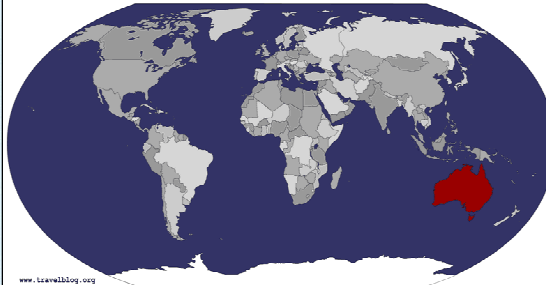


Commonwealth of Australia



Motto: None

Anthem: "Advance Australia Fair", Royal anthem: "God Save the Queen"



Capital	Canberra
Official languages	English
Government	Constitutional monarchy (federal)
Queen	Elizabeth II
Governor-General	Michael Jeffery
Prime Minister	John Howard
Independence	from the UK
Constitution	1 January 1901
Statute of Westminster	11 December 1931, ratified 1942
Australia Act	3 March 1986
Area	
- Total	7,741,220 km ² (6th), 2,988,888 sq mi
Population	
- 2006 estimate	20,555,300 ² (53rd)
GDP (PPP)	2006 estimate
- Total	\$674.9 billion (17th)
- Per capita	\$32,220 (World Bank) (14th)
Currency	Australian dollar (AUD)

Source: Wikipedia 2006

Australia

We believe that traditional links throughout the Commonwealth have been squandered needlessly and that it is in Australia's interests to federate with other members of the Commonwealth in order to better represent our interests on a world stage.

A century ago, our ancestors had the courage to set aside their minor differences and transform six colonies into a federation that spans a continent. Armed with that same courage and foresight, we are now ready to take a similar step: to set aside parochial interests and build a federation that spans the globe.

Just as federation in 1901 did not diminish the states, but rather strengthened them, so the aim of this current movement is not to diminish Australia, but to strengthen her. By pooling our diplomatic, defence and trade resources with our historical friends in New Zealand, Canada and the UK, Australians can achieve real influence in the world.

Today, Australian foreign policy seems to be increasingly decided in Washington, not in Australia. Alone on the world stage; Australia seems to be achieving very little. Australia needs a Commonwealth Federation to find a real voice in the world. With a population of over 120 million, a larger economy, the world's largest land area, increased defence capabilities and a permanent seat on the United Nation Security Council, under this Federation, Australia would at last have a say in world affairs and a chance to determine its own future, free from domination by larger powers.

A Commonwealth Federation would deliver enormous economic benefits to Australia. Free trade with the United Kingdom could be restored with significant economic gains, particularly in the field of agriculture which suffers to this day because of the UK's membership of the European Union. Our economic relationships with New Zealand and Canada could also be enhanced, delivering further benefits. Being a member of such a large Federation would also allow us to negotiate more beneficial trade agreements with non-Federation members such as the US and our Asian neighbours.

Looking to increase our quality of life and our voice in the world is something Australian's have always supported. Why shouldn't we support a Commonwealth Federation to set aside parochial interests and build a federation that spans the globe? Here are some questions for Australians and New Zealanders to think about.

What is your attitude towards current talks about bringing Australia and New Zealand closer together?

The Federal Commonwealth Society supports all efforts to establish closer ties between Commonwealth countries. We completely support proposals to extend the CERTA agreement between Australia and New Zealand and indeed strengthen ties elsewhere. We believe a common market along with common accounting standards, business regulations, and competition laws would be a positive step towards Federation.

What impact would a Federation have on peoples of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent?

We believe it is important to treat indigenous cultures with respect and offer them special protection and encouragement where necessary. Dialogues would be entered into with indigenous peoples as well as the legislative regions in establishing the Federation. We are in favour of giving regions greater powers over indigenous affairs.

Wouldn't this Federation destroy Australia's relationship with Asian countries?

Absolutely not. Indeed we believe that such a Federation would allow for increased friendship, cooperation and understanding between Australia and our Asian neighbours. Australia would have far greater leverage to negotiate trade and other agreements and increased capabilities across other areas such as defence and diplomacy would allow for much more cooperation on regional issues.

I am a Republican. Shouldn't I be opposing this idea?

The Federal Commonwealth Society is neutral on the issue of the Monarchy. The Monarchy presently exists in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the UK so it may seem logical to continue the Monarchy in the event of a Federation. A Federation could also present an opportunity to establish a new Republic. We are primarily concerned with promoting the idea of a Commonwealth Federation and most of us would be happy to see a Federation exist in either format.

The Close Economic Relationship arrangement (CER) between Australia and New Zealand has already tied the two countries together economically. Politically, the closer ties are following. This can easily be expanded to include other countries such as Canada and Great Britain.

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