners to support regional erosion control projects.

From 2023 to 2027, the HCE Programme has invested $1.9 million in the Canterbury region. The funding supports erosion control and revegetation work in north Canterbury through land use capability mapping, poplar/willow planting, reversion to native cover, and community soil conversation efforts.

The HCE programme is not currently supporting council-led work in the West Coast region.

Hill Country Erosion Programme for councils – MPI

### Wood Processing Growth Fund (WPGF)

The WPGF is designed to help wood processors increase New Zealand's onshore wood processing capacity.

John Fairweather specialty timber solutions, a wood processing company based in Canterbury, has received a $87,574 grant from the WPGF. This grant will enable the business to build a prototype hot oil thermal modification kiln in collaboration with the University of Canterbury and the Farm Forestry Association. The project aims to show the commercial viability of producing durable wood from alternative species.

Bennetts Sawmill based in Oxford Canterbury has received a $280,534 grant from the WPGF fund. The mill specialises in processing New Zealand Oregon, Larch and Macrocarpa timber. The grant will fund new equipment that will increase production from 600 cubic meters to 10,000 cubic meters each year.

Wood Processing Growth Fund

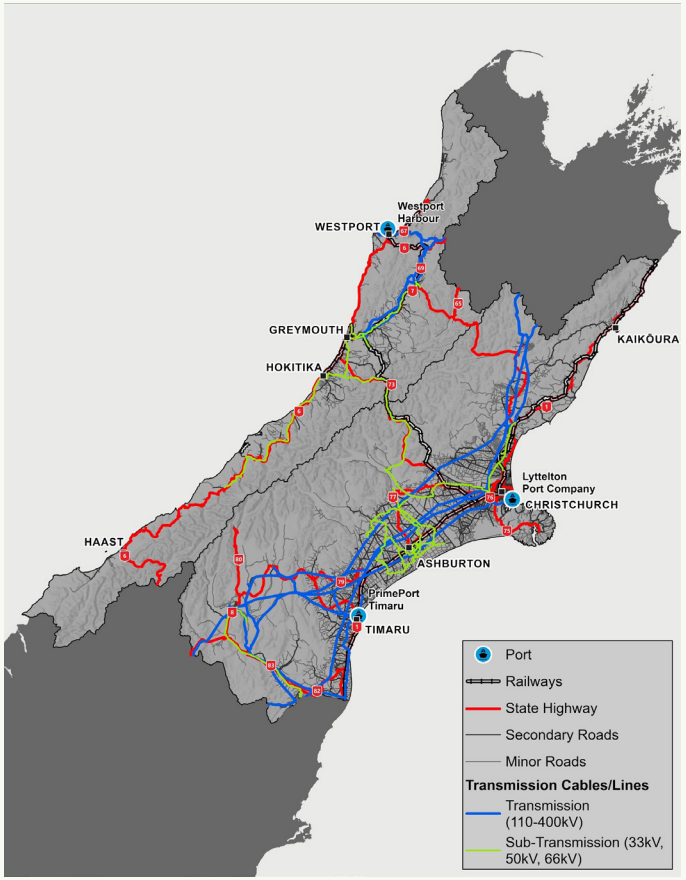
## Infrastructure

### Roads

The State Highway (SH)1 runs from the north to the south of the Canterbury region. The SH7 through the Lewis Pass and the SH73 through the Arthur's Pass branch off the SH2, connecting the Canterbury region to the West Coast region. This road network linking Hokitika, Greymouth and Westport to Lyttelton is critical for the rural-based economy, transporting

*Figure 13. Map of key infrastructure across Canterbury and West Coast.*

View a high-resolution version of the infrastructure map in Canterbury and West Coast.




*Disclaimer: The power lines information on this map may be incomplete. The information that is currently displayed is what MPI had authorised access to at the time of creating this fact sheet.*

goods to production centres and on to domestic and international markets. SH6 is the main highway that runs the length of the West Coast, connecting the region to Marlborough region in the northeastern corner of the South Island and then across the Southern Alps through inland Otago and finally across the Southern Plains to the island's south coast.

### Rail

The Main North Line links Canterbury to Blenheim and Picton where the inter-island ferries connect the North and South Islands. The Main South Line connects Christchurch south to Invercargill, where most freight is dairy based. The Midland Line connects Lyttelton to the West Coast, which runs under the Southern Alps through the Otira tunnel at Arthur's Pass before snaking through the West Coast to Greymouth. Freight rail connections linking the West Port region to Lyttelton is vital for moving coal, logs and dairy products. KiwiRail currently run five return services per week carrying logs from Greymouth to Lyttelton.

