

Metadata

File Identifier

6c651501-c1c9-ceec-9871-c8c224dd05aa

Language

Language Code

eng

Character Set

Character Set Code

utf8

Hierarchy Level

Scope Code

dataset

Hierarchy Level Name

dataset

Contact

Responsible Party

Individual Name

Geospatial Team

Organisation Name

Stats NZ

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Online Resource

Online Resource

Linkage

URL

https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz

Role

Role Code

owner

Date Stamp

Date

2020-11-30

Metadata Standard Name

ISO 19139 Geographic Information - Metadata - Implementation Specification

Metadata Standard Version

2007

Spatial Representation Info

Vector Spatial Representation

Topology Level Code

geometryOnly

Geometric Object Type Code

composite

Integer

53582

Reference System Info

Reference System

Reference System Identifier

Identifier

Code

2193

Code Space

EPSG

Version

8.6.2

Identification Info

Data Identification

Citation

**Citation****Title**

MB2021\_V1\_00

**Date****Presentation Form****Presentation Form Code**

mapDigital

**Abstract**

This dataset is the definitive set of meshblock boundaries for 2021 as defined by Stats NZ. Stats NZ maintains an annual meshblock pattern for collecting and producing statistical data. This allows data to be compared over time. A meshblock is the smallest geographic unit for which statistical data is collected and processed by Stats NZ. A meshblock is defined by a geographic area, which can vary in size from part of a city block to a large area of rural land. Each meshblock borders on another to form a network covering all of New Zealand, including coasts and inlets and extending out to the 200-mile economic zone. Meshblocks are added together to build up larger geographic areas such as statistical area 1 (SA1), statistical area 2 (SA2), and urban rural. They are also used to define electoral districts, territorial authorities, and regional councils. There are two ways of amending meshblock boundaries. Splitting is subdividing a meshblock into two or more meshblocks. Nudging is shifting a boundary to a more appropriate position. Reasons for splits and nudges include: to accommodate changes to local government boundaries, which are required by the Local Government Act 2002 to follow meshblocks for electoral purposes to accommodate changes to parliamentary electoral boundaries, following each Electoral Representation Commission review after each five-yearly Census of Population and Dwellings to make changes to statistical boundaries such as statistical area 1 (SA1), statistical area 2 (SA2), and urban rural to enable changes to census collection districts to improve the size balance of meshblocks in areas where there has been population growth to separate land and water – e.g. mainland, islands, inlets, and oceanic are defined separately to accommodate requests from other users of the meshblock pattern e.g. NZ Police for their station, area, and district boundaries. Meshblock numbering process until 2014 (MB 2014) Meshblocks were allocated a unique seven-digit number. The first five digits were unique and referred to the original 1976 meshblock code. The two end numbers referred to sequential meshblock splits to the original meshblock. When a meshblock was split the final two digits of the original meshblock number were changed. Stats NZ maintains a concordance file to ensure that boundaries relating to earlier meshblock patterns can also be produced. Meshblock numbering process from 2015 (MB 2015) Due to new technology being introduced for splitting and nudging meshblocks, the process for allocating a unique seven-digit number was changed. New meshblock numbering is approximately sequential. The first meshblock number in this new sequential numbering pattern was 4000000. This differentiates meshblocks split from MB2015 onwards and allows for a large number of unique seven digit identifiers to be allocated. Now when a meshblock is split it takes on the next available number, rather than following the former process described above. For example, a meshblock numbered 3254000 is split into two meshblocks. Using the new numbering process the system will assign the first available sequential numbers. The following table shows how the two meshblocks would be numbered based on the old and new processes. Original meshblock Old numbering Original meshblock New numbering 3254000 3254001 3254000 4000000 3254002 4000001 The digital geographic boundaries are defined and maintained by Stats NZ. Meshblocks cover the land area of New Zealand, the water area to the 12-mile limit, the Chatham Islands, Kermadec Islands, sub-Antarctic islands, off-shore oil rigs, and Ross Dependency. The following 16 meshblocks are not held in digitised form. Meshblock Location (statistical area 2 name) 0016901 Oceanic Kermadec Islands 0016902 Kermadec Islands 1588000 Oceanic Oil Rig Taranaki 3166401 Oceanic Campbell Island 3166402 Campbell Island 3166600 Oceanic Oil Rig Southland 3166710 Oceanic Auckland Islands 3166711 Auckland Islands 3195000 Ross Dependency 3196001 New Zealand Economic Zone 3196002 Oceanic Bounty Islands 3196003 Bounty Islands 3196004 Oceanic Snares Islands 3196005 Snares Island 3196006 Oceanic Antipodes Islands 3196007 Antipodes Islands Meshblock boundaries generally follow road centre-lines, cadastral property boundaries or topographical features (e.g. rivers). Expanses of water in the form of lakes and inlets are defined separately from land. The annual pattern of digital boundaries is used for the full calendar year from 1 January. The following table shows the total number of meshblocks for each annual pattern since 1991 when meshblocks were first digitised. Year Meshblock total of NZ Digitised meshblock total 1991 35,146 1992 35,163 35,157 1993 35,370 35,364 1994 35,584 35,578 1995 36,235 36,228 1996 36,808 36,801 1997 36,829 36,822 1998 37,154 37,147 2000 37,383 37,376 2001 38,367 38,360 2002 38,378 38,371 2003 38,685 38,678 2004 39,313 39,306 2005 39,819 39,812 2006 41,392 41,385 2007 46,621 46,614 2014 46,627 46,620 2015 47,062 47,055 2016 47,062 47,055 2017 47,597 47,590 2018 53,596 53,589 2019 53,582 53,575 2020 53,595 53,588 2021 53,598 53,591 Digital boundary data became freely available on 1 July 2007.

