

NAURU



KEY FACTS

POPULATION (2020 estimate):
12,700

AREA (UN 2006):
21 sq km

CAPITAL:
Yaren (de facto)

CURRENCY:
Australian dollar (AUD)

HEAD OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT:
President Lionel Aingimea

FORM OF GOVERNMENT:
republic

PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM:
unicameral

STATE STRUCTURE:
unitary

LANGUAGES:
English and Nauruan (official)

NATIONAL ELECTIONS:
last: 2019, turnout: 95.5%;
next: 2022

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT (2019) 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 2020:
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.^{31.1a} Parliament is unicameral, comprising 19 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 Meneng, which returns three, and Ubenide, which returns four. Following the 2016 national elections, 10.5% (2/19) of MPs were women.^{31.1b} 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.^{31.2}

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 government Nauru Local Government Council, which had been founded in 1953 but had made poor investment choices and was accused of gross mismanagement, 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 Ubenide returned two. The NIC was dissolved in 1999 and all assets and liabilities were transferred to the national government.

REFERENCES AND USEFUL WEBSITES

- 31.1a Nauru government www.naurugov.nr
- 31.1b Women in national parliaments. www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm
- 31.2 Constitution of Nauru http://ronlaw.gov.nr/nauru_lpms/Links/constitution.html
- 31.3a Population: Census 2011 www.spc.int/prism/nauru/PublicDocuments/Census/Nauru_2011_Census_Report_FINAL.pdf
- 31.3b Pacific Community Statistics <https://spccfpstore1.blob.core.windows.net/>
- 31.11a World Population Prospects 2019 https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2019_DataBooklet.pdf

Table 31.1a Distribution of population, constituencies and districts

Constituencies	District	Population (Census 2011)	Population 2020 estimate	% Urban 2019
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%
	Uaboe	513	na	100%
Anetan	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	12,700	100%

Source: 2011 Census^{31.3a}



Annex 31a 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