

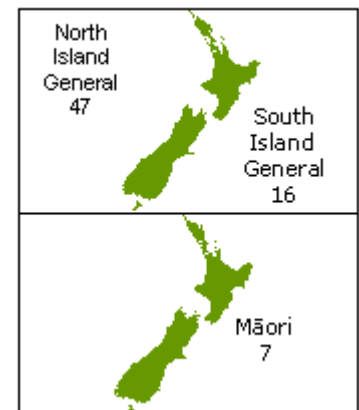
Embargoed until 10:45 am – 01 February 2007

Electoral Populations Calculated: 2006 (updated 26 February 2007)

Highlights

- Seventy electoral districts will be defined during the next boundary revision.
- The number of General electoral districts in the South Island is set at 16 by the Electoral Act.
- The number of North Island General electoral districts will increase by one (from 46 to 47).
- The number of Māori electoral districts will remain at seven.
- In a 120-seat Parliament (excluding any overhang seats), the provision of 70 electoral districts would result in 50 list seats being allocated. This is one fewer than the 2002 and 2005 elections, and three fewer than in the 1999 election.
- The Representation Commission will meet in March 2007 to commence the boundary review process.

Number of Electoral Districts



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Commentary

Two new tables (Tables 5 and 6) were added to this release on 26 February 2007. They can be found in the Excel attachment at the end of this Hot Off The Press.

