

NZ statistical geographic boundaries review:

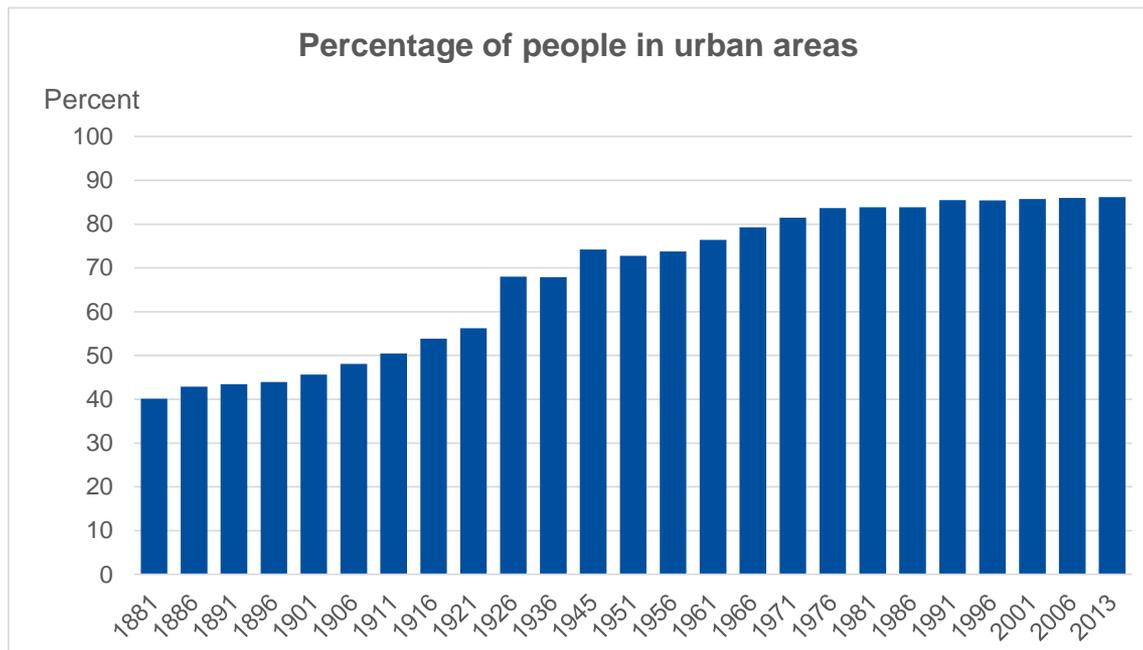
Updating the urban-rural classification

NZ Population Conference

25 July 2017

Anne McAllister, Stats NZ

Where do people live?



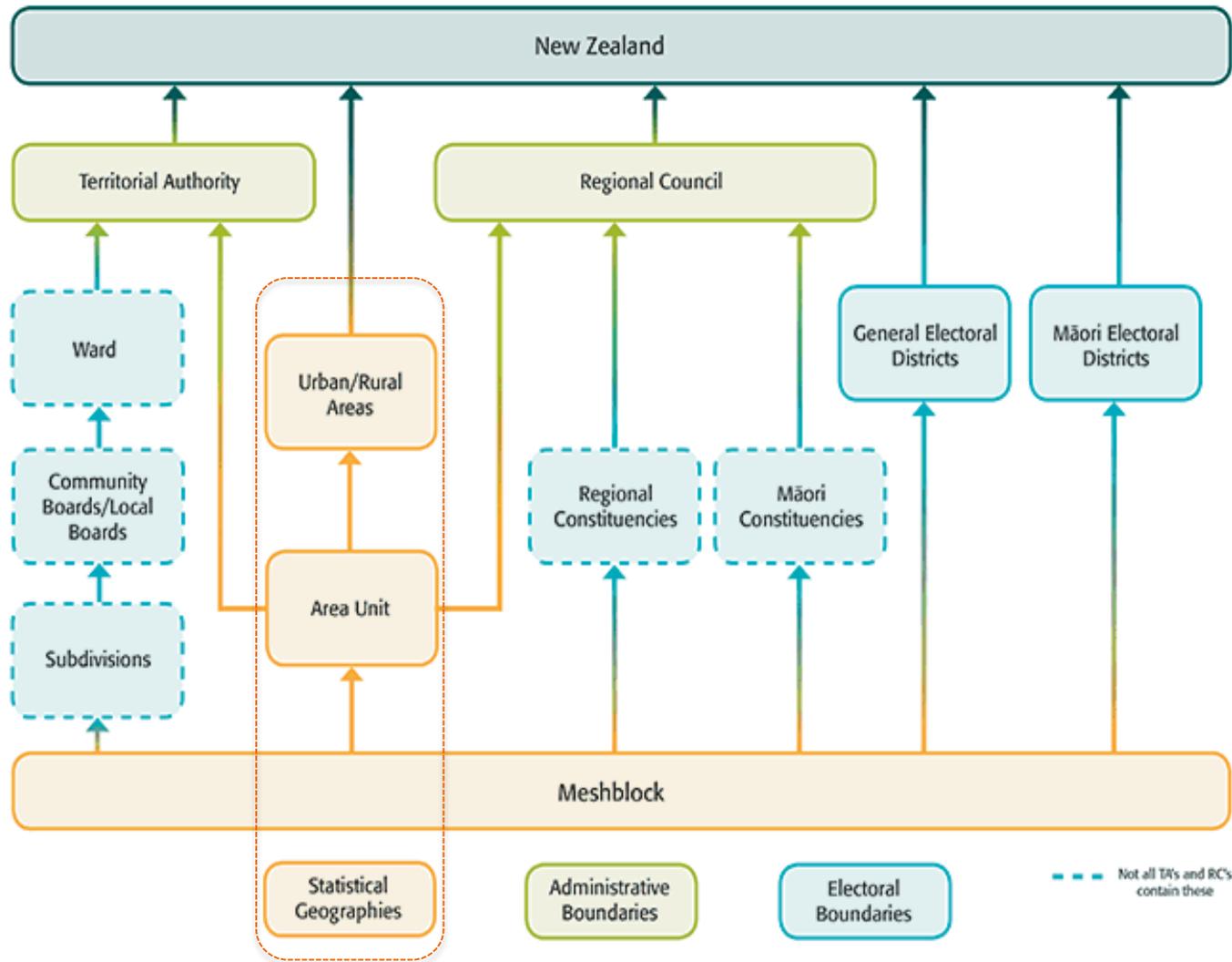
- Proportion of people living in urban areas is largely unchanged since 1976
- In 1991 85% lived in urban areas
- In 2013 86% lived in urban areas
- BUT
- What is the definition of urban?
- Where are the urban boundaries?

