Stats NZ
Tatauranga Aotearoa

Stats NZ representation review spatial data guidelines

New Zealand Government
Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa

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Citation

Stats NZ (2026). *Stats NZ representation review spatial data guidelines.* Retrieved from https://www.lgc.govt.nz/our-work/representation-reviews/representation-review-external-resources/

ISBN 978-1-991431-45-5

Published in September 2026 by
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Wellington, New Zealand

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Document history

Version	Issue Date	Changes
V1.0	1/01/2024	First release for the local government commission website
V2.0	8/07/2024	Separate geospatial and population guidelines into two documents.
V3.0	1/09/2026	General update of guidelines including updated or new sections for spatial, submissions and summary of requirements.

Purpose

The representation review spatial data guidelines set out requirements for the creation and supply of spatial datasets for electoral geographies that Stats NZ needs for processing. The guidelines are intended for users familiar with terminology and methods pertaining to geographic information science and systems.

Background

These guidelines define the standard requirements for supplying and processing geospatial data. Following these requirements ensures that datasets are compatible with Stats NZ processing workflows and can be used directly by the Local Government Commission for review through web map tools, without the need for additional data processing.

Data supply requirements

Accepted formats

Each proposed electoral boundary must be supplied as either:

- an Esri file geodatabase (preferred option) containing one polygon feature class, for example, *MyDatabase.gdb*
- a Shapefile polygon feature (secondary option), for example, *MyPolygon.shp*
- Where multiple electoral boundary datasets are supplied, each dataset must be provided as a separate Esri file geodatabase or Shapefile.

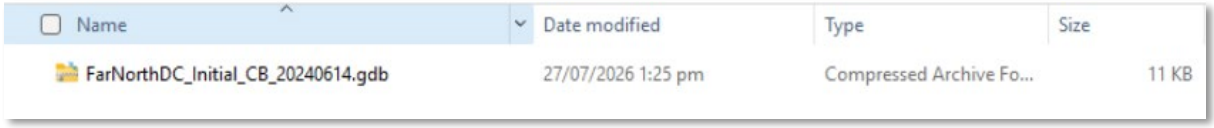
Naming convention

Spatial files must be supplied in the formats specified in Table 1.

Table 1: Data supply naming convention

Data format	Data component	Naming convention
File Geodatabase (FGDB)	File Geodatabase name	LocalAuthority_Status_ElectoralNameAbbreviation_YYYYMMDD Example: FarNorthDC_Initial_CB_20240612.gdb Note: refer Table 3 for the electoral name abbreviations
	Feature class name (within FGDB)	Example: FarNorthDC_Initial_CB_20240612
Shapefile	Shapefile name	LocalAuthority_Status_ElectoralName(Abbreviation)_YYYYMMDD Example: FarNorthDC_Initial_CB_20240612.shp

Figure 1: Example of a supplied file geodatabase compressed as a ZIP file for processing



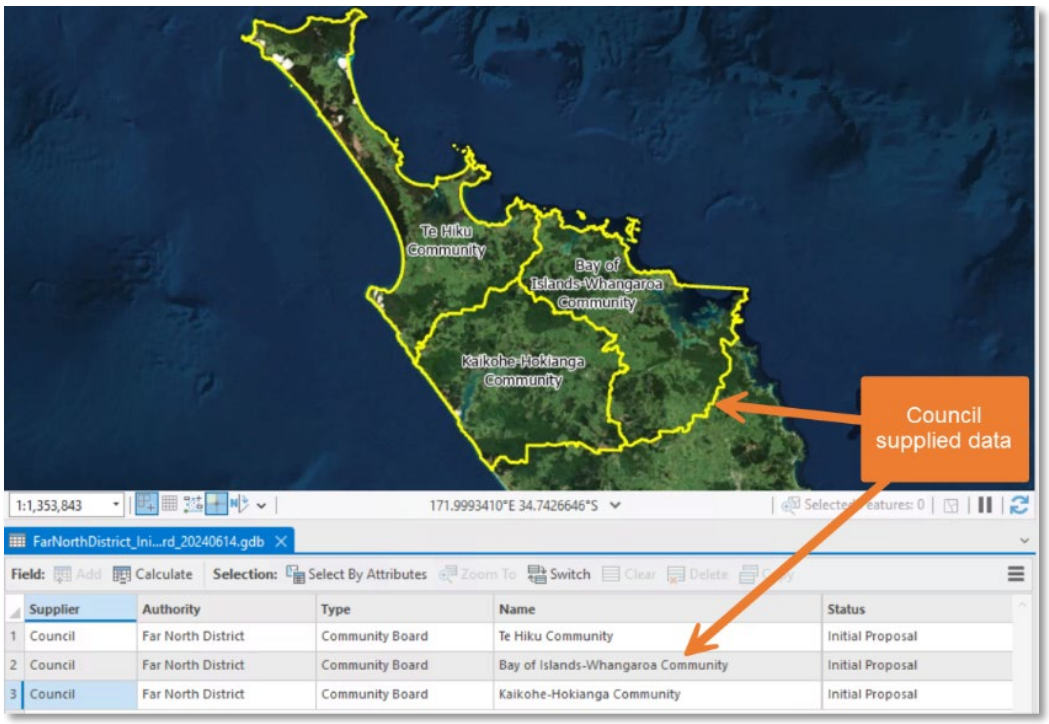
Attribute schema

- Datasets must follow the attribute schema specified in Table 2
- The schema can be downloaded from the Local Government Commission Representation review resources in file geodatabase or Shapefile format as a blank template to populate with data fields ready.