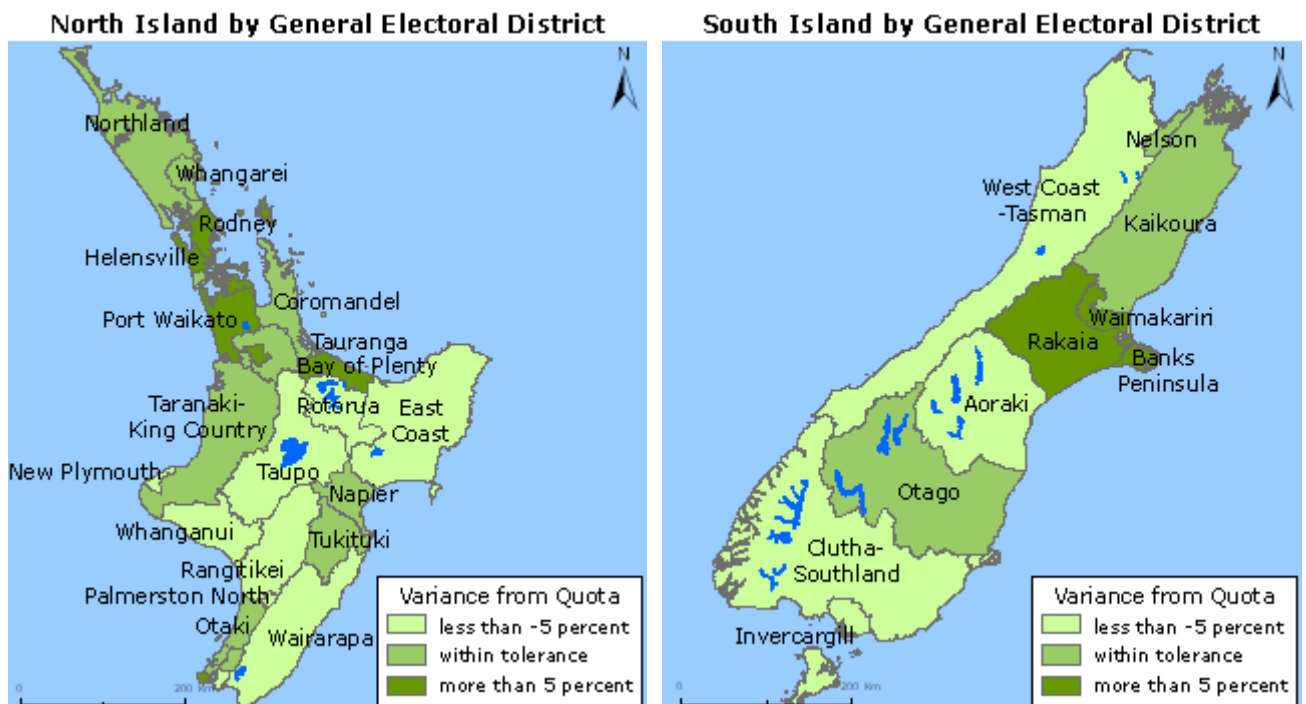
How electoral boundaries are set

The formula set out in the 1993 Electoral Act calculates electoral districts is as follows:

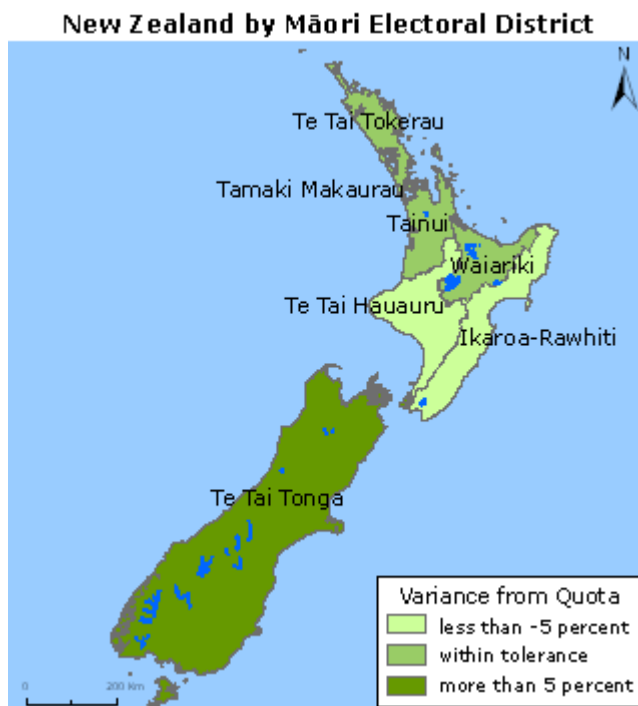
- The General electoral population of the South Island is divided by 16 to give the South Island quota.
- The North Island general electoral population is divided by the South Island quota and rounded to give the number of North Island General electoral districts.
- The North Island General electoral population is divided by the number of North Island General electoral districts to give the North Island quota.
- The Māori electoral population is divided by the South Island quota and rounded to give the number of Māori electoral districts. The Māori electoral quota is the Māori electoral population divided by the number of Māori electoral districts.

Electoral populations and quotas

The General electoral population is 920,999 for the South Island and 2,690,437 for the North Island. Based on these figures, the electoral quota is 57,562 people for each South Island General electoral district and 57,243 people for each North Island General electoral district. Since the 2001/02 boundaries were set, the North Island General electoral district quota has increased by 2,947 people and the South Island quota has increased by 3,254 people.



The Māori electoral population of New Zealand is 417,081, and the electoral quota for each Māori electoral district is 59,583 people. The quota for Māori electoral districts has increased by 6,484 people since the 2001/02 boundaries were set.



Number of electoral districts

These populations will result in the definition of 63 General electoral districts and seven Māori electoral districts by the Representation Commission. There will be 47 General electoral districts in the North Island. The number of General electoral districts in the South Island is, by law, held constant at 16. In a 120-seat Parliament (excluding any overhang seats) the provision of 70 electoral districts would result in 50 list seats being allocated, one fewer than in the last two elections (2002 and 2005).

The electoral population of each district to be defined by the Representation Commission must lie within 5 percent of the quotas given above. The minimum and maximum electoral populations to apply to the new electoral districts are given in table 2. The Commission are to meet in March 2007 to begin the boundary review process.

Maps for the Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin areas are at the end of this commentary.