Stats NZ statistical geographies

- The statistical standard for geographic areas (SSGA) is Stats NZ's official standard
- Classifies statistical units (households, people or businesses) whose activities are normally associated with a particular location
- Not substantially updated since 1992



NZ geographic classifications



Aim of the SSGA review

To create geographies that will allow us to:

- produce data that better reflects places and communities, and
- minimise the amount of data suppression we have to apply to smaller geographic areas

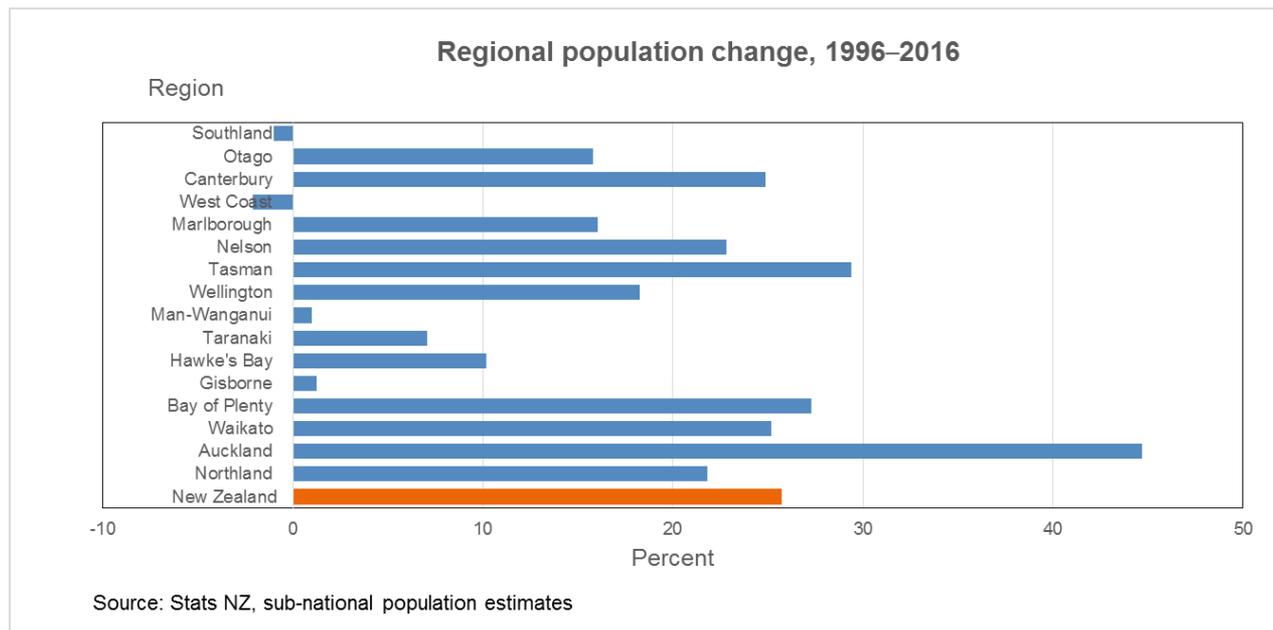


Timetable

- Complete the review by September 2017 for Census collection, processing and publication
- Statistical outputs on new geographies
 - 2013 population and dwelling counts – late-2017
 - 2018, 2013, 2006 census – late-2018
 - 2001-2018 Business Demography – late-2018
 - Urban-rural profile – late-2019 or 2020

Review challenges

- 20+ years since last review
- Multiple stakeholders
- Tight deadline and limited resources



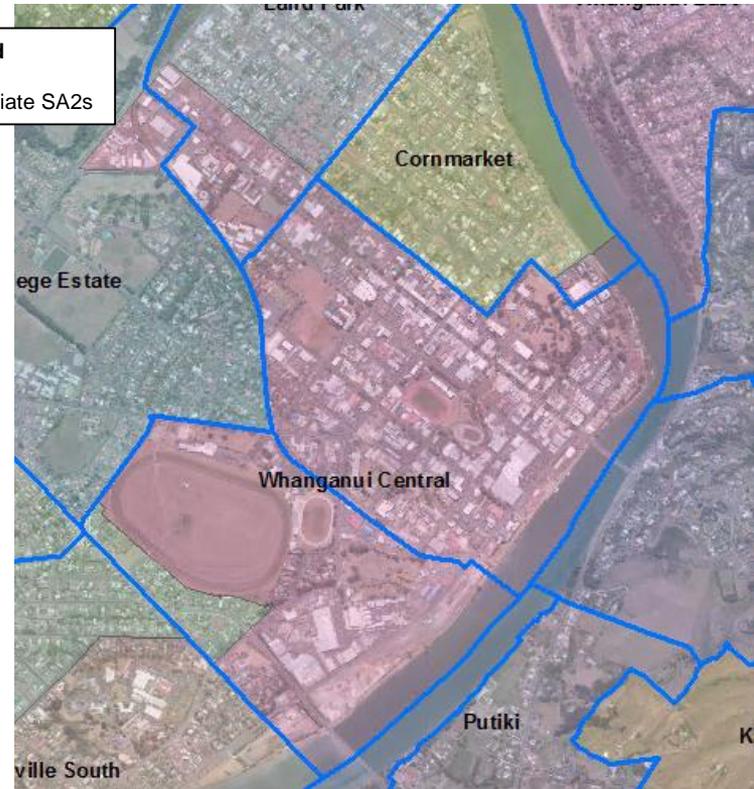
The new statistical areas are different...