**Purpose**

This dataset is the definitive version of the annually released meshblock boundaries as at 1 January 2021, as defined by Stats NZ. This version contains 53,598 meshblocks.

**Credit**

Stats NZ

**Point Of Contact****Responsible Party****Individual Name**

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**Organisation Name**

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**Online Resource****Online Resource****Linkage****URL**<https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz/>

Role  
Role Code  
owner

Descriptive Keywords  
Keywords  
Keyword  
Downloadable Data

Descriptive Keywords  
Keywords  
Keyword  
meshblock  
Keyword  
MB  
Keyword  
Meshblock  
Keyword  
mb  
Keyword  
Statistics New Zealand  
Keyword  
Stats NZ

Resource Constraints  
Constraints  
Use Limitation  
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Spatial Representation Type Code  
vector  
Language  
Language Code  
eng

Character Set  
Character Set Code  
utf8

Topic Category Code  
boundaries  
Version 6.2 (Build 9200) ; Esri ArcGIS 10.3.1.4959

Extent  
EX\_ Extent  
Geographic Element  
EX\_ Geographic Bounding Box  
Extent Type Code  
Boolean  
true  
-180180-47.841491-33.559984

Distribution Info  
Distribution  
Distribution Format  
Format  
Name  
File Geodatabase Feature Class  
Transfer Options  
Digital Transfer Options  
On Line  
Online Resource  
Linkage  
URL  
<https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz/layer/105176-meshblock-2021-generalised/>

Data Quality Info  
DQ\_ Data Quality  
Scope  
DQ\_ Scope  
Level  
Scope Code  
dataset

Lineage  
LI\_ Lineage  
Statement  
The digital meshblock boundaries are stored and maintained by Stats NZ. Non-alignment of meshblock and cadastral boundaries are one of a number of reasons for meshblock boundary adjustments. Other reasons include requests from local authorities, Local Government Commission, Electoral Representation Commission and to make census enumeration processes easier. From the generalised meshblock pattern, higher geographies are dissolved using the dissolve tool in the Arc GIS suite to create multiple output datasets.

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**Restriction Code**

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