

Title

MB2018_V1_00

Creator

Stats NZ

Description

This dataset is the definitive set of meshblock boundaries as at 1 January 2018 as defined by Stats NZ. Stats NZ maintains an annual meshblock geography 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 has changed. New meshblock numbering is approximately sequential. The first meshblock number in this new sequential numbering pattern is 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	New numbering
3254000	3254000
3254000	13254000
4000000	3254002
4000001	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	135,152 (Census)	35,146
1992	235,163	35,157
1993	335,370	35,364
1994	435,584	35,578
1995	536,235	36,228
1996	636,808	36,801
1997	736,808	36,801
1998	836,829	36,822
1999	937,154	36,154
2000	1,037,147	36,147
2001	1,137,383	36,383
2002	1,238,362	36,362
2003	1,338,685	36,685
2004	1,439,313	36,313
2005	1,539,297	36,297
2006	1,639,819	36,819
2007	1,739,803	36,803
2008	1,839,413	36,413
2009	1,938,512	36,512
2010	2,037,496	36,496
2011	2,136,982	36,982
2012	2,235,966	36,966
2013	2,334,943	36,943
2014	2,433,924	36,924
2015	2,532,906	36,906
2016	2,631,887	36,887
2017	2,730,867	36,867
2018	2,829,846	36,846

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

-47.841491 -180 -33.559984 180

Coverage

northlimit=-33.9584970993;eastlimit=-175.379047054;southlimit=-47.6201235791;westlimit=165.973643757

Identifier

<https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz/layer/92197-meshblock-2018-generalised/>

Type

vector

Subject

Downloadable Data

Subject

meshblock

Subject

MB

Subject

Meshblock

Subject

mb

Subject

Statistics New Zealand

Subject

Stats NZ

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