Whanganui



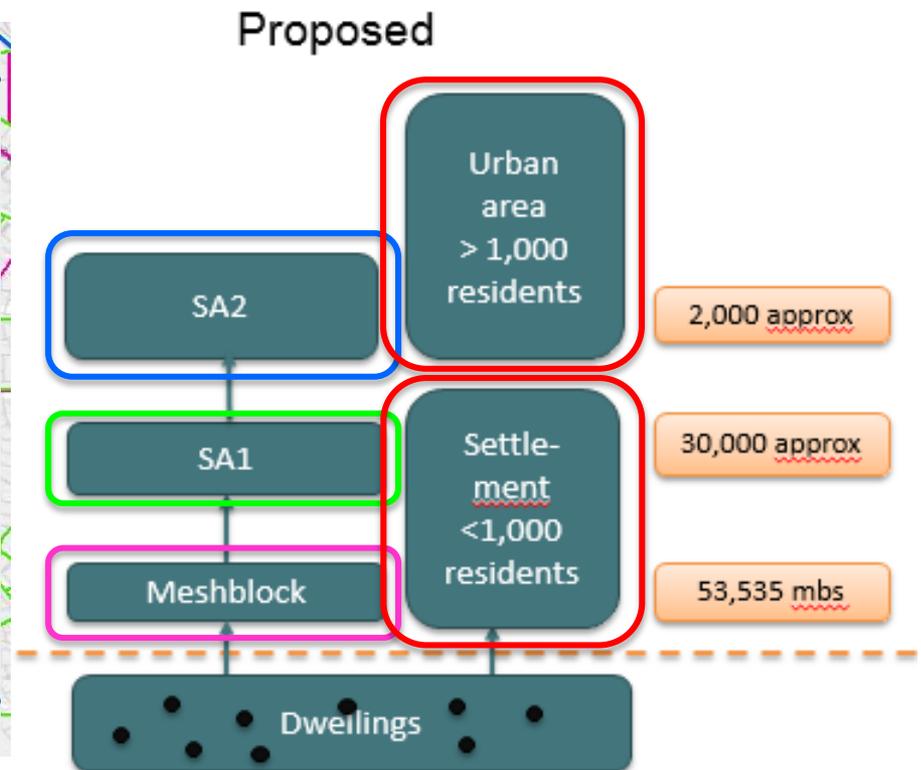
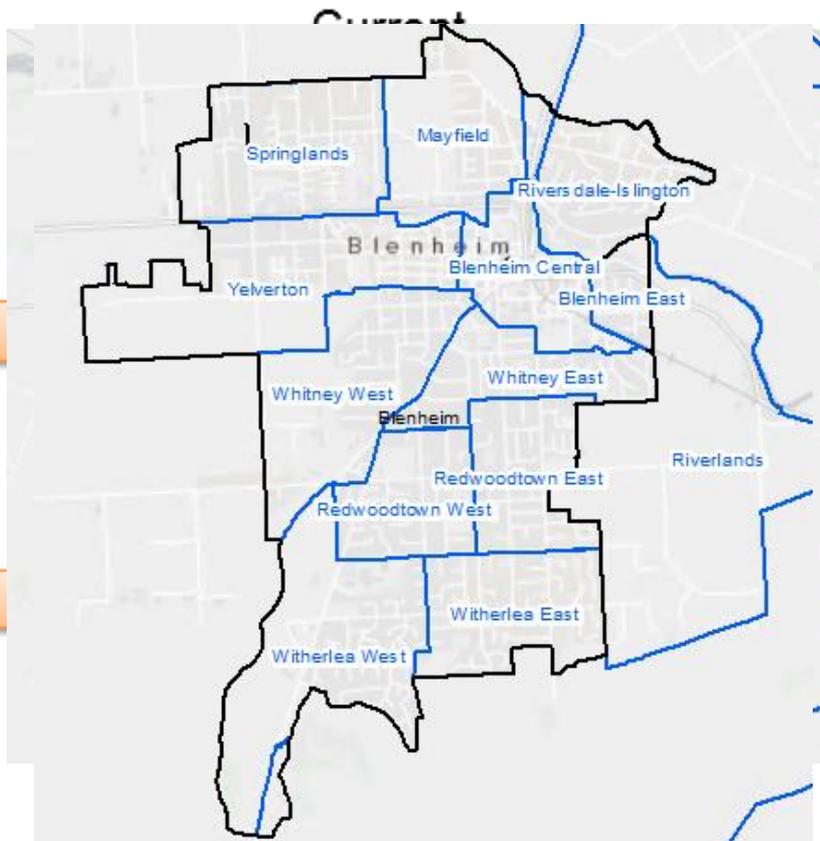
2013

Legend
— Area unit
Colours differentiate SA2s



2018

The proposed geographies



Defining urban and rural areas

- What is urban? What is rural?
- Rural area generally “an area outside of cities and towns” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rural_area)
- Recognition that distinctions between urban and rural and become blurred
 - urban/rural continuum
 - peri-urban areas on the outskirts of cities



Urban areas

Current definition

- *“Non-administrative areas with urban characteristics and a high to moderate concentration of population”*
 - *Further classified as main, secondary or minor urban areas*
- Criteria:
 - More than 1,000 residents
 - Urban core **and surrounding rural areas** have strong economic ties, cultural and recreational interaction, serviced from the core, have an integrated public transport network, significant commuting, planned development **within the next 20 years**

New definition

- Characterised by high population density with many built environment features where people and buildings are located close together for residential, cultural, productive, trade and social purposes.
- Criteria:
 - More than 1,000 residents
 - High population density
 - Land cover includes high coverage of man-made physical structure or artificial landscapes
 - Strong economic ties and people gather together for workplace, social, cultural and recreational interaction

Rural areas

Current definition

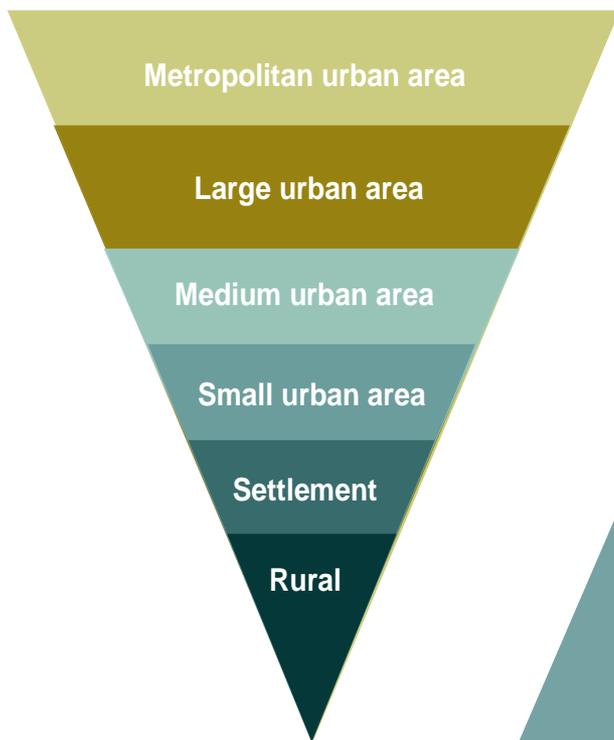
- *“Those areas not specifically designated as 'urban’”*
- Rural centres
 - Population 300-999
- Other rural



