

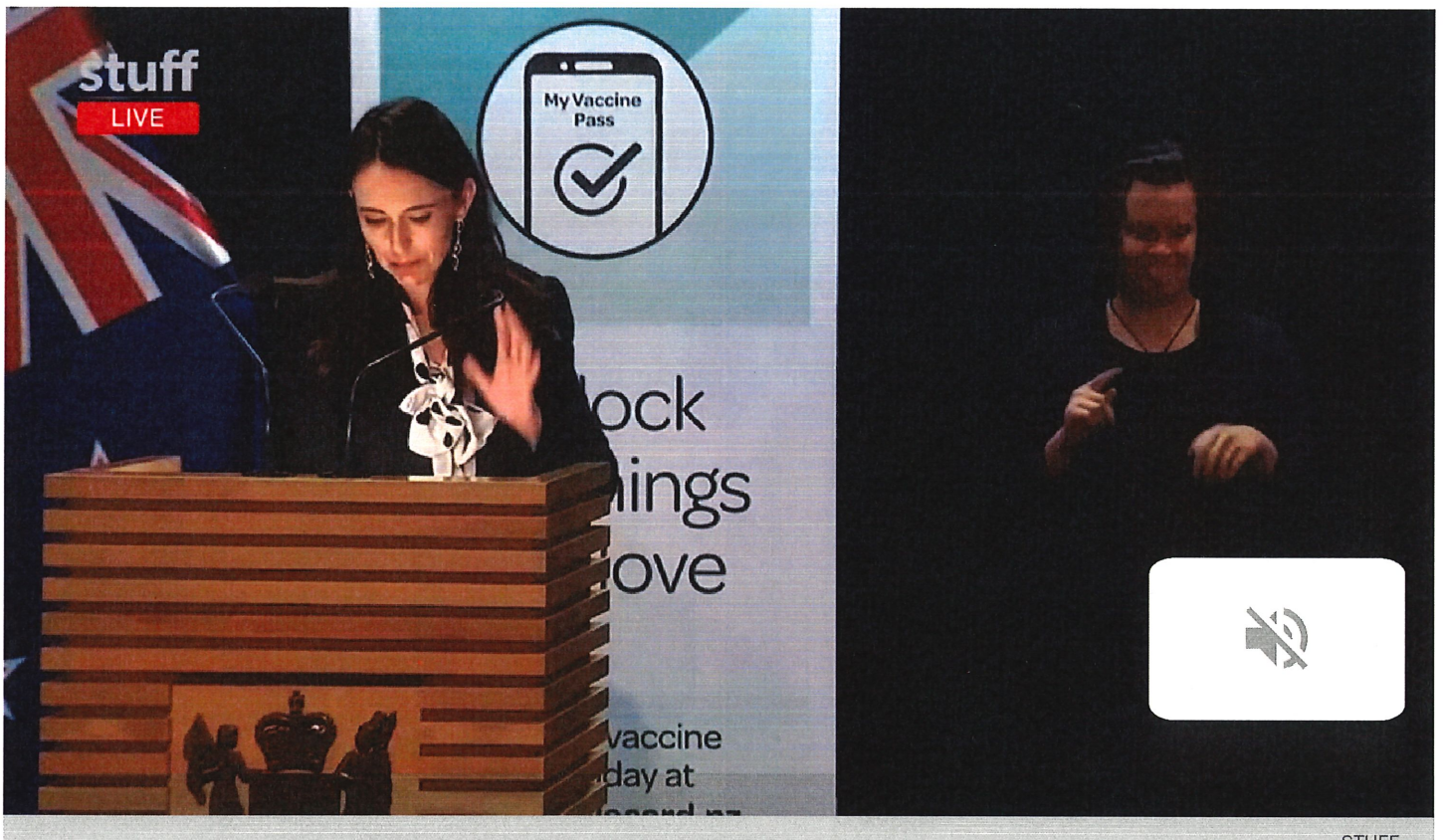
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(Cooke, 2021b)

Covid-19 NZ: Auckland and other areas to move to orange at end of month, Northland staying in red

Henry Cooke · 17:43, Dec 13 2021



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AUCKLAND.

Orange allows for essentially unrestricted life for the vaccinated, while venues that use vaccine passes face no limits or seating requirements.

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No areas will move to green yet as the prime minister says the country is still in a "transition" phase to the new settings.

These settings will stay in place until January 17 when Cabinet will once more check in on them. Ardern said she expected many areas would move to green at that point.

