



23 February 2022



Dear 

Ref: OIA-2021/22-0872

**Official Information Act request for withheld parts of the publicly available National Resurgence Response Plan**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 21 January 2022. You requested:

*"I refer to the proactive release of the following cabinet paper published on the Unite Against COVID-19 website.  
Please release the content of pages 80-84 of the cabinet paper attached.  
I do not believe there are grounds to withhold the information concerned under section 9(2)(c) of the Official Information Act.  
If you fail to release the information requested within 20 working days, I will lodge a complaint with the Ombudsman."*

The document you referred to and attached to your request "COVID-19 National Resurgence Response (Plan) V 1.0" was a December 2020 briefing created by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) rather than a Cabinet paper. The Plan was proactively released and is available on the COVID-19 website at:

[covid19.govt.nz/assets/Proactive-Releases/National-Response-Plan/National-Resurgence-Response-Plan-Q1](https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/Proactive-Releases/National-Response-Plan/National-Resurgence-Response-Plan-Q1).

The National Resurgence Plan (the Plan) is a living document subject to change as the COVID-19 response evolves in response to the global pandemic. The part of the Plan that was withheld relates to a different stage in the pandemic response when we were operating under the COVID-19 Alert Levels. At the beginning of December 2021, we moved from Alert Levels to the COVID-19 Protection Framework (Traffic Lights).

You have requested pages 80–84 of the Plan, which at the time of the proactive release were withheld. These pages consist of Regional Boundary Level Analysis (case study overview maps). The rationale for withholding this analysis at the time was because these maps could potentially be used to inform future advice and measures that impact public health and safety during a COVID-19 resurgence, and the public release of this material at that time could have potentially undermined the response to a future resurgence. It should be noted that these were indicative case studies and do not reflect any final regional boundary decisions, which were made considering a variety of factors based on the situation faced at the time of the resurgence.

Taking the above into account and acknowledging the ongoing evolution of our National Resurgence Plan, I have now decided to release these pages to you in full. Please find

**attached** Pages 80 – 84 of the December 2020 “COVID-19 National Resurgence Response (Plan) V 1.0”. These should be read in the context given above and as part of the whole document which you already have.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet’s website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely

