Toitū Te Whenua
Land Information
New Zealand

NZ Suburbs and Localities

Data Dictionary

Version 1.0

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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Versioning

Version number	Amendments	Date
1.0	Original document	19/06/2023

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

This document provides a detailed data dictionary for NZ Suburbs and Localities, a dataset administered by Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand.

Users of this document will include those needing to understand the information and data structure of NZ Suburbs and Localities.

1.2. Context

NZ Suburbs and Localities describes the spatial extent and name of communities in urban areas (suburbs) and rural areas (localities) for navigation and location purposes.

The suburb and locality boundaries cover New Zealand including North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands, and nearby offshore islands.

1.3. Background

NZ Suburbs and Localities is based on the NZ Localities dataset previously maintained by Fire and Emergency New Zealand. The NZ Localities dataset was created by Fire and Emergency NZ in 2005 to assist emergency first responders to quickly locate an emergency call, reducing confusion and delay.

Under the Local Government Act 1974, the Surveyor-General at Toitū Te Whenua has a responsibility to collate addresses allocated by Territorial Authorities for electoral, postal, and other purposes. Given the importance of a suburb or locality to ensure addresses are unique, NZ Localities was transferred to Toitū Te Whenua in June 2023. NZ Suburbs and Localities contains the same data but with a simplified data structure, the adoption of official place names and a new change request process. The original NZ Localities dataset is no longer maintained.

2. Data Dictionary

NZ Suburbs and Localities describes the spatial extent and name of communities in urban areas (suburbs) and rural areas (localities) to for navigation and location purposes.

https://data.linz.govt.nz/layer/113764-nz-suburbs-and-localities/

2.1. NZ Suburbs and Localities Attributes

A description of each of the NZ Suburbs and Localities attributes and relevant data sources are described below.

id The unique identifier or primary key for each suburb and locality.

name

The name of the community represented by the suburb or locality boundary.

Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa New Zealand Geographic Board (Pou Taunaha) is New Zealand's national place naming authority responsible for official place names in New Zealand. If an official place name has been gazetted by Pou Taunaha this name is adopted.

If an official name is not recorded, any new name will be decided by the relevant Territorial Authority in consultation with the NZ Suburbs and Localities Review Panel.

additional_name

Any common, in use name for the suburb or locality boundary.

Example: Wellington Central has the additional name Wellington CBD.

Waiheke Island has the additional name Hauraki Gulf.

Note historical names previously used for a suburb or locality are classified as 'Replaced' in Pou Taunaha's New Zealand Gazetteer https://gazetteer.linz.govt.nz/.

type

There are seven type categories:

- Suburb
- Locality
- Conservation Land
- Lake
- Inland Bay
- Island
- Coastal Bay

A suburb mainly occurs in an urban area, a locality mainly in a rural area and conservation land is managed by the Department of Conservation

Lakes are included in NZ Suburbs and Localities if the shoreline defines part of another boundary. Islands, inland bays, and coastal bays identified by Fire and Emergency NZ as critical to an emergency response are also included.

major_name

Describes the wider area in which the boundary is located. Every suburb, locality and conversation land boundary has a major name.

major_name_type

There are three major name types:

- City

  an urban area with approximately over 50,000 residents

- Town

  an urban area with approximately over 1,000 residents and fewer than 50,000 residents

- Major Locality

  a rural area with approximately fewer than 1,000 residents

territorial_authority

Identifies the Territorial Authority where the suburb or locality is located.

Where a suburb or locality boundary covers multiple Territorial Authorities, all Territorial Authorities are listed in alphabetical order.

