

NAURU



KEY FACTS

POPULATION (2017 estimate):

11,359

AREA (UN 2006):

21 sq km

CAPITAL:

Yaren (de facto)

CURRENCY:

Australian dollar (AUD)

HEAD OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT:

President Baron Waqa

FORM OF GOVERNMENT:

republic

PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM:

unicameral

STATE STRUCTURE:

unitary

LANGUAGES:

English and Nauruan (official)

NATIONAL ELECTIONS:

last: June 2016, turnout: 82.5%; next: 2019

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT (2016) 10.5%

LOCAL ELECTIONS:

there is no local government

WOMEN COUNCILLORS:

there is no local government

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE as a percentage of total government expenditure 2016/17:

there is no local government

SUMMARY

Nauru is a democratic republic with no system of local government

1. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Nauru is a democratic republic, whose head of state and head of government is the president, indirectly elected by the parliament from amongst its members.^{28.1a} Parliament is unicameral, comprising 18 members elected for a maximum term of three years by compulsory universal suffrage for all who have reached 20 years of age. Each of the eight constituencies returns two members, with the exception of Ubenide, which returns four. Following the 2016 national elections, 10.5% (2/19) of MPs were women.^{28.1b} A cabinet of five or six members is appointed by the president from amongst the parliamentarians.

2. LEGAL BASIS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

2.1 Constitutional provisions

There is no constitutional provision.^{28.2}

2.2 Main legislative texts

There is no local government legislation.

2.3 Proposed legislative changes

No legislative changes proposed.

3. STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

3.1 Local government within the state

In 1992 the Nauru government dissolved the Nauru Local Government Council, which had been in existence since 1953 but had made poor investment choices and was accused of gross mismanagement. It was replaced by the Nauru Island Council (NIC).

The NIC functioned as an advisor to the national government on local matters. Elected NIC members could not simultaneously hold office as members of parliament. The NIC acted as a local government and provided public services. Its members were elected from Nauru's eight constituencies, each returning one member, with the exception of Ubenide which returned two members. The NIC was itself dissolved in 1999 and all assets and liabilities were transferred to the national government.

REFERENCES AND USEFUL WEBSITES

- 28.1a Nauru government www.naurugov.nr
- 28.1b Women in national parliaments. www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm
- 28.2 Constitution of Nauru http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru_lpms/Links/constitution.html
- 28.3 Population: Census 2011 www.spc.int/prism/nauru/PublicDocuments/Census/Nauru_2011_Census_Report_FINAL.pdf
- 28.4 Electoral Commission http://election.com.nr/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Nauru-Bulletin-07_24Jun2016-139.pdf
- 28.5a UN statistics surface area <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2006/Table03.pdf>
- 28.5b Commonwealth Local Government knowledge hub www.clgf.org.uk/resource-centre/knowledge-hub
- 28.5c UNDP HDR Nauru country profile <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/NRU>

Table 28.1a Distribution of population, constituencies and districts

Constituencies	District	Population (Census 2011)	Population 2017 estimate	% Urban 2017
Yaren	Yaren	747	na	100%
Boe	Boe	851	na	100%
Aiuwo	Aiuwo	1,220	na	100%
Buada	Buada	739	na	100%
Ubenide	Baitsi	307	na	100%
	Nibok	484	na	100%
	Denigomodu	318	na	100%
Anetan	Uaboe	513	na	100%
	Anetan	446	na	100%
	Ewa	587	na	100%
Anabar	Anabar	452	na	100%
	Ijuw	178	na	100%
	Anibare	226	na	100%
Meneng	Meneng	1,380	na	100%
Location	-	1,497	na	100%
Institutions	-	139	na	100%
Total 8	14	10,084	11,359	100%

Source: 2011 Census^{28.3}



Annex 28a Summary of service provision in different spheres of government in Nauru

Services	Delivering authority		Remarks
	National government	Urban planning areas	
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION			
Police	■		
Fire protection	■		
Civil protection	■		
Criminal justice	■		
Civil status register	■		
Statistical office	■		
Electoral register	■		
EDUCATION			
Pre-school (kindergarten and nursery)	■		
Primary	■		
Secondary	■		
Vocational and technical	■		
Higher education	■		
Adult education	■		
SOCIAL WELFARE			
Family welfare services	■		
Welfare homes	■		
Social security	■		
PUBLIC HEALTH			
Primary care	■		
Hospitals	■		
Health protection	■		
HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING			
Housing	■		
Town planning	■		
Regional planning	■		
TRANSPORT			
Roads	■		
Transport	■		
Urban roads	■		
Urban rail	■		
Ports	■		
Airports	■		
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SANITATION			
Water and sanitation	■		
Refuse collection and disposal	■		
Cemeteries and crematoria	■		
Slaughterhouses	■		
Environmental protection	■		
Consumer protection	■		
CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORTS			
Theatres and concerts	■		
Museums and libraries	■		
Parks and open spaces	■		
Sports and leisure facilities	■		
Religious facilities			
UTILITIES			
Gas services	■		
District heating	■		
Water supply	■		
Electricity	■		
ECONOMIC			
Agriculture, forests and fisheries	■		
Local economic development/promotion	■		
Trade and industry	■		
Tourism	■		

■ sole responsibility service ■ joint responsibility service ■ discretionary service