

Australia's relationship with

# NORTH DAKOTA

## KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 762,062 (2019)
- **Major Cities:** Bismarck (capital), Fargo
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** \$57,106 Million (2018).
- **Key Industries:** Agriculture, Manufacturing, Mining (Oil and Gas), Services, Renewable Energy.
- **Known for:** 2010 oil boom, strong influence of Scandinavian immigrants on the culture, a comparatively large Native American population, nick named "The Peace Garden State".

## ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-Way Trade:** US\$90 Million
- **Australia's Exports to North Dakota:** US\$4.5 Million (2019)
- **North Dakota's Exports to Australia:** US\$85.5 Million (2019)
- **Priority Sectors for the Australia-North Dakota economic relationship:** Munitions, pet food, vaccines, electrical equipment.

## PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- **Sister Cities:** None
- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with North Dakota is managed by the **Consulate General in Chicago**.
- **Consul General:** David Bushby.

## POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Governor:** Doug Burgum (R), next election in 2024
- **2020 Presidential Outcome:** Trump 65.1%
- **Senators:** John Hoeven (R), Kevin Cramer (R)
- **House:** 1 Republican

## AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

- **Notable Australians in North Dakota:** Vamegh Rasouli, Dept Chair & Distinguished



Professor, Dept of Petroleum Engineering,  
University of North Dakota

Grant Tomkinson, Professor of Kinesiology & Public Health Ed, University of North Dakota

Jay Simmons, President of Thermo-Gel

## AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

- North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum was first Chairman of Australian software company **Atlassian**
- In 2013, the **North Dakota Lignite Energy Council** signed a research partnership agreement with Melbourne-based **Brown Coal Innovation Australia**.
- Founded by Australian Martin Olsen, **eOne Solutions**, based in Fargo, provide 20,000 companies with eOne software.

## GLOBAL BUSINESS

- **MDU Resources Group, Inc.** is a US-based corporation supplying essential products and services through its regulated energy delivery and construction materials and services businesses. It is headquartered in Bismarck and operates in 48 US states
- **Basin Electric Power Cooperative** is a wholesale electric generation and transmission cooperative based in North Dakota that provides electricity to 2.8 million customers in nine US states
- **RDO Equipment Co.** owns and operates more than 75 dealerships in 10 states, and sells quality brands such as John Deere, Vermeer, and Topcon
- **Titan Machinery Incorporated** is one of the largest American dealers of agricultural and construction equipment. It is based in Fargo with locations throughout the Midwestern US.



## UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

### Nationally Ranked Universities

University of North Dakota: #263

North Dakota State University: #281

## MAJOR EVENTS

- **KMOT Ag Expo:** the largest indoor agricultural show in the upper Midwest, attracts more than 35,000 visitors every year. Over 360 exhibitors in almost 1,000 booths cover all aspects of agriculture in Western North Dakota including the latest in agricultural technology and equipment as well as livestock displays and informative seminars on all topics in agriculture.
  - **The North Dakota State Fair:** features entertainment on 10 free stages, 3 nights of rodeo (Australian Aboriginal cowboys have been known to perform), 3 nights of auto events, big name entertainment in the grandstand, a carnival, over 46,000 competitive exhibits, 600 commercial vendors, livestock shows and contests. This 9-day spectacular is the largest annual event held in North Dakota, attracting nearly a quarter of a million people.
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