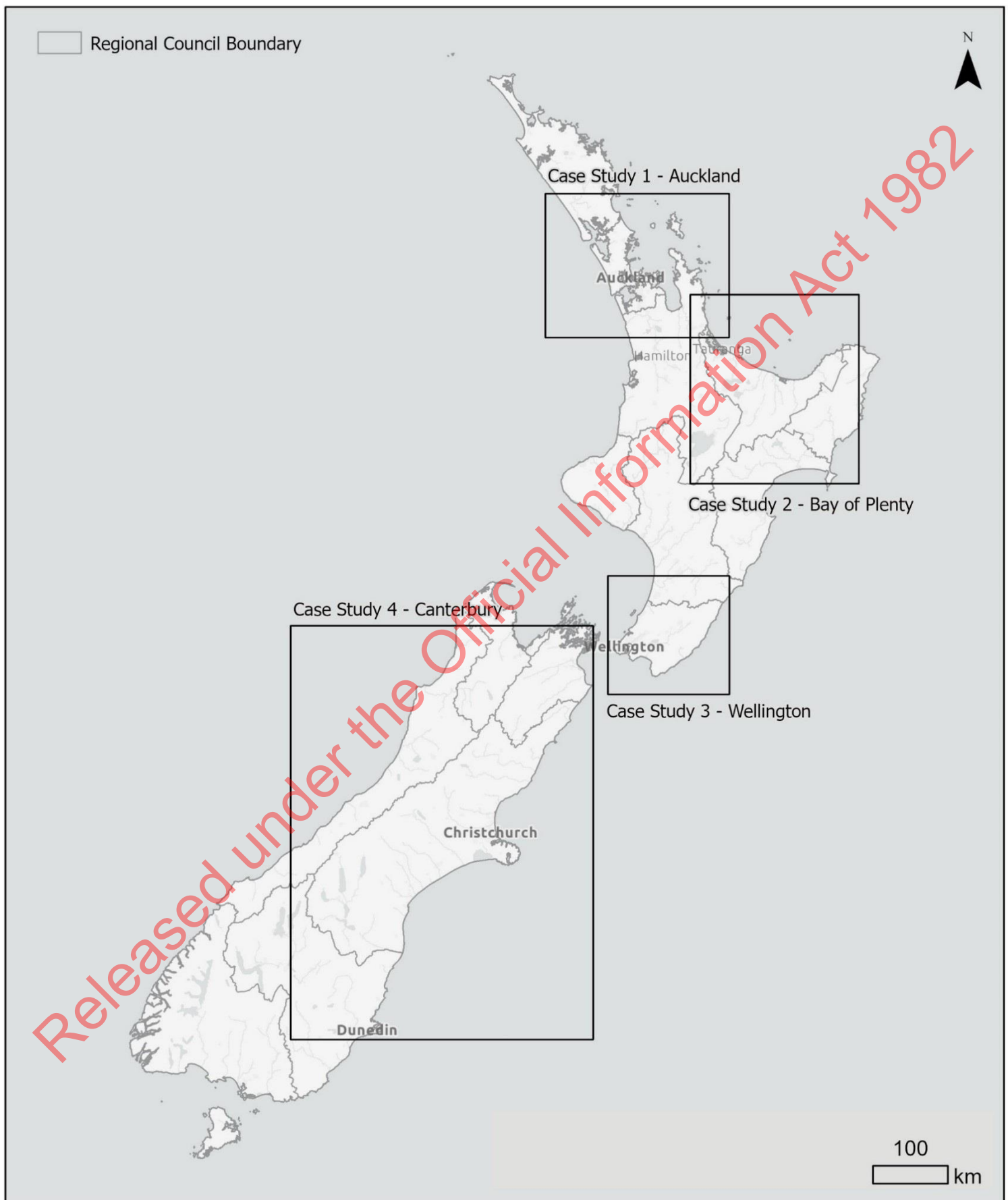


Cheryl Barnes  
**Deputy Chief Executive, COVID-19 Response**

Enc: Pages 80 – 84 of COVID-19 National Resurgence Response (Plan) V 1.0” (December 2020)

