

A satellite-style map of Australia is centered on a dark blue background. The map shows the continent's terrain in shades of brown, tan, and green. The text "Australia's Geography" is overlaid in a stylized, light blue font with a dark outline. The map is framed by vertical bars: a wide yellow bar on the left and right, and a narrower cyan bar on the left and right.

# Australia's Geography

A satellite-style map of Australia is centered on a dark blue background. The map shows the continent's terrain in shades of brown, tan, and green. The title "Australia's Geography" is written across the center of the map in a large, stylized, light blue font with a black outline. The text is arranged in two lines: "Australia's" on the top line and "Geography" on the bottom line. The map is framed by a vertical cyan bar on the left and right sides, and a horizontal cyan bar at the top and bottom, creating a border around the central image.

# Australia's Geography

# Australia

- Australia is the world's smallest and flattest continent.
- It has some of Earth's oldest and least fertile soils.
- Only Antarctica receives less rainfall than some parts of Australia!
- It's surrounded by the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- Commonwealth of Australia also includes Tasmania, an island south of the mainland.

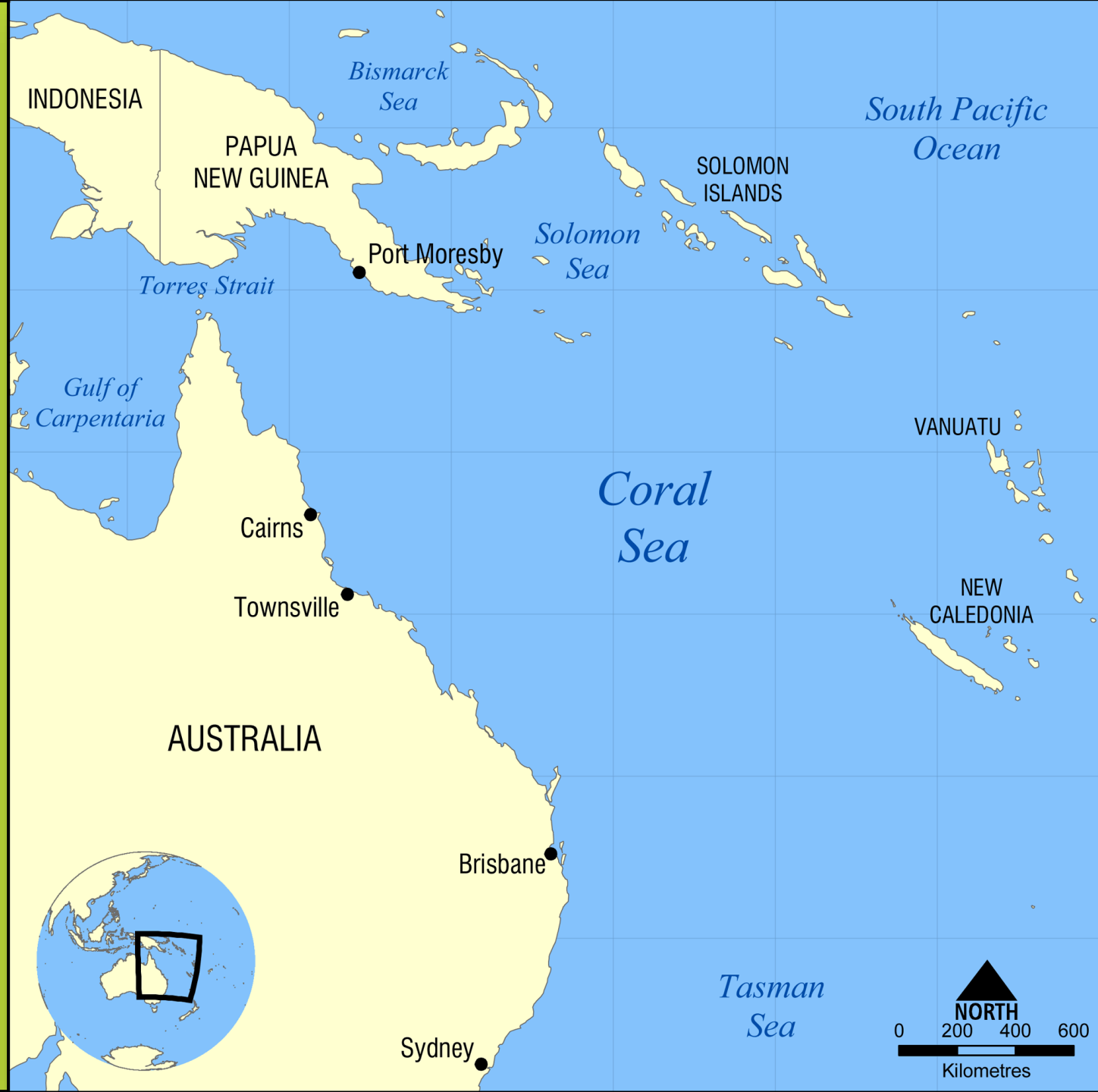


# Australia's Climate

- Huge desert plains stretch across the country's middle.
  - Central Australia's climate is hot and dry.
- There are milder climates along the southeastern and southwestern coasts.
  - Most Australians live in the southeastern coastal region.

# Coral Sea

- It's off the northeast coast of Australia, part of the Pacific Ocean.
- When the earth's crust moved millions of years ago, it created the Coral Sea and the Great Dividing Range (largest mountain range in Australia).
- Coral Sea islands are scattered over thousands of miles of ocean.
  - No one lives on the islands except for a small group of weather specialists.









# Great Barrier Reef

- This is the world's largest coral reef.
  - It's over 1,200 miles long!
- It lies off the northeast coast of Queensland, in the Coral Sea.
- It contains an amazing variety of marine life, including the world's largest collection of coral.
  - 400 types of coral, 1,500 species of fish, & 4,000 mollusks (snails, clams, octopi, & squid) are found here.
  - It's also home to rare species like the sea cow and the large green turtle.











# Ayers Rock

- A huge, reddish rock in the center of Australia.
  - It's located very close to the geographic center of the continent.
- It's a **monolith**, which is a single, large rock sticking out of the earth.
- It appears reddish because its iron content “rusts” at the surface.
- It's nearly 12 stories high and almost 6 miles wide!







# Ayers Rock

- Aborigines call it “Uluru”, which is its official name.
- A European surveyor visited the rock in 1873 and named it after Sir Henry Ayers, an English government official in South Australia.
- In 1950, Australia created Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park around Ayers Rock.
  - It is located in the southwest corner of the state called Northern Territory.





# reat Victoria Desert

- The first Europeans to cross the desert named it after British Queen Victoria in 1875.
- It's 160,000 miles long, and is a protected wilderness area.
- Very few Australians live here because it's too hot and dry.

# reat Victoria Desert

- The desert stretches through the states of South Australia and Western Australia.
- It receives only 8 to 10 inches of rain each year, and it never snows!
- There are some grasslands in the desert along with the sand hills.

