

# STATES AND TERRITORIES

Australia is the sixth-largest country in the world by total land area. Australia's mainland is made up of five states and two territories, with the sixth island state of Tasmania to the south of the mainland. The states originated as separate British colonies before Federation in 1901. The colony of New South Wales was originally founded in 1788 and covered much of the Australian mainland, as well as Lord Howe Island, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, and Van Diemen's Land.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, large areas were divided to form the colonies of Tasmania which was originally established as a separate colony named Van Diemen's Land in 1825, in 1836 South Australia was formed, followed by New Zealand in 1849, Victoria in 1851 and Queensland in 1859. The Swan River Colony (present-day city of Perth) was established in Western Australia in 1829. On Federation, the six colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania became individual states of the new Commonwealth of Australia.



From 1926 to 1931, the Northern Territory was divided into Central Australia and North Australia, but in 1931 the two divided areas were joined, this then became the Northern Territory. From 1949 to 1975, the Territory of Papua and New Guinea was classified as an area of Australia, this changed in 1975 with the independence of the country of Papua New Guinea.

## QUEENSLAND IN TWO?

You may occasionally hear people talking about North Queensland as though it is a state of its own, in fact many have even suggested that Queensland should be split up into two separate states over the years. Northern Queensland is home to many farming and mining operations and is home to nearly one million people.

We thought we would bring you some fascinating information about the area.

THE TWO MOST WELL-KNOWN CITIES WITHIN NORTH QUEENSLAND ARE CAIRNS AND TOWNSVILLE. TOWNSVILLE IS SEEN AS THE UNOFFICIAL CAPITAL OF THE REGION.

CAIRNS IS WELL-KNOWN FOR BEING THE GATEWAY TO TWO OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST NATURAL ATTRACTIONS: THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND THE WET TROPICS RAINFOREST.

TOWNSVILLE IS AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST URBAN CENTRE NORTH OF THE SUNSHINE COAST, WITH A POPULATION OF OVER 190,000. CAIRNS HAS A POPULATION OF OVER 150,000, AND IS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING TOWNS IN QUEENSLAND.



The city of Townsville

