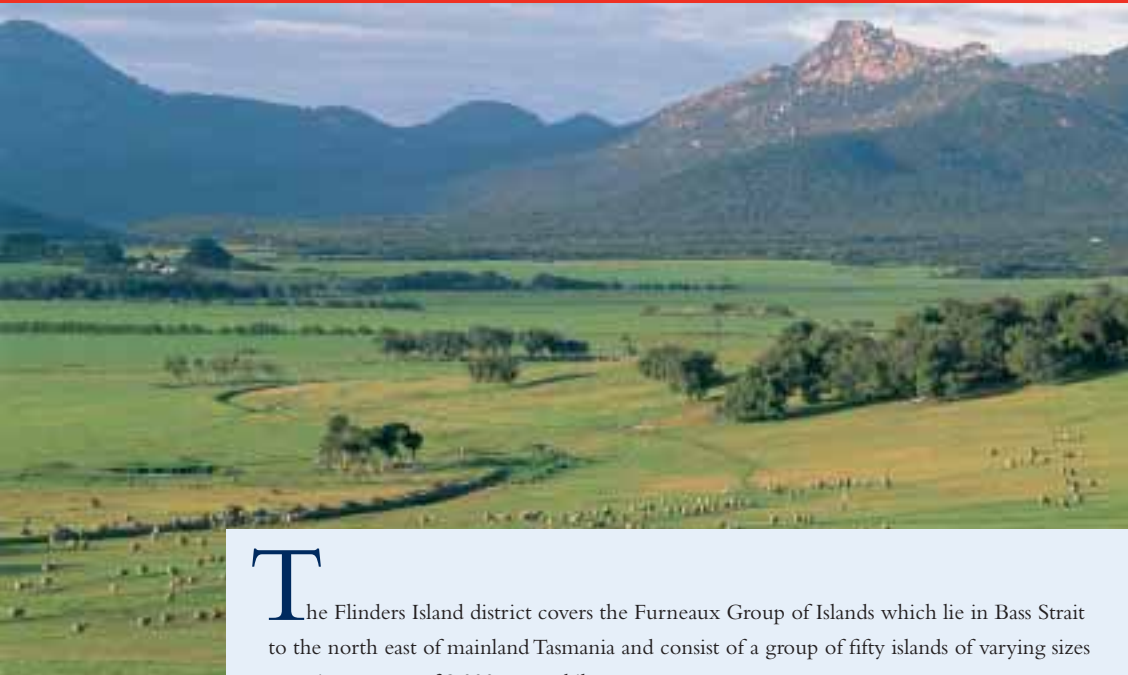


Flinders Island

INVEST IN FLINDERS ISLAND



Grazing land, Flinders Island

There is considerable scope for further investment in aquaculture...

The Flinders Island district covers the Furneaux Group of Islands which lie in Bass Strait to the north east of mainland Tasmania and consist of a group of fifty islands of varying sizes covering an area of 2,000 square kilometres.

The largest islands are Flinders Island with an area of 1,400 square kilometres and Cape Barren Island with an area of 445 square kilometres. Many of the small islands in the Group are Conservation Areas, State Reserves or Nature Reserves under the management control of the Tasmanian Government. The highest peaks are Mt Strzelecki on Flinders Island rising to 756 m and Mt Munro on Cape Barren Island rising to 687 m.

The climate of the Islands is maritime. The annual rainfall ranges from about 600 mm in the south west to over 800 mm in the central mountains on Flinders Island. Rainfall is greatest during the cooler months from May to October. The mean minimum temperature in July is 6.0°C and the mean maximum temperature in February is 22.5°C.

Soil types vary from clay soils developed on granite bedrock to coastal sandy soils. Because of the small catchment size most streams are ephemeral.

The Islands have a wide diversity of wildlife, particularly birds, where the best known are the Short-tailed Shearwater (mutton-bird) and the Cape Barren Goose which is regarded as one of the world's rarest goose species.

The population of the Islands in 2003 was 875, a decline of 18.7% from a population of 1,039 in 1981. About 60 residents inhabit Cape Barren Island, fewer than ten live on Clarke Island and the remainder live on Flinders Island.

Flinders Island has three main population centres – Whitemark, Lady Barron and Killiecrankie. Whitemark is the main residential and business centre. The all-tides port at Lady Barron is the berthing port for the inter-island and inter-state trading vessels *Matthew Flinders* and *Southern Condor*.