Example: Ashhurst is partly located in three Territorial Authorities -

Manawatu District, Palmerston North City and Tararua District

Stats NZ 2022 Territorial Authority dataset is used as the source dataset:

https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz/layer/106668-territorial-authority-2022-generalised

Note that offshore islands and coastal bays are recorded in the Stats NZ territorial authority data as 'Area outside'.

population_estimate

An estimate of the resident population has been assigned to each suburb and locality. This estimate has been generated from the Stats NZ 2018 Estimated Population Statistical Grid 250 metre (prototype) 2022 layer and reviewed by Stats NZ.

https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz/layer/110655-new-zealand-2018-estimated-resident-population-statistical-grid-250-metre-prototype-2022

The population estimate will be updated in NZ Suburbs and Localities by Stats NZ once the 2023 census data is available.

We appreciate this valuable collaboration with Stats NZ and their support for this work.

ascii fields

Each of the four name fields have a corresponding ascii field where non-ascii characters, including macrons, have been removed. These are name_ascii, additional_name_ascii, major_name_ascii and territorial_authority_ascii. This is to facilitate data queries and filtering and to support customers unable to work with macrons.

2.2. NZ Suburbs and Localities Schema

The data schema describes each of the attribute fields and provides an example value.

Attribute Name	Data Type	Length	Allow Nulls	Example
id	integer	32	No	1157
name	varchar	100	No	Ōtara
additional_name	varchar	500	Yes	Woodlands, Te Rere Marae, Waioeka, Waioeka Pa, Apanui
type	varchar	30	No	Locality
major_name	varchar	100	Yes	Ōpōtiki
major_name_type	varchar	30	Yes	Major Locality
territorial_authority	varchar	250	Yes	Ōpōtiki District
population_estimate	Integer	32	Yes	47
name_ascii	varchar	100	No	Otara
additional_name_ascii	varchar	500	Yes	Woodlands, Te Rere Marae, Waioeka, Waioeka Pa, Apanui
major_name_ascii	varchar	100	Yes	Opotiki
territorial_authority_ascii	varchar	250	Yes	Opotiki District
shape	geometry	-	No	Polygon

2.3. Formats

NZ Suburbs and Localities is available in a number of formats:

- Download as Geodatabase, Shapefile, Geopackage SQL/Lite, KML or DWG https://data.linz.govt.nz/layer/113764-nz-suburbs-and-localities

- ArcGIS REST service https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=cfe52bdf2a76491d86c4f433957f2460

- WFS service https://data.linz.govt.nz/layer/113764-nz-suburbs-and-localities/webservices

Textual data uses UTF-8 character encoding. The source geometry of all spatial data uses NZGD2000 / New Zealand Transverse Mercator 2000 (EPSG 2193) as the spatial reference system.

2.4. Change Sets

Previous versions of NZ Suburbs and Localities are accessible via the LINZ Data Service:

https://data.linz.govt.nz/layer/113764-nz-suburbs-and-localities/history

If NZ Suburbs and Localities is downloaded, the data can be maintained via the LINZ Data Service Changeset API. The Changeset API enables easy data updates by providing access to the data that has changed between revisions. Changesets are created through a feature-by-feature comparison between the latest and the previous revision of a dataset, which identifies new, updated, or deleted features.