Electoral district populations

The current General electoral district with the largest General electoral population is Clevedon, with 68,197 people (table 3). In contrast, Clutha-Southland, with 50,801 people, has the smallest General electoral population.

The current Māori electoral district with the largest Māori electoral population is Te Tai Tonga with 62,606 people, while Ikaroa-Rawhiti has the smallest (55,706 people).

The General electoral population of the current Clevedon and Manukau East electoral districts exceeds the quota by the largest percentage (19 percent), followed by Auckland Central and Hamilton East electoral districts, which exceed the quota by 15 percent. The General electoral population of the Clutha-Southland district is below the quota by the largest percentage (12 percent), followed by Invercargill, Taupo and Wairarapa districts, which are 10 percent below the quota.

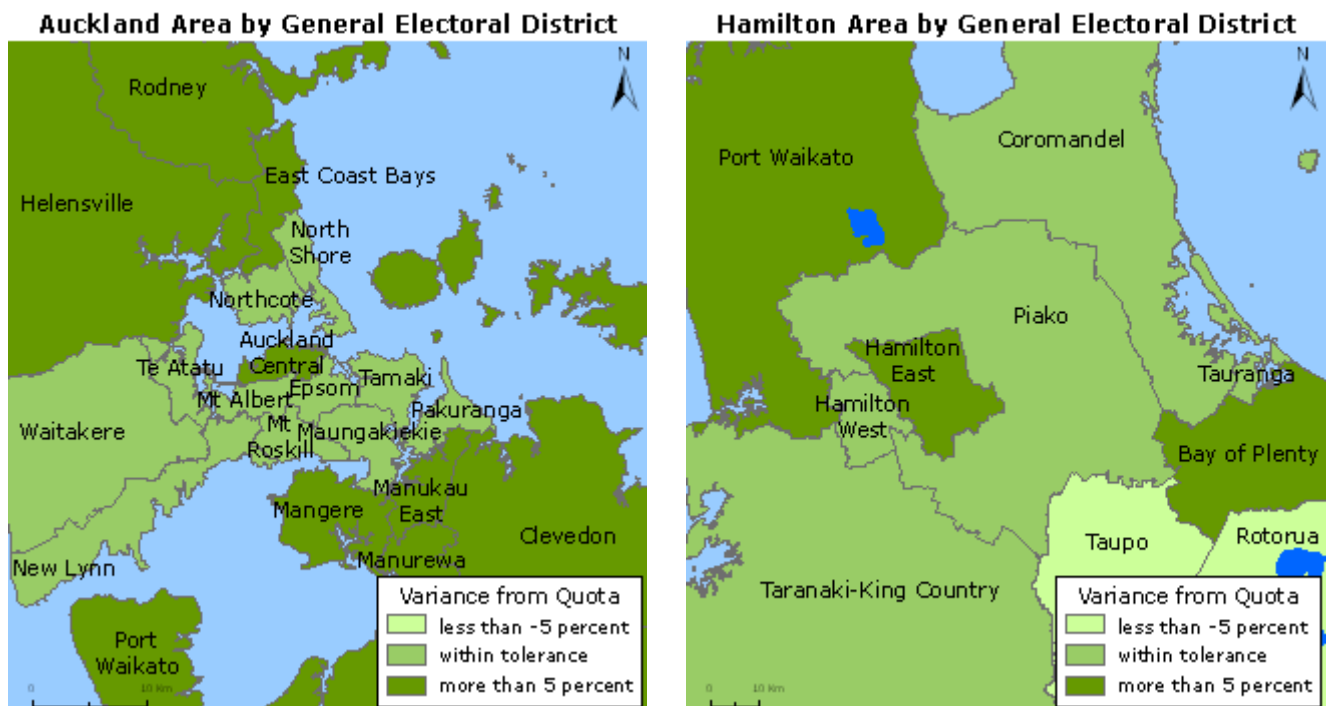
Impact of the Māori option

People of Māori descent are periodically given the option of changing registration between the Māori roll and the General roll. The Māori option is managed by the Electoral Enrolment Centre. The outcome of the 2006 Māori option and new registrations received was that the number of people choosing to be registered on the Māori roll increased.