Locally caught abalone



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INFRASTRUCTURE

Flinders Island is serviced by a network of sealed roads and all weather gravel roads. Cape Barren Island has gravel roads suitable mainly for 4WD vehicles.

Shipping services connect Lady Barron with Bridport in North East Tasmania and Port Welshpool in the Gippsland region of Victoria. The service to and from Bridport operates at least once per week and the travelling time is about eight hours one way. The service to Port Welshpool operates approximately once per month and takes between 15 and 22 hours. The service has the capacity to transport frozen goods.

Regular air services connect the Flinders Island Airport, just north of Whitemark, with the Launceston Airport in Northern Tasmania (travelling time approximately 35 minutes), with Bridport on the north east coast of Tasmania



Lady Barron Port

(travelling time approximately 20 minutes) and the Moorabin and Essendon Airports in Melbourne (travelling time approximately 70 minutes). Charter flights are also available from Launceston, Bridport and Victoria.

The major electricity supply on Flinders Island comes from diesel generators situated near Whitemark, and supplemented with privately-owned wind generators. Cape Barren Island is serviced by a combination of wind generated power and back-up diesel generation.

Tasmania enjoys stable and attractive labour market conditions and in 2004 was the most favourably ranked State in Australia in the Labour Cost Index, Labour Turnover Index and Industrial Dispute Index. The most recently published Competition Index can be found at www.development.tas.gov.au

The Islands are well serviced by Telstra CMDA telecommunications and there is a wired network on Flinders Island and Cape Barren Island. Flinders Island is serviced by a fully-equipped Multi-Purpose Health Centre, with a Royal Flying Doctor Service for emergencies. There is a resident doctor and specialists visit the Centre on a regular basis.

Flinders Island is serviced by a district high school (prep to Year 10) at Whitemark.

MAJOR INDUSTRIES

Employment by Industry

Employment on the Furneaux Group of Islands declined from 502 in 1986 to 417 in 1991.

Employment remained static through the 1990s and was 418 in 2001. Apparent increases in jobs in manufacturing, retail trade, government administration, health and community services, property, business and personal services between the 1991 and 2001 censuses were offset by a decrease of 56 non-classified or not stated positions

in the same period. Table 1 displays employment by industry sector statistics at each of the last four censuses (1986, 1991, 1996, 2001).

Agriculture

Employment in agriculture and fishing declined sharply between 1986 and 1991 from 214 to 138, due to a significant State-wide decline in the fishing industry in the late 1980s, but has remained static at about 140 since 1991.



Cattle loading at Whitemark



Cattle loading Lady Barron

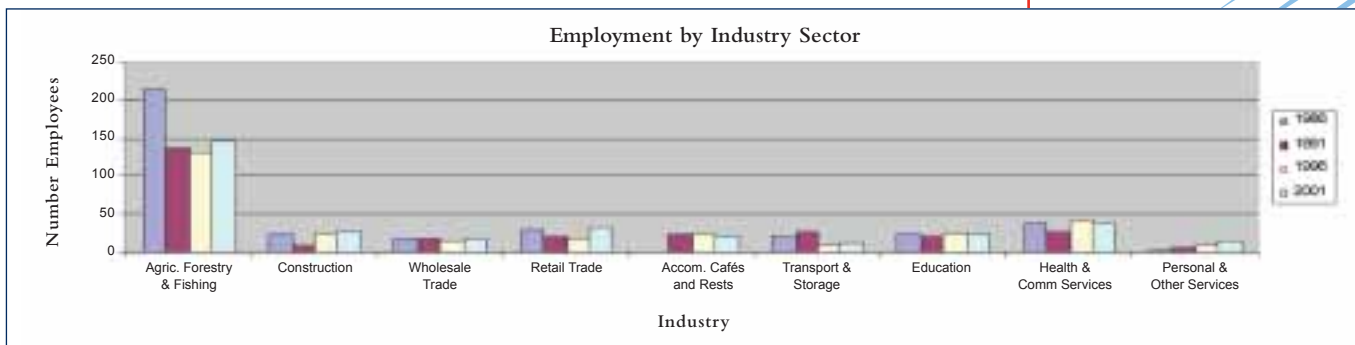


Table 1: Employment by Industry Sector – Flinders Island

Agricultural output on the Furneaux Group of Islands was valued at \$8.1 million in 2001. The main farm products are wool, mutton, lamb, beef, Cape Barren geese and a small amount of dry land crops. Lamb, beef and small quantities of geese, wallaby and pademelon are slaughtered on Flinders Island for distribution to specialist, mostly interstate, wholesalers.

