

Using Topoclimate information

Land users can use soil and climate information from the Topoclimate survey to help them make better management decisions. An information and interpretation service is available through Crops for Southland, based at the Venture Southland office in Spey Street, Invercargill.

Interpretations of the Topoclimate database can include soil or climate maps of individual properties along with descriptions of landscape units, soil types and heat distribution. Recommendations as to suitability for specific land uses can be made if required.

A Topoclimate property report is particularly useful for land sale or purchase purposes and is a valuable tool for farmers considering dairy conversions or opportunities for diversification into new crops.

Farmers are encouraged to make an appointment to discuss microclimates and soils data for their own property with staff trained to deliver Topoclimate services.

Soil properties are also an important consideration in the application for, and granting of, resource consents for effluent discharge onto land. Properties such as the soil's vulnerability to structural compaction, nutrient leaching, topsoil erodibility, organic matter loss or waterlogging all have implications for sustainable land use and management decisions that may have an environmental impact. Land Sustainability Officers with Environment Southland are available to give advice on these matters.