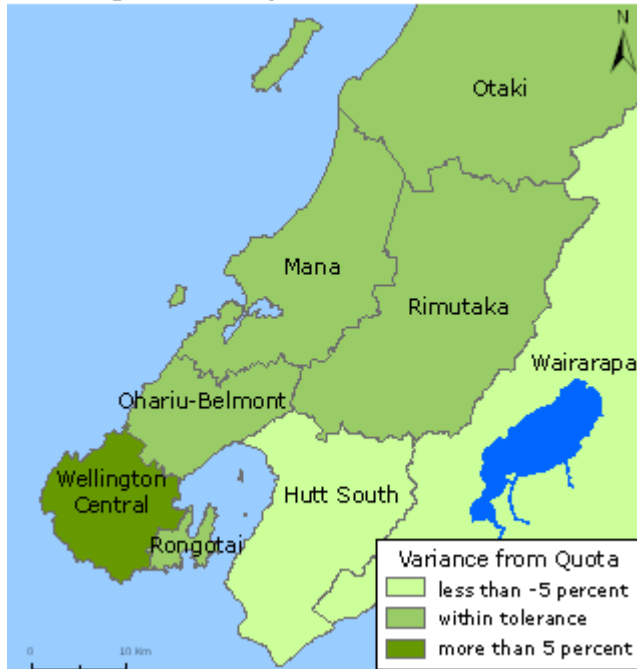
There was a net increase of 14,914 people on the Māori roll during the 2006 option. In terms of new enrolments (that is individuals previously not enrolled on either roll), there were 2,366 new Māori enrolments on the General roll, and 7,914 new enrolments on the Māori roll, which results in a net total of 10,280 new Māori enrolments.

Between the end of the last Māori option in 2001 and the end of the current Māori option on 2 August 2006, registrations on the Māori roll increased from 188,487 to reach 244,121. The number of people on the General roll who declared that they were of Māori descent increased from 151,931 to reach 178,139 over the same period.

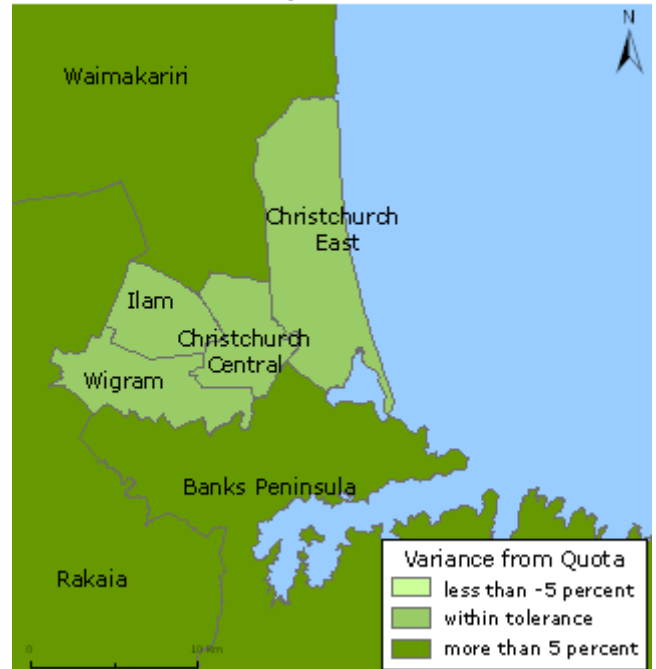
Likewise the Māori descent population as reported in the census has increased from 671,293 at the time of the 2001 Census to 721,431 at the time of the 2006 Census.



