

## NEW ZEALAND



Source: esri

### General

New Zealand is an island country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. The country geographically comprises two main landmasses - the North Island, and the South Island, and around 600 smaller islands. New Zealand is situated east of Australia across the Tasman Sea and south of the Pacific island areas of New Caledonia, Fiji, and Tonga. The country has an area of 26.8 Mha (million hectares) with in 2020 a population of 4.8 million, or 0.18 persons per ha (Wikipedia and United Nations, 2019).

### Climate and geography

New Zealand's climate is predominantly temperate maritime, with mean annual temperatures ranging from 10 °C in the South to 16 °C in the North. Conditions vary sharply across regions from extremely wet on the West Coast of the South Island to almost semi-arid in Central Otago and the Mackenzie Basin of inland Canterbury and subtropical in Northland. The southern and southwestern parts of the South Island have a cooler and cloudier climate. The general snow season is early June until early October, though cold snaps can occur outside this season. Snowfall is common in the eastern and southern parts of the South Island and mountain areas across the country (Wikipedia).

The country's varied topography and its sharp mountain peaks owe much to the tectonic uplift of land and volcanic eruptions. New Zealand is long and narrow. The country owes its varied topography, and perhaps even its emergence above the sea, to the dynamic boundary it straddles between the Pacific and Indo-Australian Plates.

### Existing polder

The Group Polder Development (1982) mentions one polder area. This concerns the Eastern Waimea Mudflats. Characteristics of this polder are shown in Table I.

### Proposed polders

No proposed polders have been identified.

### References

- Group Polder Development, Department of Civil Engineering, Delft University of Technology, 1982. *Polders of the World. Compendium of polder projects*. Delft, the Netherlands
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2019. *World population prospects, medium prognosis. The 2019 revision*. New York, USA.

*Bart Schultz*

*Lelystad, February 2022*

Table I. General characteristics of existing polders in New Zealand

Name	Reclamation	Area in ha	Type *)	Latitudes	Longitudes	Elevation in m+MSL	Land use
Eastern Waimea Mudflats		3200	RLL	41° 19' S	173° 09' E	2	Agriculture
Total		3200					

\*) RLL = reclaimed low-lying land; LGS = land gained on the sea; DL = drained lake