

APPENDIX VII

**ACREAGE PER HEAD OF MAORI LAND  
IN EACH DISTRICT IN 1939**

The following table has been derived by dividing the Maori census figures for 1936, adjusted to Rangahaua Whanui districts, into the total acreage of Maori land remaining in 1939, according to the map prepared for the 1940 *Historical Atlas*. In the case of the South Island, the land area was taken from the 1890 map. Some 40,000 acres of South Island and Chatham Islands land were purchased after 1890, and some land was granted under the 'landless natives' provisions of the early twentieth century.

District	Acres per head
Auckland	9.7
Hauraki	3.5
Bay of Plenty	39.4
Urewera	55.2
Gisborne	53.6
Waikato	5.3
Volcanic plateau	110.0
King Country	56.6
Whanganui	115.6
Taranaki	5.2
Hawke's Bay–Wairarapa	40.4.0
Wellington	38.2
Northern South Island	153.6
Southern South Island	101.1
Chatham Islands	232.8*

\* Maori and Moriori populations combined.

It must be appreciated that the figures are indicative only, various factors being likely to cause distortion:

## National Overview

- (a) It is generally recognised that census figures under-counted Maori.
- (b) Some averaging of figures was necessary where census figures given by county crossed rather than coincided with Rangahaua Whanui district boundaries.
- (c) The censuses probably under-counted Maori who identified with South Island tribes more than Maori of North Island tribes, because out-migration from the South Island and the Chatham Islands was greater than from the northern districts and had been going on for much longer.
- (d) The large-scale maps from which the areas were calculated could not show parcels of land below about 10 acres in size. The area of Maori land would be higher in those areas where there were many small parcels. On the other hand, many of the small parcels were of little economic value.
- (e) The raw figures say nothing about the distribution of land between hapu and whanau, which varied greatly in each district.
- (f) The figures do not show anything about the quality of the land. Much of the remaining Maori land in the Gisborne and East Coast, volcanic plateau, and Whanganui districts, for example, was mountainous and bush-covered and unable to support close settlement. For climatic reasons too, much of the South Island and the Chatham Islands could not support close settlement.

Nevertheless, the figures do support the view that it was the large Maori populations of the Auckland and Hauraki districts, together with the confiscation-affected Taranaki and Waikato, who were the most land-short in 1939.