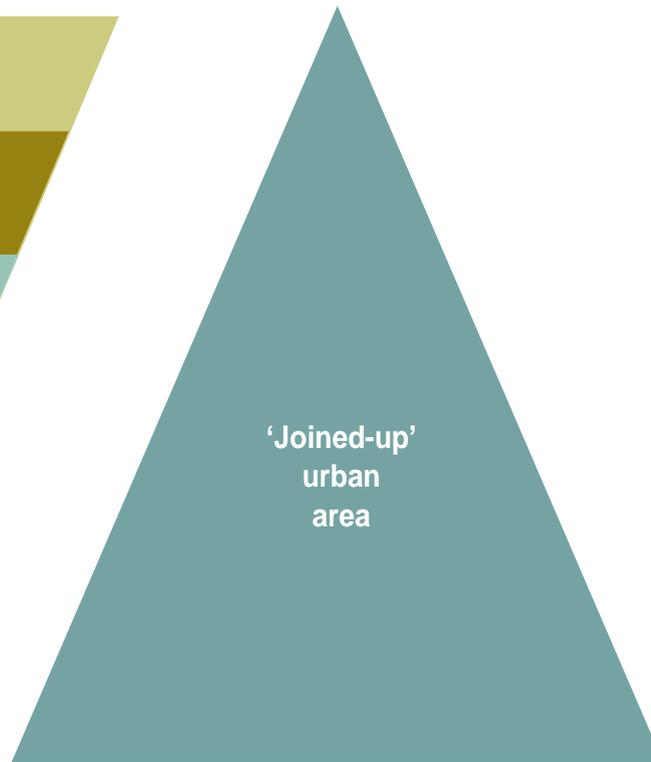
New definition

- Those areas not specifically designated as urban
- Settlements
 - A cluster of residential dwellings about a place that usually contains at least one communal or public building (for example a church, school, or shop)
- Other rural
 - Sparsely populated (often pasture/horticultural)
 - Highly rural/remote area (often conservation areas, high-country sheep stations)

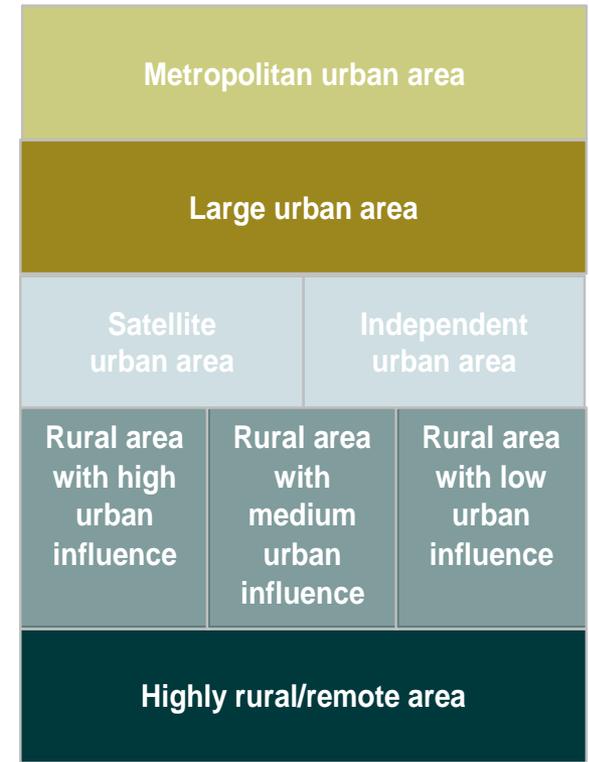
Three urban-rural geographies



Urban/rural

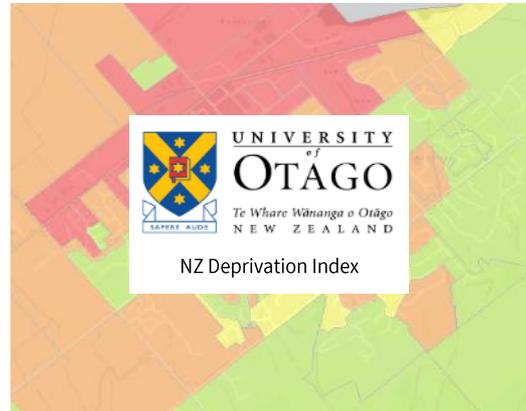


Urban conurbation

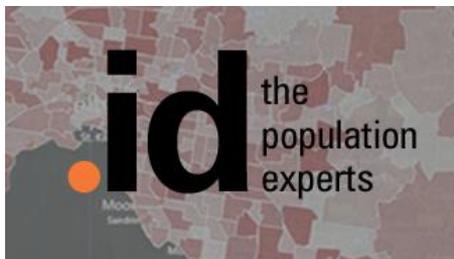
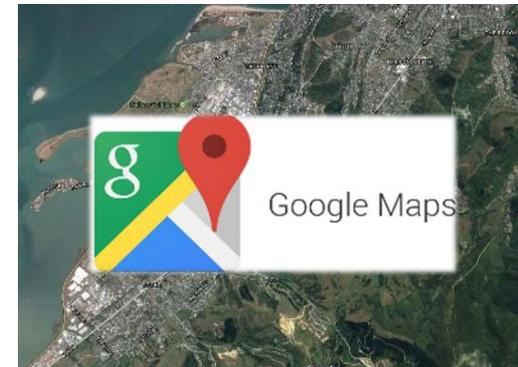


