



**AUSTRALIA** HAS  
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POPULATION OF  
OVER 23 MILLION,  
BASED MOSTLY IN  
COASTAL AREAS

## QUALITY OF LIFE

Australia is an island continent of approximately 7.7 million square kilometres in the Asia-Pacific region. The climate is generally mild, ranging from temperate in the South to tropical in the North. Average temperatures range between 4 – 28° Celsius.

Australia has a fast-growing population of over 23 million, based mostly in coastal areas. It is a culturally diverse country, with approximately one in five Australians born overseas, drawn from over 200 countries. The national language is English.

With one of the highest standards of living in the world, Australia offers international business people a superb climate, a unique and beautiful environment, top international schools, excellent flight linkages, and a quality social and cultural infrastructure.

## INVESTMENT LANDSCAPE

Australia offers international investors a cost-effective and innovative place in which to do business and an attractive, low-risk destination.

Australia has pursued Free Trade Agreements with many of its regional partners and has agreements in place with the ASEAN group of countries, Chile, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and the United States.

Australia is also in negotiation with China, the Gulf Co-operation Council, Japan, Korea and the Trans Pacific Partnership and discussions are underway with India, Indonesia, and PACER Plus (the **Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations**).

These bilateral trade agreements can offer companies who set up in Australia a competitive advantage in servicing these markets.

## GOVERNMENT

Australia is a stable democracy which maintains strong links with the United Kingdom. Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of State.

Australia is a federation comprising six States and two self-governing Territories. Each has a legislature, an executive and judicial arm of government.

The Federal Government has primary responsibility for defence, finance and taxation, post and telecommunications, administration of the national health system, immigration, tertiary education, aviation, and foreign affairs and trade. The general areas of responsibility of the six State Governments and two Territory Governments are primary and secondary education, roads and transport, police and health care.

A third, local, tier of government generally has responsibility for planning and development and the provision of local services to communities.

## LEGAL SYSTEM

Australia has a common law system, which is based on the English system.

The States and Territories have their own judicial systems and courts. Federal Courts deal with Federal matters and the High Court of Australia hears appeals in relation to Federal, State and Territory matters.

## CURRENCY

Australia has a decimal system of currency, with the dollar (A\$) as the basic unit and 100 cents to the dollar. The exchange rate for one Australian dollar with major international currencies on 17 January 2017 was:

USD:	0.74
Euro:	0.70
Pound Sterling:	0.62
Yen:	85
Yuan:	5.15