# Regional Boundary Level Analysis

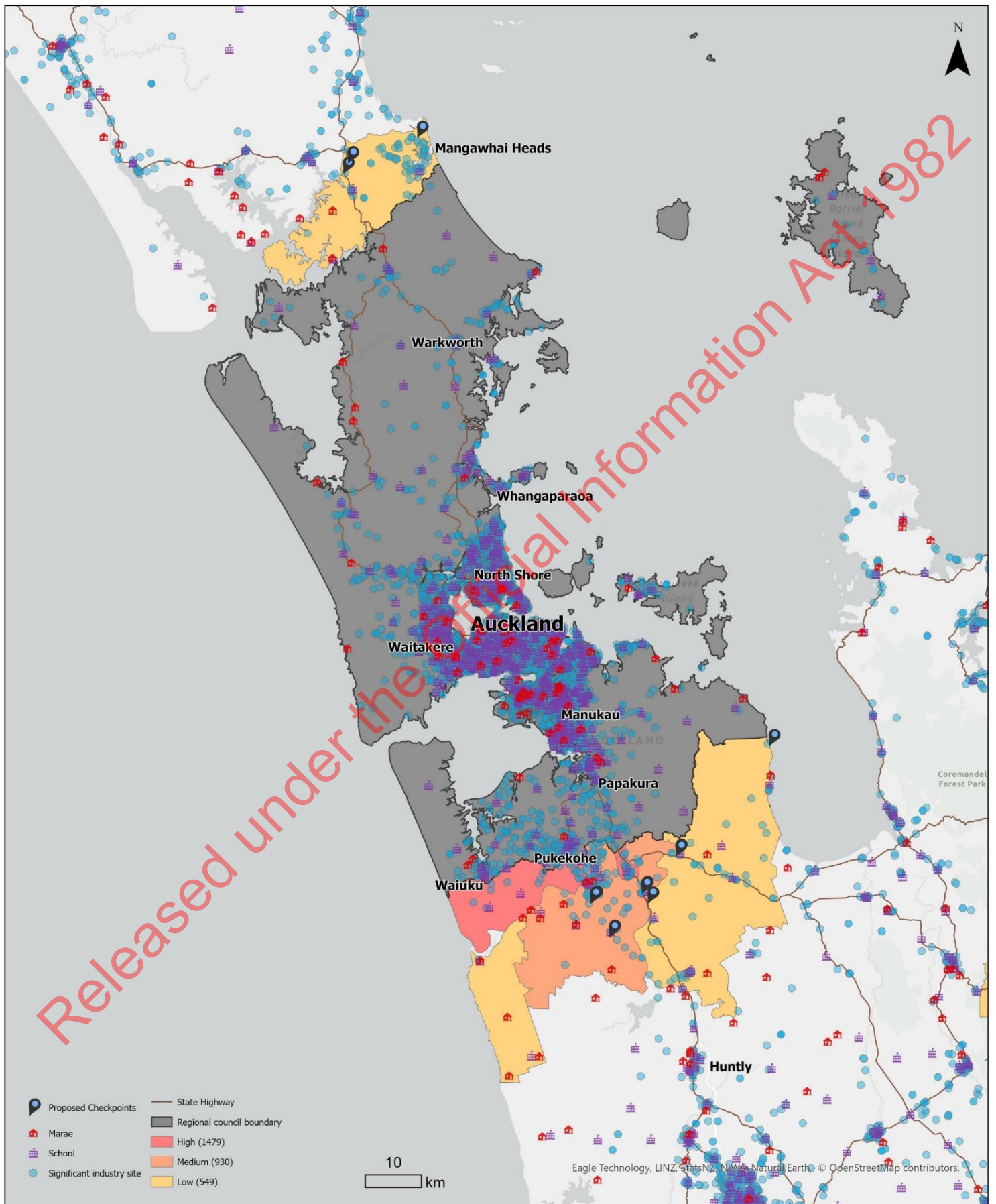
## Overview Map



# Regional Boundary Level Analysis

## Case Study 1- Auckland

Based on analysis of persons commuting inter-regionally from their Statistical Area 2 (SA2) of residence

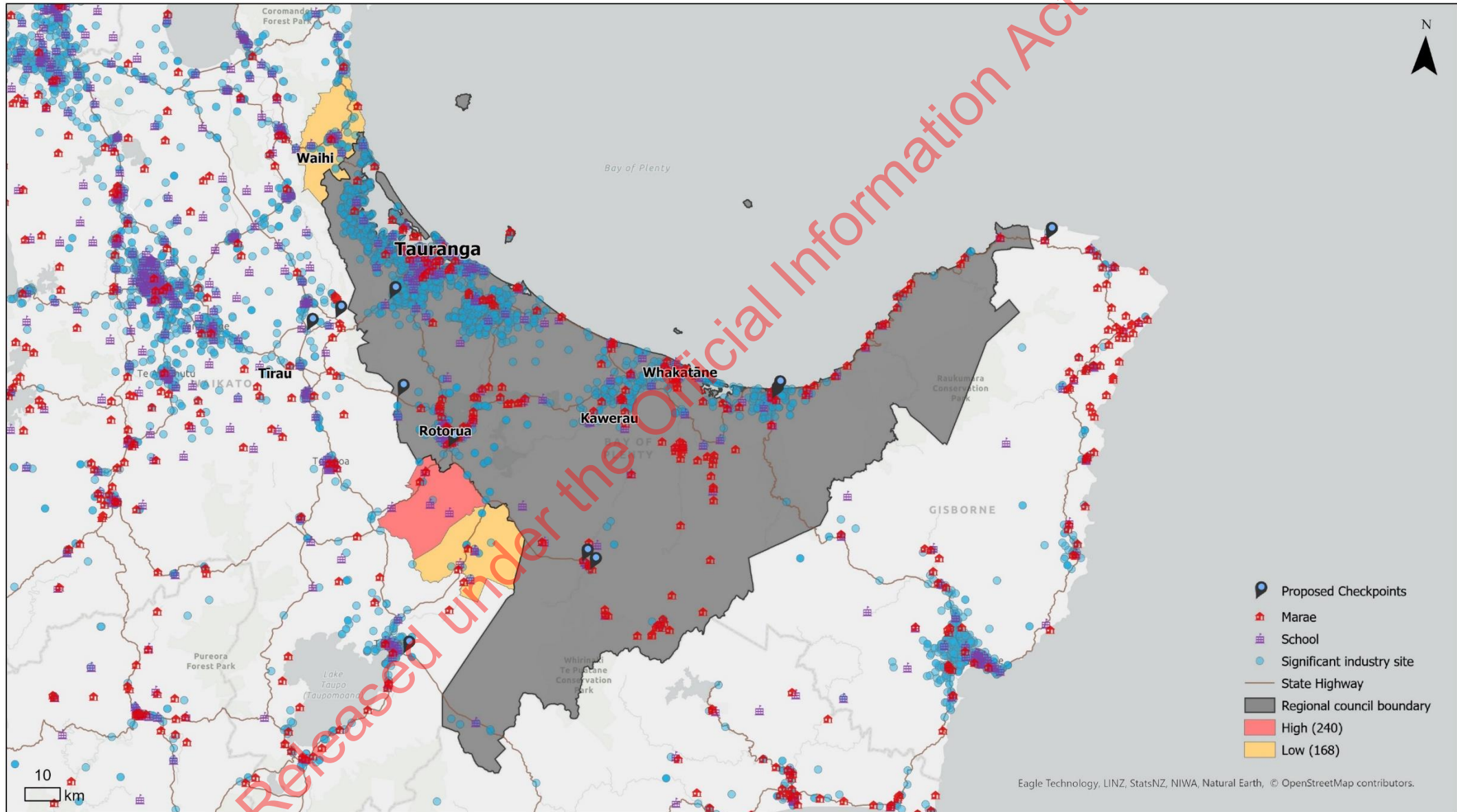




# Regional Boundary Level Analysis

## Case Study 2 - Bay of Plenty

Based on analysis of persons commuting inter-regionally from their Statistical Area 2 (SA2) of residence

