Statistics New Zealand
TATAURANGA AOTEAROA

ANZLIC metadata for area unit, 2017

New Zealand Government

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Contents

Identification

Title	Area Unit 2017 (AU2017)
Date	1 January 2017 (publication)
Language	eng
Character set	UTF-8
Abstract	This dataset is the definitive set of area unit boundaries for 2017 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 location, an area unit is 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 every five years in the year immediately before a census. There may also be changes in other years, in conjunction with local body boundary changes. Statistics New Zealand maintains a concordance file to ensure boundaries relating to earlier area unit patterns can also be generated. The following table lists the total number of area units by year:

	<table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Area unit totals</th></tr><tr><td>1991</td><td>1717</td></tr><tr><td>1992</td><td>1717</td></tr><tr><td>1993</td><td>1721</td></tr><tr><td>1994</td><td>1722</td></tr><tr><td>1995</td><td>1722</td></tr><tr><td>1996</td><td>1775</td></tr><tr><td>1997</td><td>1775</td></tr><tr><td>1998</td><td>1775</td></tr><tr><td>1999</td><td>1776</td></tr><tr><td>2000</td><td>1786</td></tr><tr><td>2001</td><td>1860</td></tr><tr><td>2002</td><td>1860</td></tr><tr><td>2003</td><td>1860</td></tr><tr><td>2004</td><td>1860</td></tr><tr><td>2005</td><td>1860</td></tr><tr><td>2006</td><td>1927</td></tr><tr><td>2007</td><td>1927</td></tr><tr><td>2008</td><td>1927</td></tr><tr><td>2009</td><td>1927</td></tr><tr><td>2010</td><td>1927</td></tr><tr><td>2011</td><td>2013</td></tr><tr><td>2012</td><td>2013</td></tr><tr><td>2013</td><td>2020</td></tr><tr><td>2014</td><td>2020</td></tr><tr><td>2015</td><td>2020</td></tr><tr><td>2016</td><td>2020</td></tr><tr><td>2017</td><td>2020</td></tr></table> Digital boundary data became freely available on 1 July 2007.
Topic category	boundaries
Spatial representation type	vector

Extent

Description	Twelve-mile New Zealand territorial limit

Geographic box

West bound longitude	165.905646
East bound longitude	179.855610
North bound latitude	-33.826584
South bound latitude	-47.841491

Extent – temporal

Description	Data represents area unit polygons dissolved from meshblocks since 1991
Begin date	1991-01-01
End date	2017-01-01
Access constraints	None. Data is freely downloadable from the Statistics NZ website.
Use constraints	These conditions of supply apply to all users of Statistics New Zealand digital boundaries effective 1 July 2007. **Permitted uses** Statistics New Zealand must be acknowledged as the source of the boundaries. **Uses not permitted** Users are not permitted to change the accuracy of the boundaries and supply them to another party. **Liability** While care has been taken to compile these boundary coordinates, Statistics New Zealand gives no warranty that the data supplied is free from error. Statistics New Zealand shall not be liable for any loss suffered through the use, directly or indirectly, of any information, product or service.
Maintenance and update frequency	The meshblock pattern and associated hierarchies are maintained on a regular basis. An annual pattern is made available for each year up to 2017.
Date of next update	December 2017
Update scope	Dataset

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Distribution information

Distribution format	ESRI Shapefile ESRI Geodatabase MapInfo Tab
Distribution version	1.0
Online resource linkage	http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/Maps_and_geography/Geographic-areas/digital-boundary-files.aspx
Online resource description	Web page for downloading the digital geographic boundaries. Area units are part of the bundle of boundaries Statistics NZ makes available.

Reference system information

Title	New Zealand Transverse Mercator 2000 (NZTM2000)
Date	1 July 2001
Edition	
Code	19971

Data quality information scope

Hierarchy level	Dataset
Description	New Zealand Area Unit Boundaries

Lineage

Statement (general explanation of the data producer's	Area units are based on the meshblock pattern. Non-alignment of meshblock to cadastral boundaries is one of a number of reasons for meshblock boundary adjustments. Other reasons include requests

knowledge about the lineage of a dataset)	from local authorities, Local Government Commission, Electoral Representation Commission, and to make census enumeration processes easier. From the meshblock pattern, higher geographies, including the 2017 area unit pattern, were dissolved using the dissolve tool in the Arc GIS suite.
Description (detailed description of the level of the source data)	**Deriving output files** The original vertices delineating the meshblock boundary pattern were digitised in 1991 from 1:5,000 scale urban maps and 1:50,000 scale rural maps. The magnitude of error of the original digital points would have been in the range of +/- 10 metres in urban areas and +/- 25 metres in rural areas. Where meshblock boundaries coincide with cadastral boundaries the magnitude of error will be within the range of 1–5 metres in urban areas and 5–20 metres in rural areas, this being the estimated magnitude of error in Landonline. The creation of high definition and generalised meshblock boundaries for the 2017 digital pattern and the dissolving of these meshblocks into other geographies/boundaries were completed within Statistics New Zealand using ESRI's ArcGIS desktop suite with the following process: 1. Align the meshblock boundary pattern to the current LINZ cadastre. 2. Run geometry checks and repairs. 3. Run topology checks on all data (Must Not Have Gaps, Must Not Overlap, Area Boundary Must Be Covered By Boundary Of [Meshblock]). 4. Generalise the meshblock layers to a 1-metre tolerance to create generalised dataset. 5. Clip the high definition and generalised meshblock layers to the coastline, detailed below. 6. Dissolve all four meshblock datasets (clipped and unclipped, for both generalised and high definition versions) to higher geographies to create the following output data layers: Area Unit, Territorial Authority, Regional Council, Urban Area, Community Board, Territorial Authority Subdivision, Ward, Constituency, Māori Constituency. 7. Complete a frequency analysis to determine that each code only has a single record. 8. Re-run topology checks for overlaps and gaps. 9. Export all datasets into ESRI geodatabase and ESRI shapefile formats, and into MapInfo TAB format using Safe Software's FME (Feature Manipulation Engine) tools to create four output formats. 10. Quality assurance of files. **Clipping of layers to coastline** The processed feature class was clipped to the coastline. The coastline was defined as features within the supplied LANDWATER indicator with codes and descriptions as follows: **11**- Island – included **12**- Mainland – included **21**- Inland water – included **22**- Inlet – excluded **23**- Oceanic – excluded **31**- Other – included. Non-digitised meshblocks were excluded from this process. Meshblock 4001701 (Three Kings Island) was also excluded from the clipped meshblock

	layers. Features were clipped using the ArcGIS attribute filter tool. The attribute filter was used on both the generalised and high definition meshblock datasets.

Metadata

File identifier	2463-4611-2017
Language	eng
Character set	UTF-8
Hierarchy level	dataset
Hierarchy level name	Dataset – Area Unit -2017
Date stamp	2017-01-01
Metadata standard name	ANZLIC Metadata Profile
Metadata standard version	1.1

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