Degree of urban influence

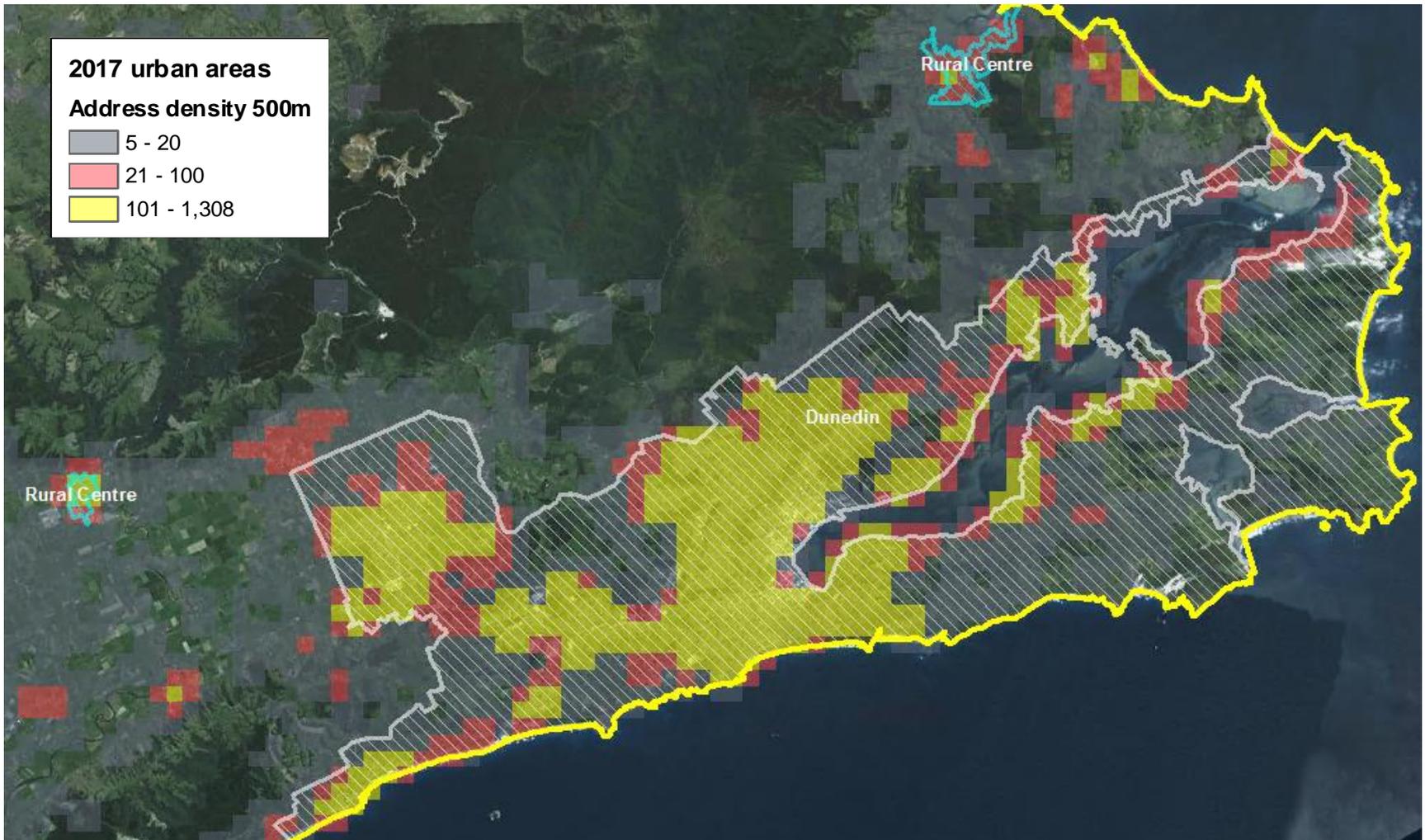
Data sources and methodology



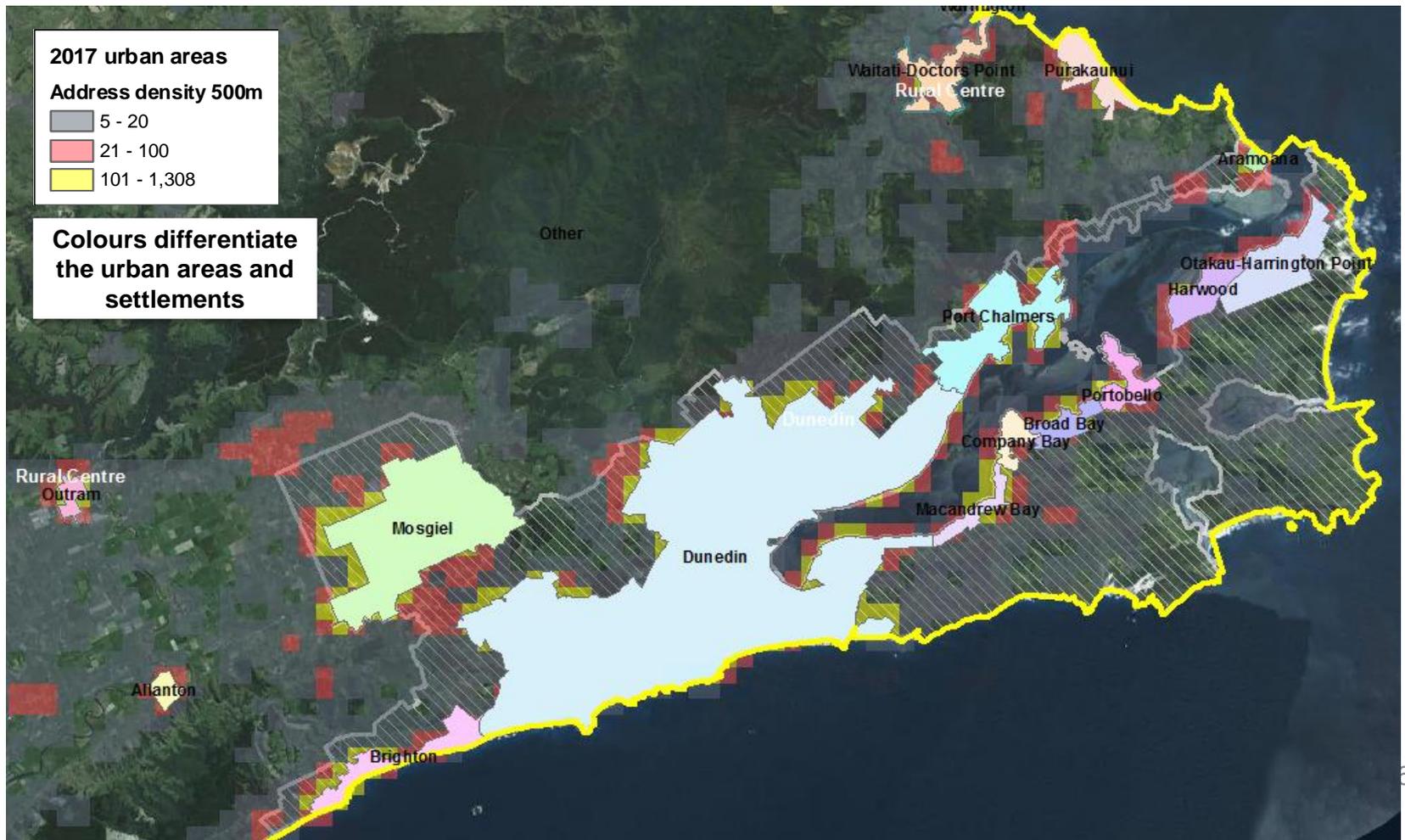
Area unit
Urban area
Wards



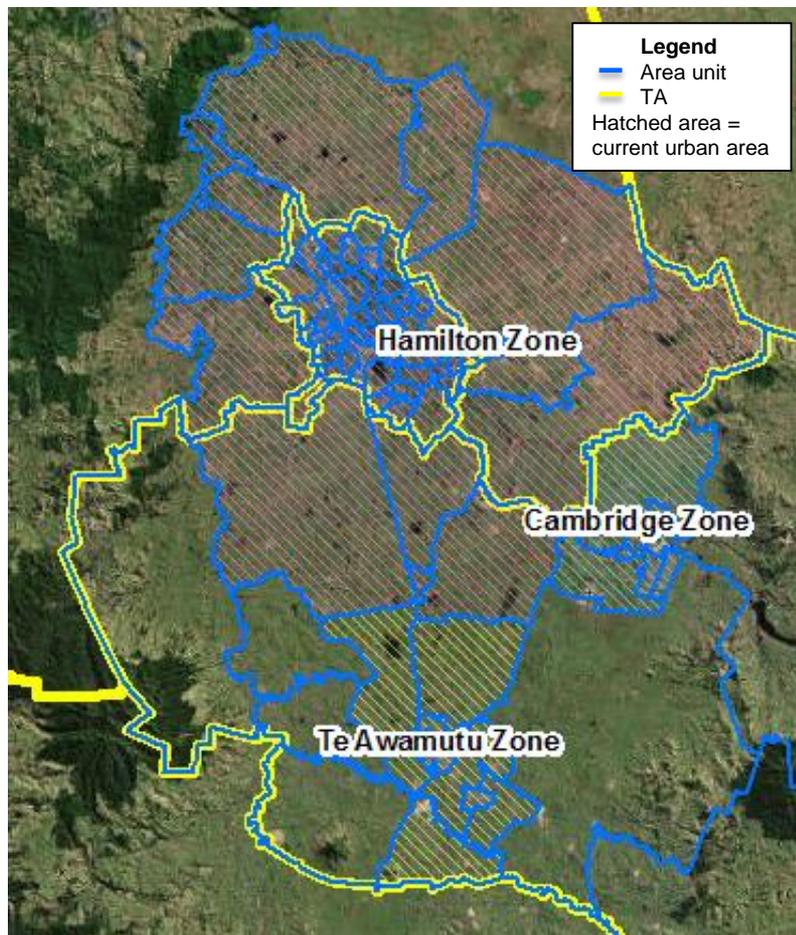
Example: Dunedin and environs



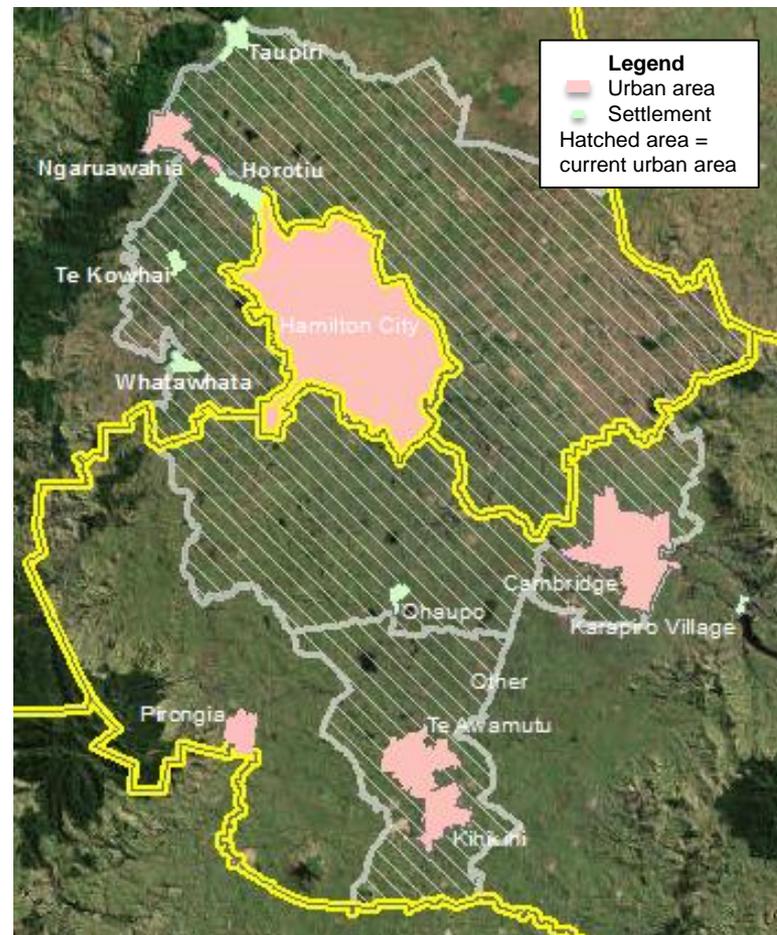
Proposed urban areas and settlements



Example: Greater Hamilton

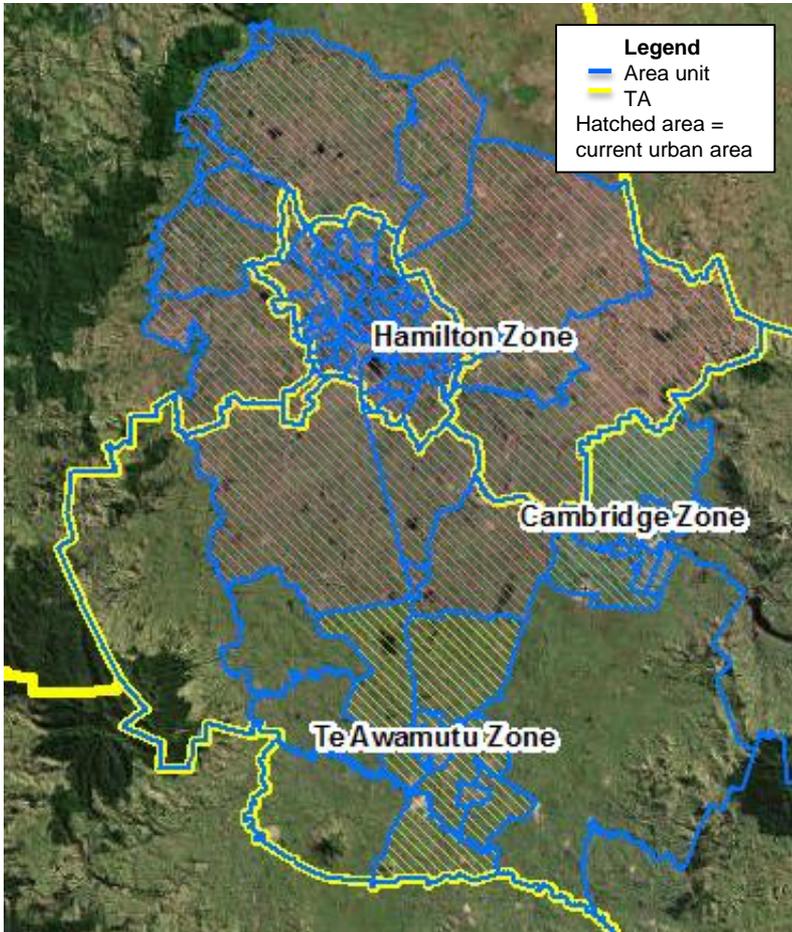