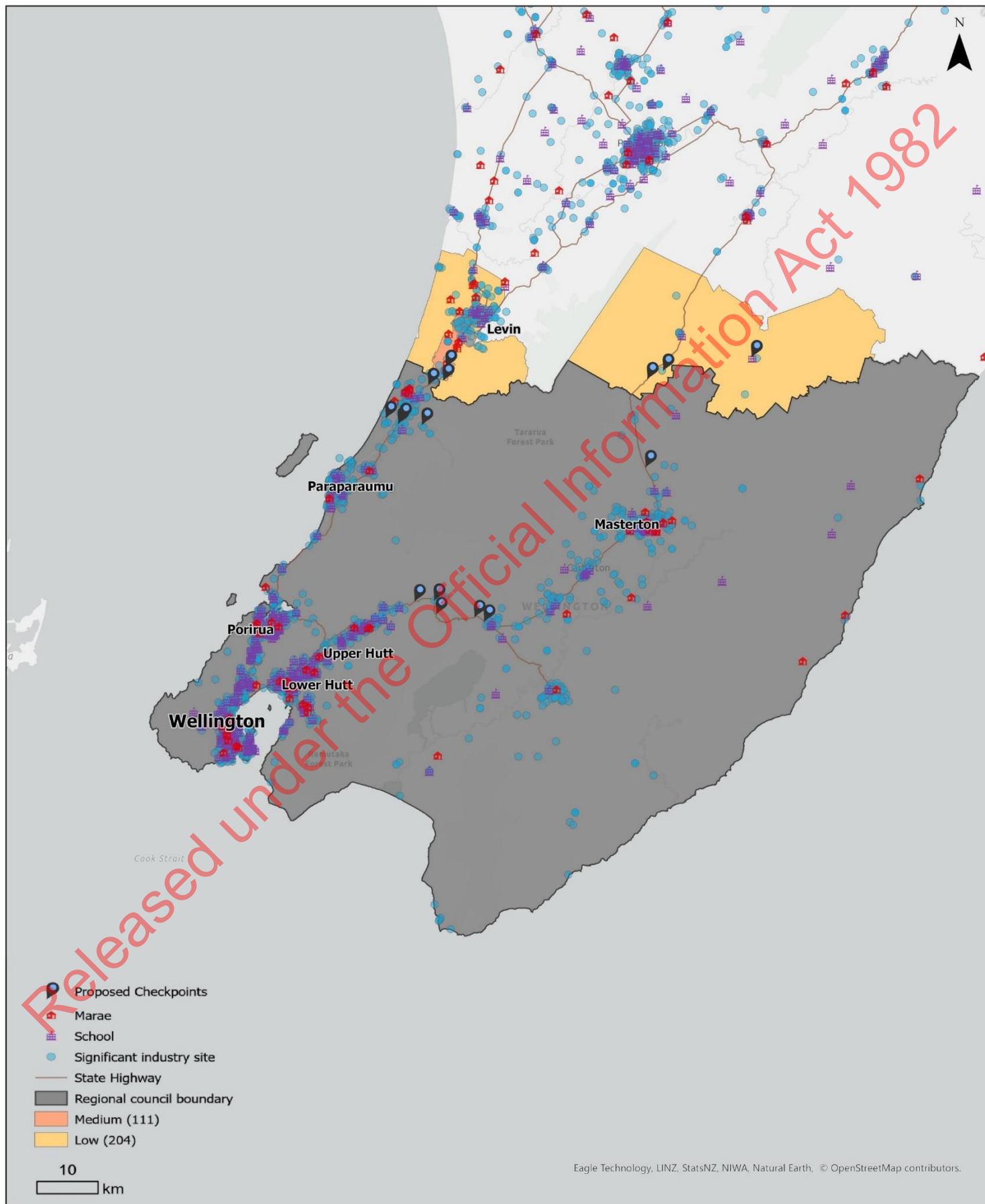


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# Regional Boundary Level Analysis

## Case Study 3 - Wellington

Based on analysis of persons commuting inter-regionally from their Statistical Area 2 (SA2) of residence



# Regional Boundary Level Analysis

## Case Study 4 - Canterbury

Based on analysis of persons commuting inter-regionally from their Statistical Area 2 (SA2) of residence

