Toitū Te Whenua
Land Information
New Zealand

Did you know?

LINZ GIS data and support are free for iwi, Māori and communities

Public availability of LINZ geospatial data

A wide collection of LINZ GIS datasets are free and publicly available through the LINZ Data Service (LDS):

LINZ Data Service

Free and publicly accessible: Toitū Te Whenua (LINZ) makes a wealth of geospatial datasets available at no cost via the LINZ Data Service, including elevation data, aerial imagery, cadastral boundaries, and hydrographic data. All these can be accessed and downloaded freely by anyone.

GIS mapping tools for wetland projects | Landcare Research

Open datasets support iwi-led resilience planning: The availability of these data layers is crucial for climate resilience initiatives, emergency planning, and whenua mapping. These datasets can include high-resolution LiDAR-derived elevation data, up-to-date aerial photography, and detailed mapping of rivers, swamps, property boundaries, and infrastructure.

Utilising key datasets for Māori climate resilience and whenua protection | YouTube

LINZ support in accessing and using data

Ngā Poutama Matawhenua mapping wānanga: LINZ runs the Ngā Poutama Matawhenua, a series of practical Māori GIS mapping webinars designed specifically for iwi, hapū, Māori trusts, and environmental groups. These are held online and recorded, enabling flexible access.

Ngā Poutama Matawhenua playlist | YouTube

Wānanga content includes topics like accessing and using key datasets (e.g., buildings, roads, aerial imagery, population data), mapping whenua and wāhi tapu, supporting disaster preparedness, and creating story maps or web map tools.

Ongoing capability-building: LINZ also encourages iwi and hapū to engage in their webinars and potential one-on-one guidance through their capability team and networks such as GrowGISNZ.

GrowGIS NZ | Facebook

Championing GIS Capability: Highlighting two pathways

To strengthen iwi and Māori internal capacity, we recommend appointing a GIS Champion within the iwi or hapū entity. This individual can undertake online micro-credentialed GIS training via SIT or the University of Canterbury, and participate regularly in Ngā Poutama Matawhenua wānanga to build lasting capability.

Pathway A - Option 1 - GIS Micro-Credential – Southern Institute of Technology (SIT)

Course details:

- **Institution**: Southern Institute of Technology (SIT)
- **Programme**: Geographic Information Systems (GIS) – Micro-Credential Course, delivered in a HyFlex format (combining onsite and online learning) or fully online.
- **Duration**: 15 weeks, approximately 3 hours per week.
- **Timing**: Semester 1 of 2026 runs from 23 February to 26 June; Semester 2 runs 26 July to 27 November.
- **Cost**: No tuition fees under the Zero Fees Scheme, applicable to domestic students. Only material costs apply - currently NZD $280 (GST inclusive)
- **Value to iwi**:
    - In-depth practical training in GIS using ArcGIS Pro, including spatial analysis, data management, map creation, overlay and buffer techniques, raster/vector data handling, labelling, and geodatabase work.
    - Access to an ArcGIS Pro student license for the duration of the course.
    - Builds a professionally recognized capability within the iwi—a direct contribution to resilience and planning capacity.
- **Course details**:
  Geographic Information Systems (GIS) - Micro Credential Course | SIT

Pathway A - Option 2: GIS Micro-Credential – University of Canterbury (UC)

Course details:

- **Institution:** University of Canterbury, School of Earth and Environment.
- **Programme:** GIS for Mapping – Visualising Spatial Data
- **Delivery:** Fully online, with recorded lectures, digital lab exercises, and online assessments.
- **Duration:** 9 weeks approximately 6 hours a week.
- **Timings:** 29 September – 30 November 2025, with a one-week study break from 27 October – 2 November
- **Cost:** NZD $328 (incl. GST) for domestic learners.
- **Future 2026 course start dates**
    - 2 February 2026
    - 27 April 2026
    - 13 July 2026
    - 28 September 2026
- **Value to iwi:**
    - Foundational training in GIS, GPS, and Remote Sensing (RS), with practical application using QGIS software.
    - Learn to compile, manipulate, and visualise spatial data to create maps relevant to iwi, hapū, or kaupapa Māori.
    - Builds confidence and capability to apply GIS tools in real-world contexts such as planning, storytelling, and environmental resilience.
- **Course details:**
  GIS for Mapping Course | University of Canterbury

Pathway B - Ngā Poutama Matawhenua series – Practical Māori GIS mapping wānanga

Programme outline:

A series of one hour monthly online mapping wānanga specifically tailored for Māori practitioners - offering practical learning and storytelling through GIS mapping.

Participants learn how to:

- Access and work with key geospatial datasets (e.g., buildings, roads, population, aerial photos).
- Map whenua, wāhi tapu, and integrate data layers for emergency planning and resilience.
- Use GIS tools to create interactive web maps and story maps for communication and planning.

Sessions are recorded and available on-demand, allowing flexibility for participants to catch up:

Ngā Poutama Matawhenua playlist | YouTube

Wānanga details:

Ngā Poutama Matawhenua - Practical Māori GIS Mapping Wānanga webinar series | Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand

Value to iwi:

- Practical, culturally relevant GIS training with real-world applications.
- Direct support from LINZ's capability team and opportunity to connect with wider Māori GIS networks.
- Ideal for reinforcing applied learning from the SIT/UC GIS micro- credentials and for continuous capability growth.

Why this matters for iwi

Benefit for hapū, iwi, community

- **Free LINZ GIS data access** - High-quality, authoritative datasets support iwi-led climate resilience, emergency planning, and development.
- **SIT/UC GIS Micro-Credentials** - Builds a qualified GIS Champion with professional skills and confidence to lead mapping and resilience initiatives.
- **Ngā Poutama Matawhenua** - Provides culturally grounded, practical GIS training that complements SIT/UC learning and strengthens iwi networks.