

Territorial Authority 2025

Metadata

File Identifier

392d30a6-039f-1b16-962a-9604aed96e66

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

Contact Info

Contact

Phone

Telephone

Voice

0508 525 525

Address

Address

Electronic Mail Address

geography@stats.govt.nz

Online Resource

Online Resource

Linkage

URL

<https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz/>

Role

Role Code

custodian

Date Stamp

Date

2024-12-02

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

Reference System Info

Reference System

Reference System Identifier

Identifier

Code

2193

Code Space

EPSG

Version

6.15(9.0.0)

Identification Info

Data Identification

Citation

Citation

Title

TA2025_V1_00

Date

Date

Presentation Form

Presentation Form Code

mapDigital

Abstract

This dataset is the definitive set of territorial authority boundaries as at 1 January 2025 as defined by the Local Government Commission and/or the territorial authorities themselves but maintained by Stats NZ. This version contains 67 territorial authorities, excluding 'area outside territorial authority'. Territorial authorities are the second tier of local government in New Zealand, below regional councils. They are defined under schedule 2, part 1 of the Local Government Act 2002 as city councils or district councils. Territorial authorities were established in 1989 when 205 territorial local authorities were replaced by 75 territorial authorities. Territorial boundaries must coincide with meshblock boundaries under schedule 3, clause 17 of the Local Government Act 2002. There are 67 territorial authorities: 12 city councils, 53 district councils, Auckland Council, and Chatham Islands Council. Five territorial authorities (Auckland Council, Nelson City Council, and the Gisborne, Tasman, and Marlborough district councils) also perform the functions of a regional council and are therefore unitary authorities. The Chatham Islands Council performs some regional council functions. Some territorial authority boundaries are coterminous with regional council boundaries but there are several exceptions. An example is Taupo District, which is split between four regions, although most of its area falls within the Waikato Region. When defining the boundaries of territorial authorities, the Local Government Commission bases considerable

weight on the 'community of interest'. Territorial authorities are defined at meshblock level. Statistical area 1, statistical area 2 and statistical area 3 geographies nest within territorial authority boundaries. Maintenance of local government boundaries may be changed through the Local Government Act 2002, an Act of Parliament, or a natural process such as the middle line of a river changing its natural course. The Territorial Authority classification is released annually on 1 January to coincide with the update of meshblocks, but there are not always changes from the previous classification.

1989: New Zealand's local government structural arrangements were significantly reformed by the Local Government Commission in 1989. Prior to reformation there were 205 territorial local authorities: 28 cities, 78 boroughs, 67 counties, 31 districts, and 1 town district, as well as a multitude of ad-hoc authorities such as pest control boards, drainage boards, catchment boards, and domain and reserve boards. These were replaced by 74 territorial local authorities, 15 of which were cities and 58 districts. The exception was Chatham Islands County which retained its county status.

1990: Invercargill was proclaimed a city.

1992: Nelson-Marlborough Regional Council was abolished by a Local Government Amendment Act. Kaikoura District was transferred to the Canterbury Region. Nelson City, and Tasman and Marlborough districts became unitary authorities.

1995: The Chatham Islands County was dissolved and reconstituted by a specific Act of Parliament as the "Chatham Islands Territory", with powers similar to those of territorial authorities and some functions similar to those of a regional council. This included the addition of territorial sea, a coastal buffer extending to twelve nautical miles from the coastline.

1995: Tasman District boundary extended to align with the Tasman Region boundary at the 12-mile limit.

1998: Not Applicable category changed to Area Outside Territorial Authority

2004: Tauranga District changed to Tauranga City.

2006: Banks Peninsula District merged into Christchurch City as a result of a Local Government Commission decision following a 2005 referendum.

2010: Auckland Council established under the Local Government (Tamaki Makaurau Reorganisation) Act 2009. Rodney District, North Shore City, Waitakere City, Auckland City, Manukau City, Papakura District, and Franklin District territorial councils, and the Auckland Regional Council, were abolished to become a unitary authority known as the Auckland Council. The area now consists of one city council (with statutory provision for three Māori councillors), 13 wards, and 21 local boards.

2015: Wanganui District Council name changed to Whanganui District Council effective 1 December 2015.

2020: Ōtorohanga District Council name amended to Ōtorohanga District Council. Opotiki District Council name amended to Ōpōtiki District Council. Both changes were under schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 2002 and effective 17 January 2020.

2021: A local government reorganisation transferred land between two territorial authorities, Western Bay of Plenty District and Tauranga City. The changes took effect on 19 February 2021 under schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 2002. Refer to the New Zealand Gazette notice for further details.

2023: A local government reorganisation transferred land between two territorial authorities, Whakatane District and Kawerau District. The changes took effect on 1 September 2024 under schedule 3 of the Local Government Act 2002. Refer to the New Zealand Gazette notice for further details.

Numbering The territorial authority classification is a flat classification. Territorial authorities are given a unique three-digit code. The classification contains 68 categories (including '999 – Area Outside Territorial Authority').

High-definition version This high definition (HD) version is the most detailed geometry, suitable for use in GIS for geometric analysis operations and for the computation of areas, centroids and other metrics. The HD version is aligned to the LINZ cadastre.

Macrons Names are provided with and without tohūtō/macrons. The column name for those without macrons is suffixed 'ascii'.

Digital data Digital boundary data became freely available on 1 July 2007

Further information To download geographic classifications in table formats such as CSV please use [Aria](#)

For more information please refer to the Statistical standard for geographic areas 2023.

Contact: geography@stats.govt.nz

Purpose

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Credit

Stats NZ Tatauranga Aotearoa

Point Of Contact

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Individual Name

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Role

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custodian

Descriptive Keywords

Keywords

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ta

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Keyword

territorial authority

Keyword

Territorial Authority

Descriptive Keywords

Keywords

Keyword

Downloadable Data

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

Extent

EX _ Extent

Geographic Element

EX _ Geographic Bounding Box

Extent Type Code

Boolean

true

-180180-47.841491-33.559984

Distribution Info

Distribution

Distribution Format

Format

Name

Enterprise Geodatabase Feature Class

Transfer Options

Digital Transfer Options

On Line

Online Resource

Linkage

URL

<https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz/layer/120963-territorial-authority-2025/>

Data Quality Info

DQ _ Data Quality

Scope

DQ _ Scope

Level

Scope Code

dataset

Lineage

LI _ Lineage

Statement

Territorial authorities are based on the meshblock pattern. 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 meshblock pattern, higher geographies, including the territorial authority pattern, were dissolved using the dissolve tool in the Arc GIS suite.

Metadata Constraints

Legal Constraints

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Use Constraints

Restriction Code

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