



AUSTRALIA'S TEN TERRITORIES

As a **federation**, Australia is one country made up of many smaller jurisdictions called **states** and **territories**.



Unlike the states, territories were not colonies when Australia federated in 1901. They were created later under **Section 122** of the Constitution. Because of this, they have a different constitutional status to states.

Australia has two types of territories:

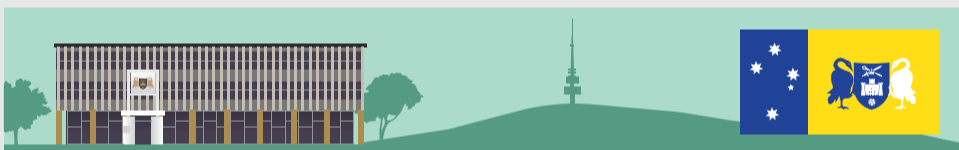
Internal territories are on the Australian mainland. There are **3** of this type.



External territories are islands or land not on the mainland. There are **7** of this type.



As a rule, Australia's internal territories are **self-governing** with state-level governments:



Australian Capital Territory

- 475,000 people (2024) across 2,358 km²
- Granted self-government in 1989
- Unicameral parliament with 25 MLAs
- No council, local-level functions performed by the territory parliament and government
- No representative of the crown



Northern Territory

- 255,000 people (2024) across 1,347,791 km²
- Granted self-government in 1978
- Unicameral parliament with 25 MLAs
- Made up of 18 local-level councils: five municipal, three shire, and ten regional.
- Crown represented by an Administrator



The **Jervis Bay Territory** is the exception, as the only non-self-governing internal territory. Its approximately 300 people are subject to ACT laws and provided local services by Shoalhaven Council (NSW), but vote for neither.

How the external territories are governed depends on their populations:

Territories with **permanent populations** have local councils:



Norfolk Island
Approx. 2,200 people
5 member council



Christmas Island
Approx. 1,700 people
9 member council



Cocos Islands
Approx. 600 people
7 member council

Territories **without permanent populations** are governed directly by the federal government:



Australian Antarctic Territory



Coral Sea Islands



Heard and McDonald Islands



Ashmore & Cartier Islands