

Background Brief

3.01 Overview of Norfolk Island

Geography

- Norfolk Island is situated in the Pacific Ocean about 1600km north east of Sydney, with a similar latitude to Byron Bay.
- It is about 8km long and 5km wide with an area of 3,455 hectares.
- Norfolk Island is of volcanic origin and has 32km of coastline consisting mainly of high cliffs. To the south are two smaller uninhabited islands, Nepean and Phillip.

Environment

- Norfolk Island has a mild subtropical climate, with little variation between day and night temperatures.
- Since European settlement, the Island has been subject to extensive land clearing for agriculture and housing.
- Most of the remaining native subtropical rainforest is found in the Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden, which covers about one third of the island and is administered by Parks Australia.

Demographics¹

- Population 1,748 (46.8% male and 53.2% female)
- The median age 49 years, compared to 39 for Australia overall.
- People aged 65 years and over made up 23.8% of the population, compared to 15.8% for Australia overall.
- 45.5% of people only speak English at home and 40.9% of people speak Norfolk-Pitcairn at home.
- The most common ancestries in Norfolk Island were Australian 22.8%, English 22.4%, Pitcairn 20.0%, Scottish 6.0% and Irish 5.2%.

Economy²

- Of the employed people in Norfolk Island, 12.9% worked in hospitality.
- Other major industries of employment included Local Government Administration (6.8%); Cafes and Restaurants (6.0%); and Travel Agency and Tour Arrangement Services (3.7%).

¹ Source: 2016 ABS Census

² Ibid

DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CITIES

- The median weekly personal income for people aged 15 years and over in Norfolk Island was \$592, compared to \$662 for Australia overall.

Access and freight

- Norfolk Island has no deep water port but has two piers: Cascade Pier to the North and Kingston Pier to the South.
- Norfolk Island's environment means that vessels are required to transport freight and cruise ship passengers to the island from ships moored at sea rather than directly unloading to the pier. Heavy cargo is transported to the island by sea, unloaded onto lighters and towed to the piers.
- There are regular flights between Norfolk Island and Sydney and Norfolk Island and Brisbane:
 - Mid-September to end-April: three flights a week to/from Sydney, two flights a week to/from Brisbane
 - May to mid-September: two flights a week to/from Sydney and Brisbane.
 - Prior to a schedule change in October 2018, there was only one flight to/from Brisbane between mid-June and mid-August.

Other information

- Norfolk Island is 1 hour ahead of Australian Eastern Standard Time. Daylight savings time will be introduced in October 2019.
- All livestock (cows, horses, chickens, ducks etc.) roaming the roads have right of way.

Sensitivities: Nil