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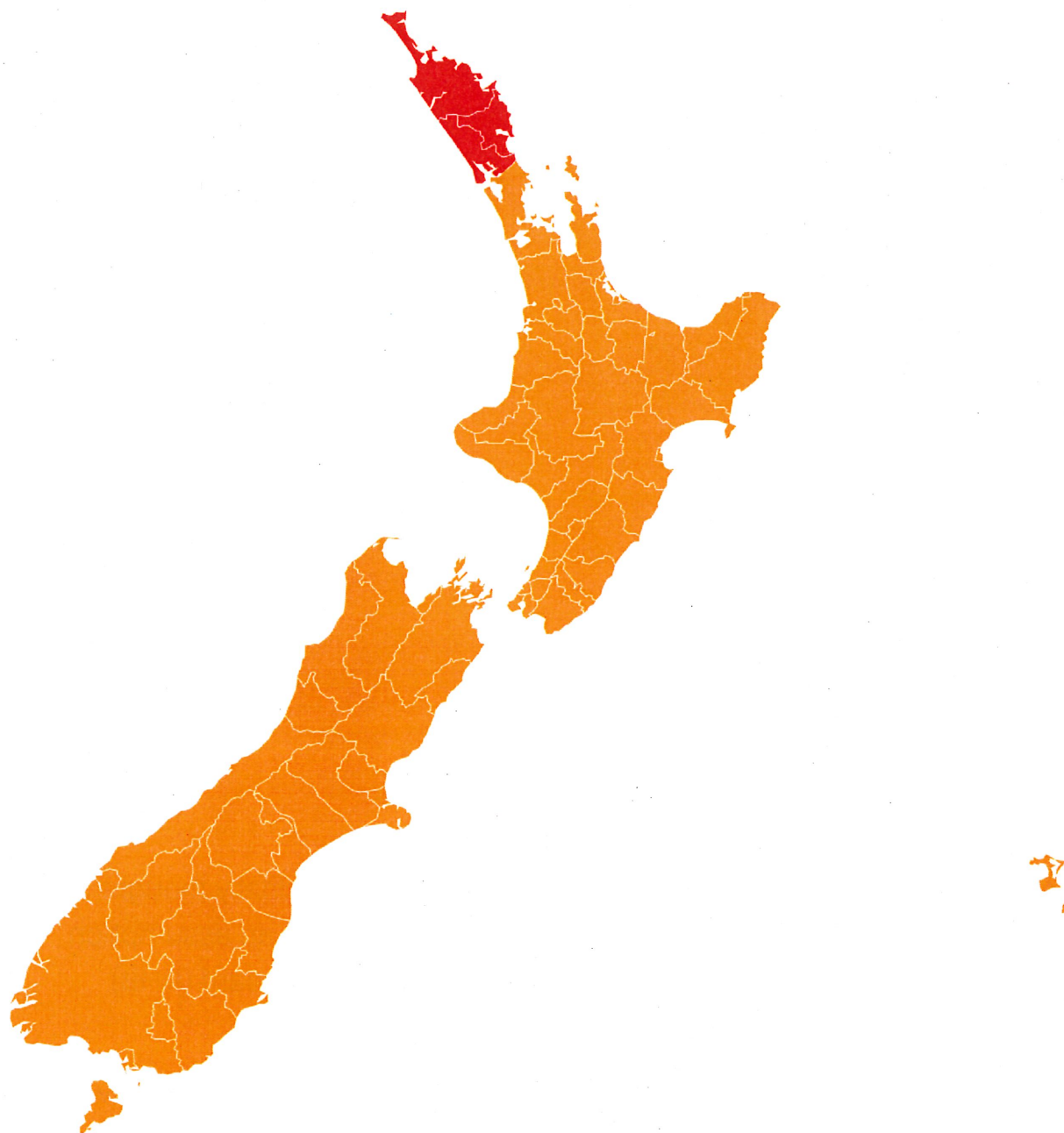
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December 30, 2021.

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behind the rest of the country.

SIMON O'CONNOR/STUFF

Auckland will join most of New Zealand in orange at 11.59pm on December 30.

Recently released advice has shown that the Ministry of Health originally thought more of the country would be able to start at green but this was based on an assumption that the system would not be launched without every district health board (DHB) vaccinating more than 90 per cent of its 12+ population.

Five of 20 DHBs have hit 90 per cent for second doses, with Northland and Tairāwhiti at 81 per cent.

The Government ended up abandoning its 90 per cent target, instead implementing the traffic light system on December 3.