2013

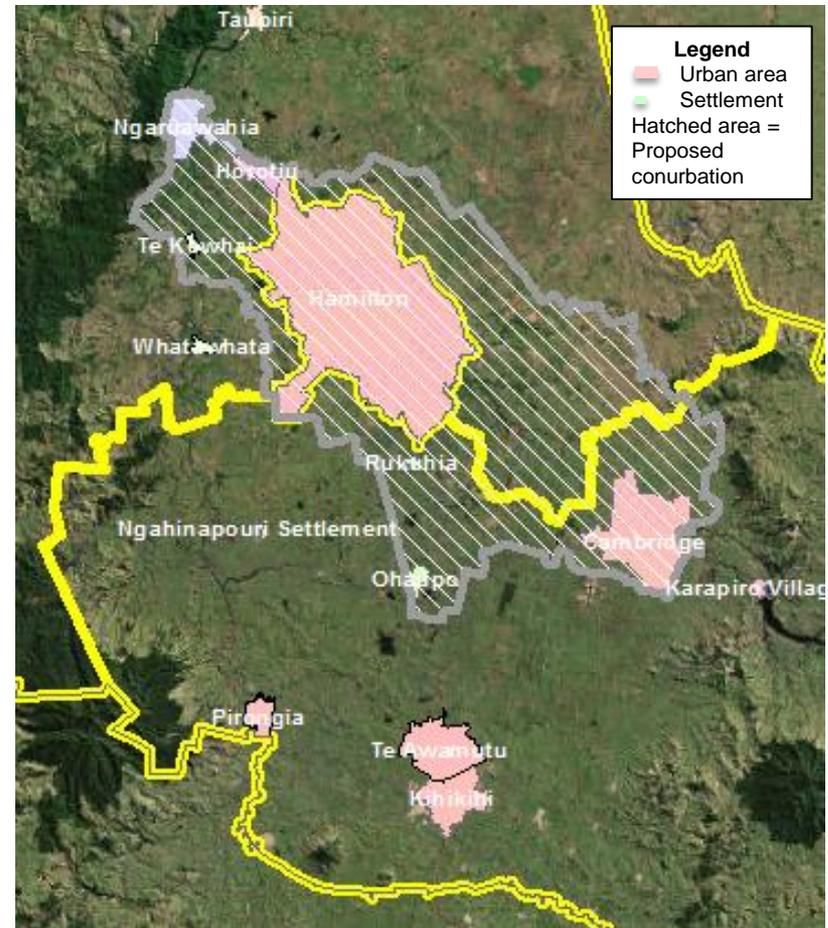


2018¹⁷

Proposed greater Hamilton?



2013



2018

The urban-rural profile

- Our methodology has slimmed down the urban areas but what about the peri-urban/semi-rural perimeter?
- “It’s rural!” – Ministries of Health and Education
- “It’s urban!” – MBIE and MFE
- “It’s urban!” – council planners

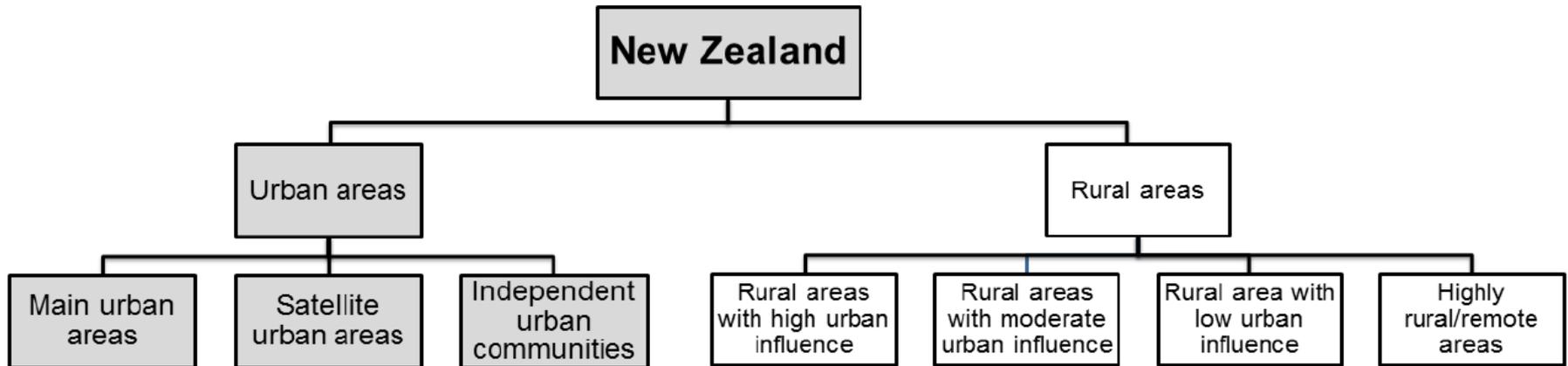


Statistics NZ (was experimental!) urban-rural profile classification



- Uses SNZ urban and rural areas
 - but *reclassifies* minor and secondary urban areas and rural areas according to the varying influence/dependence of nearby main urban areas
- Uses census address of usual residence and workplace address
- Widely used but still ‘experimental’
 - Not updated in 2013 because of the SSGA review

