

Australia



Location

- Australia officially the Commonwealth of Australia, is a country comprising the mainland of the Australia continent, the island of Tasmania, and numerous smaller islands.



- It is the world's sixth-largest country by total area.
- Neighbouring countries include Indonesia, East Timor and Papua New Guinea to the north; the Solomon islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia to the north-east; and New Zealand to the south-east.



History

- For at least 40000 years before the first British settlement in the late 18th century, Australia was inhabited by indigenous Australians, who spoke languages grouped into roughly 250 language groups.
- After the discovery of the continent by Dutch explorers in 1606, Australias eastern half was claimed by Great Britain in 1770 and settled through penal transportation to the colony of New South Wales from 26 january 1788.
- The population grew steadily in subsequent decades. The continent was explored and additional five self-governing Crown Colonies were established.

- On 1 January 1901, the six colonies federated, forming the Commonwealth of Australia.

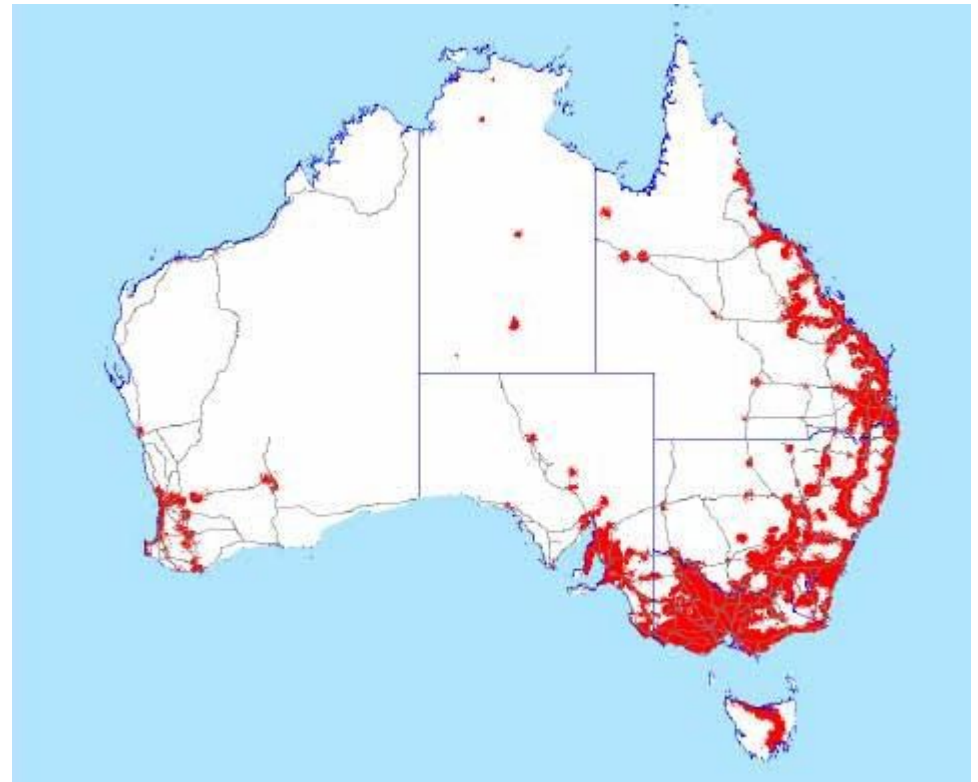


Form of government

- Since Federation, Australia has maintained a stable liberal democratic political system that functions as a federal parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy.
 - The federation comprises six states and several territories.
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Population

- The population of 23.1 million is highly urbanised and heavily concentrated in the eastern states.



Capital: Canberra



Cities of Australia: Sydney



Cities of Australia: Melbourne



Cities of Australia: Brisbane