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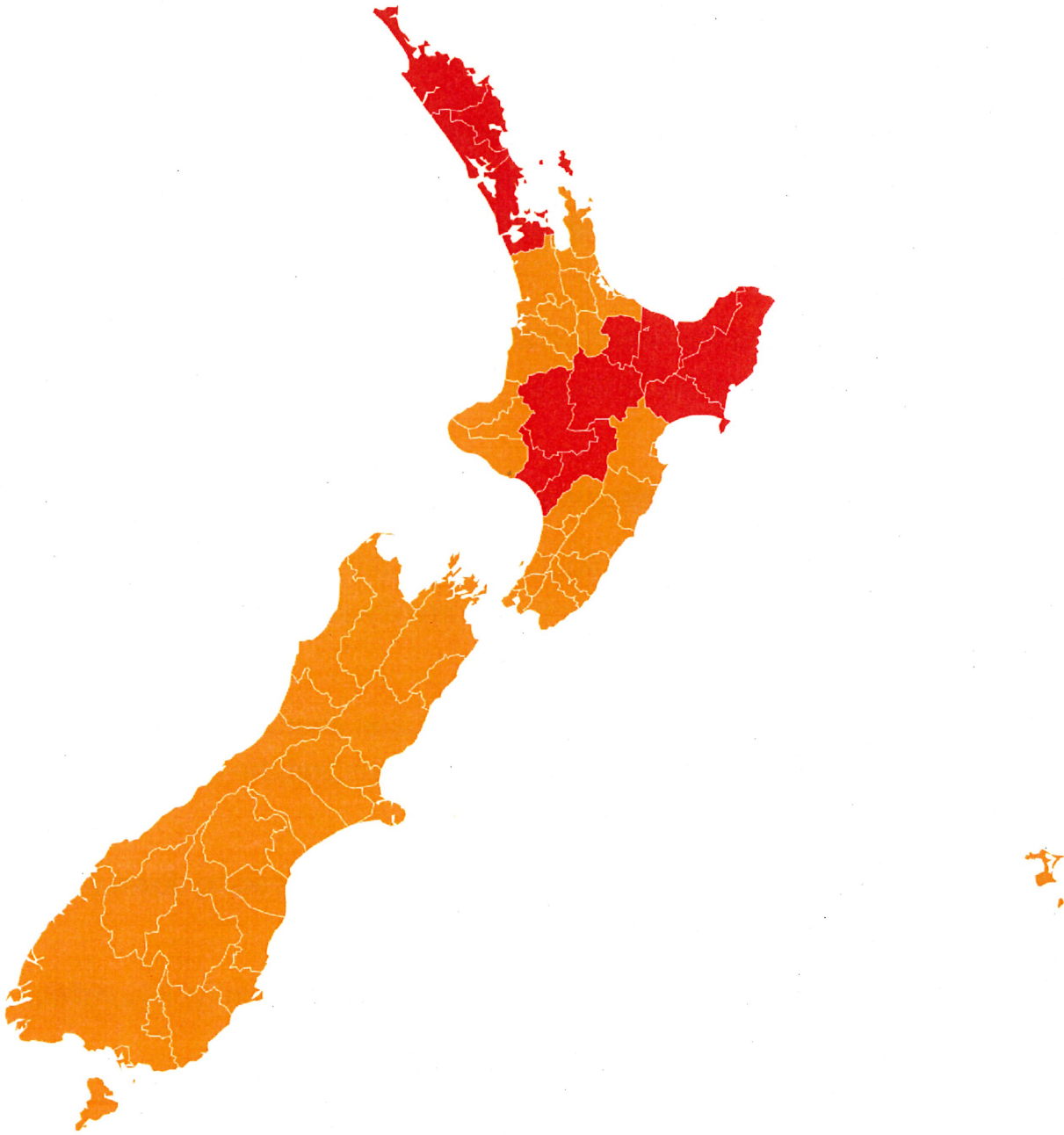
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levels for each council area.



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The traffic light setting makes a huge difference to the economic viability of small businesses, including hospitality. Many of those businesses will be beyond frustrated at being given a glimpse of further freedoms but having to wait another 17 days, despite being at their peak summer trading period.

"The traffic light framework will only enjoy public confidence and support if the decisions made under it make sense. The Government simply are not following their own criteria, which will leave many New Zealanders wondering what the purpose of the criteria even is."

Ardern said on her morning media interviews on Monday she was wary of changing the system so soon after it had been implemented, as the Government wanted more time to observe the effect on cases – if any.

ACT Party leader David Seymour said Ardern was governing the country "on a whim".

Bloomfield also said his technical advisory group would be on Tuesday considering allowing Kiwis to get their booster shots earlier than currently scheduled, after several other nations announced a similar change.

The current Government plan is for people to get their booster shot at least six months after their second shot but Australia has shifted to five months and the United Kingdom three months.

Bloomfield noted that a lot of the countries making this move were facing down winter and large outbreaks however, which New Zealand was not.

"Our key objective is to go into winter with maximum population immunity," Bloomfield said.

We asked questions about this for you.

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