

Metadata

File Identifier

b677cc2a-8114-8b84-3d5e-29e43aa0642d

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

52930

## 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\_Clipped

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.

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Original meshblock	Old numbering	Original meshblock	New numbering
3254000	3254001	3254000	4000000

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	135,152 (Census)	35,146
1992	192,351,633 (Census)	157,199
1993	335,370 (Census)	364,199
1994	435,584 (Census)	578,199
1995	536,235 (Census)	228,199
1996	636,808 (Census)	36,801
1997	736,808 (Census)	36,801
1998	836,829 (Census)	36,822
1999	937,154 (Census)	37,147
2000	1,037,383 (Census)	37,383
2001	1,138,362 (Census)	38,362
2002	1,238,685 (Census)	38,685
2003	1,338,669 (Census)	39,669
2004	1,439,313 (Census)	39,313
2005	1,539,819 (Census)	39,819
2006	1,641,392 (Census)	40,392
2007	1,741,376 (Census)	41,376
2008	1,842,982 (Census)	42,982
2009	1,943,966 (Census)	43,966
2010	2,046,940 (Census)	44,940
2011	2,146,252 (Census)	46,252
2012	2,246,627 (Census)	47,627
2013	2,346,611 (Census)	48,611
2014	2,446,632 (Census)	49,632
2015	2,546,616 (Census)	50,616
2016	2,646,632 (Census)	51,632
2017	2,746,612 (Census)	52,612
2018	2,846,632 (Census)	53,632
2019	2,946,612 (Census)	54,612
2020	3,046,632 (Census)	55,632
2021	3,146,612 (Census)	56,612

Digital boundary data became freely available on 1 July 2007.

## Purpose

This dataset contains the annually released meshblock boundaries as at 1 January 2021 as defined by Stats NZ, clipped to the coastline. This clipped version has been created for map creation/cartographic purposes and so does not fully represent the official

full extent boundaries. This version contains 53,598 meshblocks.

**Credit**

Stats NZ

**Point Of 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

**Descriptive Keywords**

**Keywords**

**Keyword**

Downloadable Data

**Descriptive Keywords**

**Keywords**

**Keyword**

meshblock

**Keyword**

MB

**Keyword**

Meshblock

**Keyword**

mb

**Keyword**

Statistics New Zealand

**Keyword**

Stats NZ

**Keyword**

clipped

**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

-180180-47.421563-33.773403

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/105184-meshblock-2021-clipped-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. To derive the meshblock boundaries clipped to the coastline, meshblock polygons were dissolved to exclude meshblocks with a land/water attribute of Inlet or Oceanic.

Metadata Constraints

Legal Constraints

Use Limitation

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Restriction Code

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