

1.4.2. Waiau – Waiau Lagoon

The Waiau FMU covers around 862,700 hectares (26.9% of the region) and is the largest of the four main developed FMUs in Southland. It contains a large amount of public conservation land, including part of Fiordland National Park in the west and the Tākitimu Conservation Area in the east. Around 240,000 hectares, or 28 percent of the FMU, is developed land. The FMU lies entirely within the Southland District, there are around 5,044 residents (or less than 1 people/km²) and a number of towns including Tuatapere (population 558), Te Anau (population 1,911), and Manapōuri (population 228), with water takes, wastewater and/or stormwater schemes. The FMU contains tourism activities and large drystock properties, and a smaller area of dairy farming. Table A2 gives estimates of land use activities for the Waiau FMU.

Table A2: Agriculture, forestry and urban areas in the Waiau FMU

Land Use	Total land in FMU (ha)	Share of developed land in FMU	Share of total land use in region that is present in this FMU	Number of properties in FMU
Sheep and beef	148,113	61.9%	19.4%	272
Dairy (incl. support)	19,450	8.1%	7.4%	64
Deer	15,938	6.7%	36.8%	68
Arable	16	0.0%	0.1%	1
Horticulture	26	0.0%	0.0%	2
Other	9,805	4.1%	-	397
Forestry	32,129	13.4%	34.3%	75
Urban	13,764	5.8%	29.9%	3,173
Total	239,242	100.0%		4,052

Source: Southland Land Use Map, Pearson and Couldrey (2016)

The Waiau FMU includes Lake Te Anau, Lake Manapouri, Green Lake and Lake (all natural state), and fresh water that ends up in Te Waewae Lagoon. There is a Marine Mammal Sanctuary in Te Waewae Bay, and a strong whitebaiting community. The Waiau also contains the Monowai and Manapōuri Power Schemes. The Manapouri scheme has reduced the mean annual flow of the Waiau River below the Mararoa Weir from around 560 cumecs (cubic metres per second), in the years before the scheme, to 135 cumecs, for the years between 2006 and 2016. This reduction in flow is altering the environment in the Lower Waiau Catchment and Te Waewae Lagoon. The Waiau Trust leads habitat enhancement for fisheries and wildlife in the Waiau river catchment (Jan Riddell, pers. comm., 2016).

Under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, a Statutory Acknowledgement applies to the Waiau River, Moturau (Lake Manapōuri), Te Anau (Lake Te Anau), Manawapōpōre/Hikuraki (Mavora Lakes) and a tōpuni¹³ for the Tākitimu Range. The name Waiau (wai: water, au: current) comes from

¹³ The concept of Tōpuni comes from the traditional Ngāi Tahu tikanga (custom) of persons of rangatira (chiefly) status extending their mana and protection over a person or area by placing their cloak over them or it. A Tōpuni now confirms and places an 'overlay' of Ngāi Tahu values on specific pieces of land managed by DOC.

the swirling nature of its waters. The river was a major travel route for pounamu that connected Southland, Fiordland and the West Coast. Numerous archaeological sites and wāhi taonga are evidence of the history of occupation and use of the river by Ngāi Tahu and Ngāti Māmoe. Figure A14 shows the distribution of land uses within the Waiau FMU.

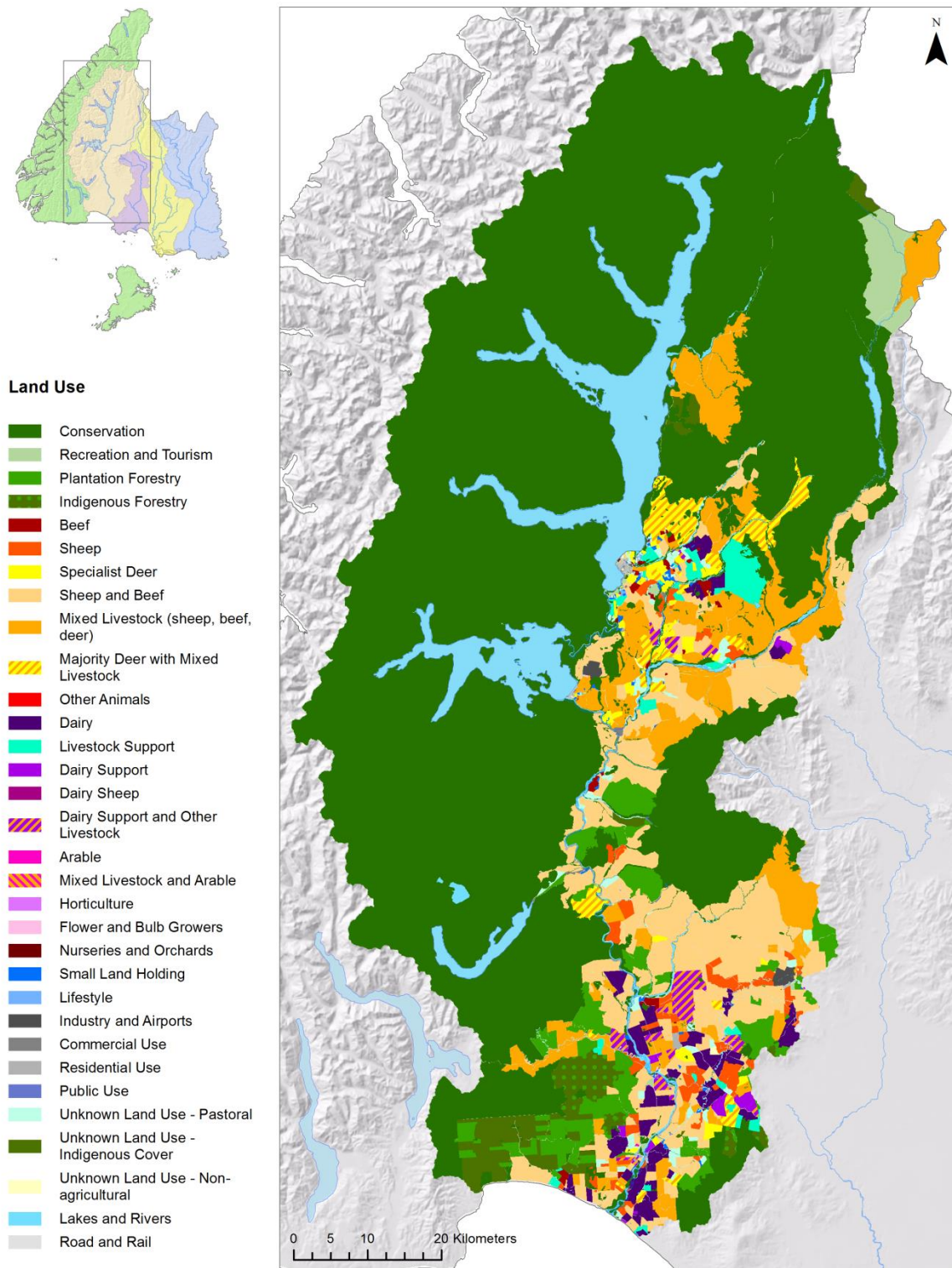


Figure A14: Land use within the Waiau FMU
 Source: Southland Land Use Map, Pearson and Couldrey (2016)