There are only limited opportunities for small scale irrigation development and intensive farming. Opportunities exist for marketing and value adding of existing farm products.

Information about investment opportunities, land capability maps, soil maps and water development can be found on the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) website at www.dpiw.tas.gov.au and at www.northerntasmania.info

Fishing

Fish processing is carried out at a facility at Lady Barron where crayfish, abalone, scallops, garfish and shark are processed for domestic consumption. The scale of this operation has diminished in recent years in line with a reduction in wild fishery harvesting of most species throughout Tasmania.

Investment opportunities are limited as most wild fisheries are being harvested at sustainable levels. Opportunities exist in marketing and value adding. Information about the fishing industry in Tasmania and more details on opportunities can be found at www.dpiw.tas.gov.au and www.northerntasmania.info

Aquaculture

An abalone aquaculture business operates in conjunction with the fish processing plant at Lady Barron, and there are other aquaculture facilities at Tanners Bay on the north west coast of Flinders Island and at Puncheon Point on Cape Barren Island.

There is considerable scope for further investment in aquaculture with many suitable

undeveloped offshore locations and expansion opportunities at the Lady Barron processing facilities. The then Furneaux Enterprise Centre commissioned a feasibility study into the expansion of aquaculture in 2003. This study is available at www.flindersislandonline.com.au

Information about marine farming, aquaculture management plans and marine industry profiles can be found at www.dpiw.tas.gov.au and www.northerntasmania.info/invest.html

Tourism

There is a small fledgling tourism industry on the Island's based on a growing interest in nature-based tourism, the isolation and sheer beauty of most of the Islands and the colonial and indigenous history. The Islands are popular with independent travellers who arrive by commercial and private planes, boats and even kayaks.

Investment opportunities in tourism exist mainly in niche, high value markets such as nature-based tourism and recreational fishing. Visitor data is available at www.tourismtasmania.com.au/research



Wybalemma Historical Site

Energy

The west coast of Flinders Island and some of the other islands, offer excellent potential sites for wind farms. Investment opportunities in wind farms will increase as the demand for renewable energy increases, although at this stage the absence of a connection to the national grid limits this possibility.



Locally grown abalone

Considerable scope for further investment in aquaculture



Shipwreck of the Farsund



Windfarming



INVEST IN FLINDERS ISLAND



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Australian Government

The Northern Tasmania Investment
Attraction Project is supported by
the Australian Government

MAJOR BUSINESS AND PRODUCTS

The two major private enterprise employers in the Flinders Island district are Flinders Island Quality Meats who operate an abattoir at Lackrana, and Furneaux Aquaculture who operate the sea food processing facility at Lady Barron.

The Flinders Island Quality Meats abattoir is licensed to handle 100 tonnes of sheep and cattle products per year, while local wallabies and pademelons as well as game birds such as Cape Barren geese are also processed there. At this plant, milk-fed lamb is processed, cryo-vacuum packed

and distributed to many restaurants along Australia's eastern seaboard.

The Furneaux Aquaculture processing plant, originally a large processing facility servicing many local seafood businesses, is now primarily an abalone aquaculture operation but also processes finfish, abalone and scallops. The plant has Australian Quarantine Inspection Service accreditation.

BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT AND SUPPORT

Further information on investing in Tasmania can be found at the Department of Economic Development's website www.development.tas.gov.au. This website also contains the Northern Tasmania Regional Economic Development and Investment (REDI) Plan which provides detailed information on infrastructure and current investment activity.

Information about the economy of Northern Tasmania and other Council areas can be found at www.northerntasmania.info

General information about the Tasmanian economy, environment and communities, including the Flinders Island community, can be found at www.iris.tas.gov.au

General information about Flinders Island can be found at www.flindersislandonline.com.au

Information about current small businesses, farms, commercial properties and residential property available to be purchased can be found at www.tasmania.propertyguide.com.au and at www.realcommercial.com.au



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