

### Title

Area Units 2012

### Description

This dataset is the definitive set of area unit boundaries for 2012 as defined by Statistics New Zealand.

Area units are aggregations of adjacent meshblocks with coterminous boundaries to form a single unbroken surface area (land and/or water). Exceptions to this rule are some area units comprising collections of geographically related inlets and marinas. Area units are non-administrative areas intermediate in size between meshblocks and territorial authorities. In an urban situation area units are often a collection of city blocks while in rural situations area units may be equated to localities or communities. Area Units must either define or aggregate to define urban areas, rural centres, statistical areas, territorial authorities and regional councils. Each area unit must be a single geographic entity with a unique name.

The area unit pattern is revised once each five years in the year immediately prior to the taking of a Census of Population and Dwellings. There may also be changes in other years, in conjunction with local body boundary changes. Statistics New Zealand maintains a concordance file to ensure that boundaries relating to earlier area unit patterns can also be generated.

### Year Area Unit Totals

1991 1717

1992 1717

1993 1721

1994 1722

1995 1722

1996 1775

1997 1775

1998 1775

1999 1776

2000 1786

2001 1860

2002 1860

2003 1860

2004 1860

2005 1860

2006 1927

2007 1927

2008 1927

2009 1927

2010 1927

2011 2013

2012 2013

As at 1st July 2007, Digital Boundary data became freely available.

#### Source

Area units are based on the meshblock pattern. Once all changes are prepared, Statistics NZ then passes the requests for changes to the meshblock pattern onto LINZ for the electronic changes to take place. 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 of Population and Dwellings enumeration processes easier. From the meshblock pattern, higher geographies, including the 2011 area unit pattern were dissolved using the dissolve tool in the Arc GIS suite to create multiple output datasets. To Derive the area unit boundaries clipped to the coastline, meshblock polygons were dissolved to include or exclude land/water attributes attached to each meshblock. These were then dissolved to higher geographies, including the 2012 area unit pattern using the dissolve tool in the ArcGIS suite.

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#### Language

eng

#### Subject

boundaries