### Ports

The Canterbury region has 2 seaports: Lyttelton Port Company and PrimePort Timaru. The Lyttelton Port Company is located on the north-east coast of Banks Peninsula. It is the largest port in the South Island and New Zealand's second largest export port. The port handles bulk petroleum, fertiliser, gypsum, cement, logs, conventional break bulk, imported cars and fishing. The port has:

- 7 berths for general cargo;
- an oil berth for bulk petroleum, LPG and chemical liquids;
- a purpose-built cruise ship berth.

Facilities are provided for loading and unloading bulk products, including logs and conventional break-bulk.

Lyttelton port has 2 inland ports, the Midland port in Rolleston and the City Depot in Woolston. A rail connection between the Midland port and the Lyttelton port removes the truck traffic and aid the efficient movement of agriculture production throughout the Canterbury plains. In 2024, Lyttelton Port exported logs (2.3% of New Zealand log exports) and forestry products worth $172,447,728.

*Table 4. The Lyttelton port export volumes and value (Free on board-FOB) for forestry and wood products for the year ending 2024. Source: MPI Overseas Merchandise and Trade.*

| Product | Unit | Quantity | Value – FOB ($NZ) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Logs | Cubic metre | 476,767 | 69,343,482 |
| Other forestry products* | Mixed | – | 13,161,855 |
| Panels | Cubic metre | 88,230 | 54,613,846 |
| Paper and paperboard* | Mixed | – | 4,099,614 |
| Sawn timber and sleepers | Cubic metre | 71,249 | 31,008,619 |

**Quantity cannot be provided as other forestry products are reported in different units of measure.*
*Pulp exports are not reported due to inconsistencies in data.*

PrimePort Timaru is located in the South Canterbury region. The port has 5 wharfs and up to 9 berths. It has a 5 hectare log yard which provides storage for up to 50,000 $m^3$ of export logs. Primeport is a bulk trades port. The top five bulk imports/exports include fertiliser, stock feed, fuel, logs and cement. Container trades are managed by the Timaru container terminal which is 100% owned and operated by the Port of Tauranga as result of an alliance formed between the Timaru District Holdings Limited and the port of Tauranga. In 2024, the PrimePort exported logs (1.5% of New Zealand log exports) and forestry products worth $42,740,492.

*Table 5. The port of Timaru export volumes and value (Free on board – FOB) for forestry and wood products for the year ending 2024. Source: MPI Overseas Merchandise and Trade.*

| Product | Unit | Quantity | Value – FOB ($NZ) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Logs | Cubic metre | 302,547 | 42,690,993 |
| Sawn timber and sleepers | Cubic metre | 86 | 49,999 |

The West Coast region has no deepwater ports. It has river mouth ports at Greymouth and Westport.

*Sources:*

www.lpc.co.nz

www.primeport.co.nz

### Electricity

Transpower owns the transmission lines in the Canterbury and West Coast regions. In the West coast there are eight grid exit Points (GXPs) where local electricity distribution boards Westpower and Buller Electricity take supply from the national grid. The national grid consists of multiple 350 kilowatt (kV) double circuit towers, 220 kV double and single circuit towers, 110 kV double circuit towers and poles and 110 kV single circuit pole lines.

### Hydropower generation

In the West Coast there are at least two hydro power generation stations, which are Kumara Power Station (6.5 megawatts (MW), Trust Power) and the Amethyst Hydro Power Station (7.7 MW, WestPower).

Canterbury region has the country's second-largest hydro power station after Manapōuri, with a maximum capacity of 552 MW. The other main hydro power stations in the region include Coleridge, (39.5 MW, Manawa Energy), Tekapo (A-30 MW and B-160 MW, Genesis Energy), Ohau (A-264MW, B-212 MW, C-212MW; Meridian Energy), Aviermore (222MW, Meridian Energy) and Waitaki (105MW, Meridian Energy).

*Sources:*

Transmission map – South Island - Transpower *(PDF – 753KB)*

New Zealand Power Plants - Open Infrastructure Map

## Useful links

### Forestry

Canterbury West Coast Wood Council

Native (indigenous) forests | NZ Government

New Zealand forest data – MPI

Afforestation and deforestation intentions survey 2023 – MPI (PDF, 943 KB)

### Wood processing

Invest in New Zealand wood processing (March 2020) – New Zealand Trade and Enterprise

Information releases - Overseas merchandise trade – Stats New Zealand

### Regional statistics

Tai Poutini West Coast Growth Study

Canterbury 2022 An Overview (PDF, 3,2MB)

Regional Economic Activity Web Tool - Canterbury – Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Regional Economic Activity Web Tool – West Coast – Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Regional updates – New Zealand Tranport Agency

Canterbury - Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit - Kānoa

West Coast - Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit - Kānoa

Canterbury climate (PDF, 6.28 MB)

Canterbury Climate Change Risk Assessment (PDF, 12.2 MB)

West Coast climate (PDF, 3.3 MB)

### Infrastructure

Maps and Geospatial data – Kiwirail

Transmission lines – Transpower

## Feedback

**Contact email: info@mpi.govt.nz**

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