Wellington Area by General Electoral District



Christchurch Area by General Electoral District



Dunedin Area by General Electoral District



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or
Mark Lawson, Secretary
Representation Commission
Chief Electoral Office
Wellington 04 498 2318

Technical notes

Calculating electoral populations

Section 3 of the Electoral Act 1993 contains the following definitions:

"General electoral population' means total ordinarily resident population as shown in the last periodical census of population and dwellings with the exception of the Māori electoral population. 'Māori electoral population' means a figure representing both the persons registered as electors of the Māori electoral districts and a proportion of persons of New Zealand Māori descent who are not registered as electors of any electoral district and a proportion of the persons of New Zealand Māori descent under the age of 18 years, ... [the proportion]... shall be determined by dividing the total number of persons registered ... as electors of Māori electoral districts, and persons on the dormant rolls for Māori electoral districts by the total number of persons of New Zealand Māori descent registered ..."

Application

Electoral populations are calculated by using data from the electoral rolls as at 2 August 2006 (following the Māori option) and the Census of Population and Dwellings conducted on 7 March 2006.

The Māori descent figure derived from the 2006 Census includes an allocation of a proportion of those people who did not provide a clear 'yes' or 'no' response to the Māori descent question. The allocation includes a proportion of those people who answered 'don't know', provided a multiple response (for example 'yes' and 'don't know'), or who did not provide a response at all to the question.

Quotas and electoral districts

The number of electoral districts, quotas and other data in table 1 are based on calculations laid down in the Electoral Act 1993.

The Act provides that the South Island has 16 General electoral districts. The General electoral population of the South Island is divided by 16 to give the South Island quota. The formula set out in the 1993 Electoral Act calculates electoral districts is as follows:

- The General electoral population of the South Island is divided by 16 to give the South Island quota.
- The North Island general electoral population is divided by the South Island quota and rounded to give the number of North Island General electoral districts.
- The North Island General electoral population is divided by the number of North Island General electoral districts to give the North Island quota.
- The Māori electoral population is divided by the South Island quota and rounded to give the number of Māori electoral districts. The Māori electoral quota is the Māori electoral population divided by the number of Māori electoral districts.

Forming electoral districts

In forming electoral districts, the Act instructs the Representation Commission to consider a number of factors, including any projected variation in the electoral population during each district's life. Statistics New Zealand will be providing the Commission with sets of nationally integrated projections of the General electoral population of proposed General electoral districts, and of the Māori electoral population of proposed Māori electoral districts, as the Commission works on these boundaries.

For both General and Māori electoral districts, the Commission may allow the electoral population to vary from the quota by up to plus or minus 5 percent.

Details of calculations

The Act requires that the base totals (total and Māori descent ordinarily resident population; and enrolments on the Māori and General rolls by people of Māori descent) be first aggregated to the geographic level needed, before calculating the electoral populations. A different order of processing may lead to different results. The calculation of electoral populations and number of electoral districts requires separate calculations at the North Island, South Island, New Zealand, General and Māori electoral district levels.

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Timing

Timed statistical releases are delivered using postal and electronic services provided by third parties. Delivery of these releases may be delayed by circumstances outside the control of Statistics NZ. Statistics NZ accepts no responsibility for any such delays.

Next release

Details of proposed electoral districts are expected to be released in May 2007.

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Tables

Tables 1–4 were released on 1 February 2007. Tables 5 and 6 were added on 26 February 2007. Meshblock-based electoral populations are available on request in Excel format.

The following tables can be downloaded from the Statistics New Zealand website in Excel 97 format. If you do not have access to Excel 97 or higher, you may use the [*Excel file viewer*](#) to view, print and export the contents of the file.

List of tables

1. Electoral districts and list seats
2. 2007 Electoral populations, electoral districts and quotas
3. General and Māori electoral populations by electoral district (current)
4. Electoral district (current), electoral population quota and variance from quota
5. 2006 Māori and General electoral population by current (2002) Māori electoral district and 2006 area unit
6. 2006 Māori and General electoral population by current (2002) General electoral district and 2006 area unit