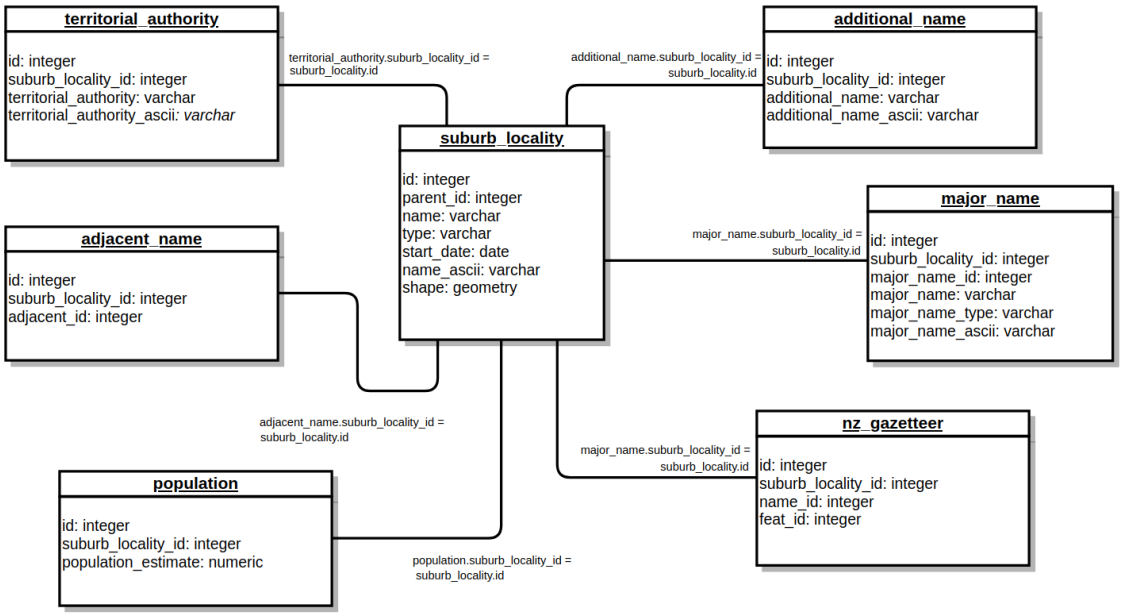
For more information about the Changeset API please see:

https://www.linz.govt.nz/guidance/data-service/linz-data-service-guide/changesets/changeset-api

3. NZ Suburbs and Localities Dataset

NZ Suburbs and Localities defined in Section 2 is an easy to use layer generated from a normalised data model.

The data model is used to store and maintain the data before creating the NZ Suburbs and Localities layer. The data model is called the NZ Suburbs and Localities Dataset and is made up of a spatial table with six related tables.



NZ Suburbs and Localities Dataset is available from the LINZ Data Service:

Suburb Locality	https://data.linz.govt.nz/layer/113763
Major Name	https://data.linz.govt.nz/table/113014
Additional Name	https://data.linz.govt.nz/table/110593
Territorial Authority	https://data.linz.govt.nz/table/110596
Adjacent Name	https://data.linz.govt.nz/table/110594
NZ Gazetteer	https://data.linz.govt.nz/table/113008
Population	https://data.linz.govt.nz/table/113761

Additional data held in the NZ Suburbs and Localities Dataset which is not published in the NZ Suburbs and Localities layer is start_date, parent_id, name ID, feature ID and adjacent_name.

start_date is held in the suburb_locality table and records the date the boundary was created.

parent_id is held in the suburb_locality table and links a water feature to a larger water feature via the id field. An example is Waiheke Island is located within Hauraki Gulf. Waiheke Island parent_id 8620 links to id 8620 Hauraki Gulf.

id	parent_id	name
8620	-	Hauraki Gulf
6522	**8620**	Waiheke Island

name_id and **feat_id** are held in the nz_gazetteer table and link to names and features in Pou Taunaha's New Zealand Gazetteer https://gazetteer.linz.govt.nz/.

adjacent_name is held in the adjacent_name table and automatically generated to provide a link to all neighbouring suburbs and localities which share the same boundary. The link is formed via the suburb_locality_ID field.

Why publish the NZ Suburbs and Localities Dataset?

Publishing the full data model including related tables as NZ Suburbs and Localities Dataset, enables some customers to improve database performance for data access, search, filter, and geocoding and to manage the variable cardinality in the data.

The NZ Suburbs and Localities data model supports the variable links between a suburb or locality and the associated related tables. The data model is considered to have high cardinality or a high number of links for some features, for example Taihape has twenty Additional Names. Similarly, multiple suburbs or localities are associated with one Major Name, for example 182 suburbs have Auckland as the Major Name. Other features in the data model have low cardinality for example some suburbs have no Additional Name.

4. Contact Us

Please contact the Toitū Te Whenua Addressing and Properties Team

if you have any questions or feedback about NZ Suburbs and Localities

addresses@linz.govt.nz

or call the Toitū Te Whenua Customer Support Team 0800 665 463.