Table 2: Attribute schema

Attribute name	Description	Data type	Field length	Data field	Examples
Supplier	Source of supply	Text	10	Council Or Consultant	Council
Authority	Full name of local authority	Text	50	Free-form text	Far North District
Type	Electoral type	Text	50	See Table 3, column called *'Electoral Name'*	Community Board
Name	Full name of electoral boundary including macrons where applicable	Text	200	Free-form text	Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community
Status	Status of the proposal	Text	50	Initial Proposal Final Proposal Determination LINZ *(Local Government Commission use only, not for councils)*	Initial Proposal

Figure 2: Example of supplied file loaded into the Stats NZ validation process.



Electoral type

Table 3 shows the electoral boundary naming convention:

- Only use the categories listed in the column ‘Electoral Name’ to populate the ‘Type’ field in Table 2: Attribute schema.
- Only use the categories listed in the ‘Abbreviation name’ column when naming datasets supplied to Stats NZ.

Table 3: Electoral boundary naming convention

Electoral boundary naming convention		
Electoral type	**Electoral name**	**Abbreviation name**
Community Board	Community	CB
Local Board	Local Board Area	TALB
Māori Constituency	Māori Constituency	MCON
General Constituency	General Constituency	CON
Constituency	Constituency	CON
Māori Ward	Māori Ward	MWARD
General Ward	General Ward	WARD
Ward	Ward	WARD
Subdivision	Subdivision	TASUB

Spatial requirements

- All spatial datasets must be supplied in the geographic coordinate reference system, NZGD2000 / New Zealand Transverse Mercator 2000 (NZTM2000), EPSG:2193.
- Proposed boundary geometries (shapes) must follow existing polygon geometries which can be created by dissolving the latest available meshblock pattern.
- The latest meshblock pattern is available from the Stats NZ Geographic Data Service.
- Proposed boundary geometries must also include all meshblocks within the local authority boundary, including water meshblocks where applicable, and must not be clipped to the coastline.

Submission requirements

- Files should be sent as a compressed file, using a lossless data compression tool, such as a ZIP file.
- Non-compliant file submissions will be rejected by the process and returned to the creator for correction.

Why these requirements matter

Following these data supply requirements will enable Stats NZ to process council datasets more efficiently by reducing the time required to validate, prepare, and load data into Stats NZ systems.

Compliance will also enable proposed electoral boundaries to be shared with the Local Government Commission through a web map application as early as possible, supporting the Commission's assessment process.

Datasets that do not comply may require additional validation or rework by the council, which could delay processing and the availability of proposed boundaries for assessment.

Additional resources

Representation review guidelines

Detailed information on the representation review process.

Guidelines for local authorities undertaking representation reviews

Stats NZ contact

Email for spatial data or population estimates enquiries.
representationreview@stats.govt.nz

Resources and templates

Guidance and templates for completing a representation review, including Stats NZ guidelines and the spatial template.
Local Government Commission representation review resources

Summary of requirements

Use this summary as a quick reference to the spatial data supply requirements. See the relevant sections of these guidelines for full details.

Coordinate reference system

- Dataset uses the required coordinate reference system, NZGD2000 / New Zealand Transverse Mercator 2000 (NZTM2000), EPSG:2193.

Dataset structure

- Data supplied is in the required format: file geodatabase or Shapefile
- If data supplied is in file geodatabase (FGDB) format, datasets must contain a single feature class per FGDB.

Spatial content

- All meshblocks within the region or district boundary are included. Water meshblocks, such as inlets, are included where applicable.
- Boundaries are aggregated from the most currently available meshblock layer. Boundary datasets are supplied as aggregated boundaries, not individual meshblocks.
- Dataset has been checked for geometry errors, including gaps, overlaps, invalid geometry, and invalid or blank fields.

Naming convention

- File names and feature class names follow the required naming convention in Table 1.

Attributes

- All required attributes are included as specified in the schema in Table 2.
- Attribute data fields match the required schema in Table 2.
- Electoral name fields called ‘Type’ match the required schema in Table 3.

Submission

- Dataset has been compressed into a suitable format such as a ZIP file.

Disclaimer

These guidelines are provided to support the preparation and submission of spatial datasets for representation review purposes. Meeting these requirements helps Stats NZ validate and process the supplied data efficiently but does not guarantee acceptance of a dataset, nor approval of the proposed boundaries, or any decision by the Local Government Commission. Stats NZ may request corrections or additional information where data does not meet required standards or cannot be processed as supplied.