Structure of the urban-rural profile classification



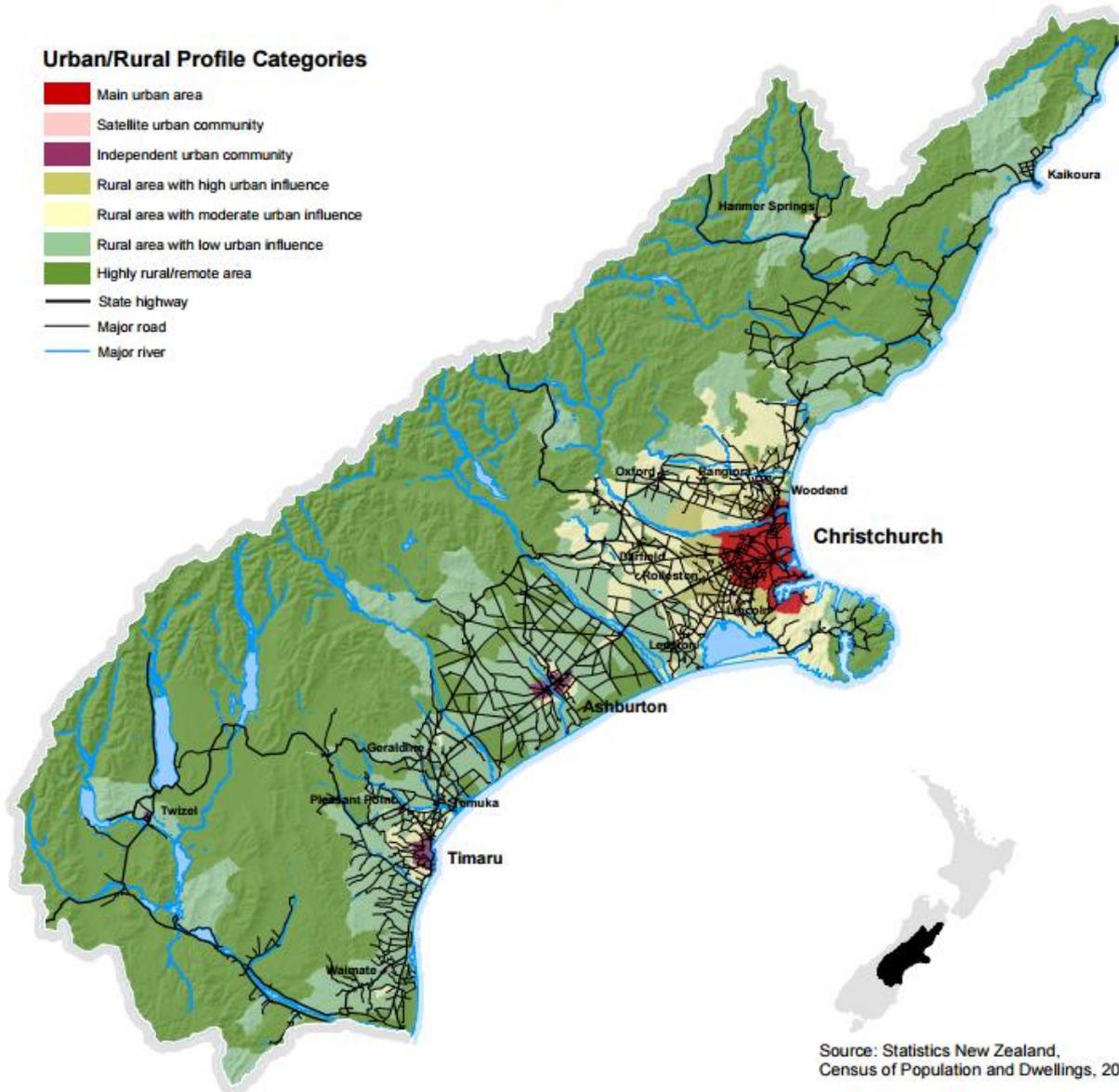
>30,000 URP | 1,000 – 29,999 URP |

rural meshblocks allocated according to |
their dependence on urban areas |

Urban/Rural Profile Categories: Canterbury Region

Urban/Rural Profile Categories

- Main urban area
- Satellite urban community
- Independent urban community
- Rural area with high urban influence
- Rural area with moderate urban influence
- Rural area with low urban influence
- Highly rural/remote area
- State highway
- Major road
- Major river



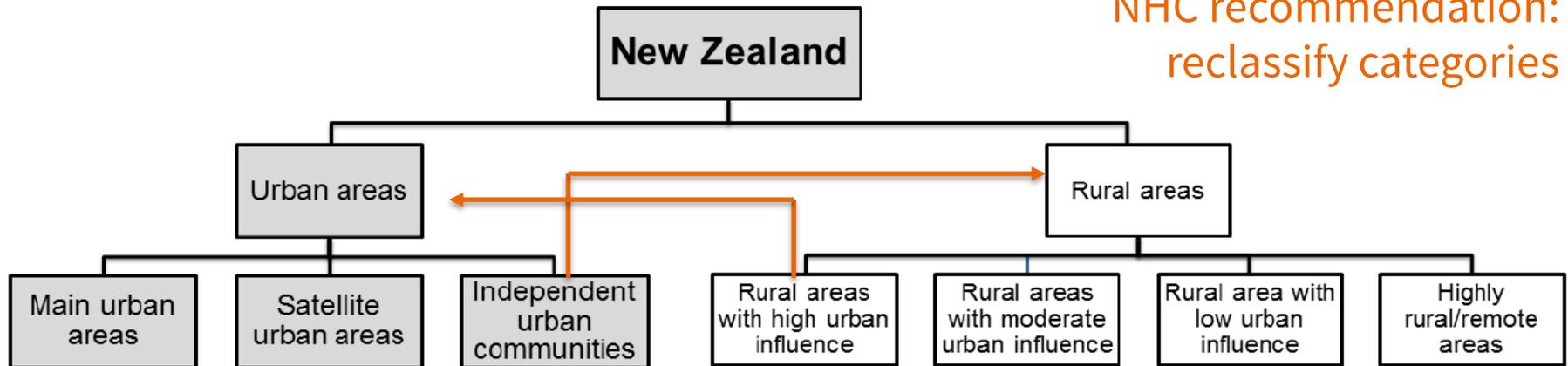
Independent urban communities e.g. Amberley, Leeston, Pleasant Point, Twizel

Are they urban??

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 2001

MOH modifications to the urban rural profile classification

NHC recommendation:
reclassify categories

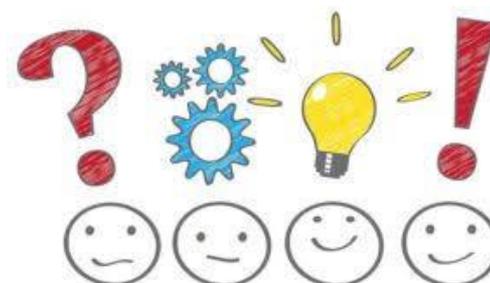


>30,000 URP | 1,000 – 29,999 URP |

rural meshblocks allocated according to |
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Methodology review

- Uses data from Statistics NZ data sources
- Continue with travel to work variable or modify?
 - Distance travelled to main urban areas?
- Do we need high, medium and low dependence categories?
 - Maybe just high/low?
- Reclassify/rename small urban areas (1,000-6,000) in highly rural locations
 - Bring back the term townships?
- Use meshblock or SA1 as the building block?



Next steps

- Urban-rural timeframe
 - If resources and data available, we'll test out methodology next year with 2013 data
 - If not, develop and publish using 2018 data in 2020
- The high urban influence areas developed consistently so will likely replace the peri-urban areas selected for the conurbations
- We propose a five-yearly review and update of all of the statistical geographies

Thank you

Questions?