

# Meshblock 2023 (generalised)

## Metadata

### 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

owner

## Date Stamp

### Date

2022-11-29

## Metadata Standard Name

## Metadata Standard Version

2007

## Spatial Representation Info

## Vector Spatial Representation

## Topology Level Code

geometryOnly

## Geometric Object Type Code

composite

## Integer

57539

## Reference System Info

## Reference System

## Reference System Identifier

## Identifier

## Code

2193

## Code Space

EPSG

## Version

7.9.4(9.0.0)

## Identification Info

## Data Identification

## Citation

## Citation

## Title

MB2023\_V1\_00

## Date

## Presentation Form

## Presentation Form Code

mapDigital

## Abstract

This dataset is the definitive of the annually released meshblock boundaries as at 1 January 2023 as defined by Stats NZ. This version contains 57,539 meshblocks, including 16 with empty or null geometries (non-digitised meshblocks). 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 a defined geographic area, which can vary in size from part of a city block to a large area of rural land. The optimal size for a meshblock is 30–60 dwellings (containing approximately 60–120 residents). 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 (EEZ) and is digitised to the 12-mile limit. Meshblocks are added together to build up larger geographic areas such as statistical area 1 (SA1), statistical area 2 (SA2), statistical area 3 (SA3), and urban rural (UR). They are also used to define electoral districts, territorial authorities, and regional councils. Meshblock boundaries generally follow road centrelines, cadastral property boundaries, or topographical features such as rivers. Expanses of water in the form of lakes and inlets are defined separately from land.

**Meshblock maintenance**

Meshblock boundaries are amended by:

1. Splitting – subdividing a meshblock into two or more meshblocks.
2. Nudging – shifting a boundary to a more appropriate position.

Reasons for meshblock splits and nudges can include:

- to maintain meshblock criteria rules.
- to improve the size balance of meshblocks in areas where there has been population growth
- to maintain alignment to cadastre and other geographic features.
- Stats NZ requests for boundary

changes so that statistical geography boundaries can be moved -external requests for boundary changes so that administrative or electoral boundaries can be moved -to separate land and water. Mainland, inland water, islands, inlets, and oceanic are defined separately. Meshblock changes are made throughout the year. A major release is made at 1 January each year with ad hoc releases available to users at other times. While meshblock boundaries are continually under review, 'freezes' on changes to the boundaries are applied periodically. Such 'freezes' are imposed at the time of population censuses and during periods of intense electoral activity, for example, prior and during general and local body elections. Meshblock numbering Meshblocks are not named and have seven-digit codes. When meshblocks are split, each new meshblock is given a new code. The original meshblock codes no longer exist within that version and future versions of the meshblock classification. Meshblock codes do not change when a meshblock boundary is nudged. Meshblocks that existed prior to 2015 and have not changed are numbered from 0000100 to 3210003. Meshblocks created from 2015 onwards are numbered from 4000000. Digitised and non-digitised meshblocks 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, offshore 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
Taranaki3166401	Oceanic Campbell Island
3166402	Campbell Island
3166600	Oceanic Oil Rig
Southland3166710	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

Generalised version This generalised version has been simplified for rapid drawing and is designed for thematic or web mapping purposes. 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.

## Purpose

This dataset is the definitive of the annually released meshblock boundaries as at 1 January 2023 as defined by Stats NZ. This version contains 57,539 meshblocks, including 16 with empty or null geometries (non-digitised meshblocks).

## Credit

Stats NZ – Tatauranga Aotearoa

## Point Of Contact

### Responsible Party

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Role  
Role Code  
owner

## Descriptive Keywords

### Keywords

#### Keyword

Statistics New Zealand

#### Keyword

mb

#### Keyword

Stats NZ

#### Keyword

MB

#### Keyword

Meshblock

#### Keyword

meshblock

## 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

Version 6.2 (Build 9200) ; Esri ArcGIS 10.8.1.14362

## Extent

### EX\_ Extent

#### Geographic Element

#### EX\_ Geographic Bounding Box

#### Extent Type Code

#### Boolean

true

-180180-47.841491-33.559984

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#### Geographic Element

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##### Boolean

true

-180180-47.841491-33.559984

## Distribution Info

### Distribution

#### Distribution Format

##### Format

##### Name

File Geodatabase Feature Class

## Data Quality Info

### DQ \_ Data Quality

#### Scope

##### DQ \_ Scope

##### Level

##### Scope Code

dataset

## Lineage

### LI \_ Lineage

#### Statement

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.