

Title

GMS_Core.DBO.MB2022_V1_00_Clipped

Creator

Stats NZ

Date

2019-12-04

Description

This dataset is the definitive set of meshblock boundaries for 2022 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. This clipped version includes meshblocks for the land area of New Zealand. It does not include the water area to the 12-mile limit, the Chatham Islands, Kermadec Islands, sub-Antarctic islands, off-shore oil rigs, or Ross Dependency. 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. 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. 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 Dwelling; 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 areas 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. Digital boundary data became freely available on 1 July 2007.

Source

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.

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Coverage

-47.421563 -180 -33.773403 180

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