

# Heard and McDonald Islands energy

What is the Heard Island & McDonald Islands Marine Reserve?

One of the world's largest highly protected IUCN category 1A marine reserves the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve was established by Australia in the waters surrounding HIMI in 2002.

Where are the Heard and McDonald Islands located?

The Heard and McDonald Islands are remote subantarctic volcanic features located in the Southern Ocean, halfway between Australia and South Africa. They are approximately 1700 km from the Antarctic continent and 4000 km southwest of mainland Australia (Australian Government 2016 ). Heard Island is 43 km long and 21 km wide.

Why are Heard Island and McDonald Islands isolated?

However, the site's isolation assists in reducing anthropogenic impacts upon the site's values. Heard Island and McDonald Islands are located in the Southern Ocean, approximately 1,700 km from the Antarctic continent and 4,100 km south-west of Perth.

Who manages Heard Island & McDonald Islands?

They are managed by the Australian Antarctic Division. The islands are unoccupied by humans and remain one of the world's least anthropogenically disturbed areas. A map of Heard Island and McDonald Islands land areas updated in 2024 with recent coastline mapping and 2014 glacial...

How big is Heard Island & McDonald Islands?

The group's overall land area is 372 km<sup>2</sup> (144 sq mi) and it has 101.9 km (63 mi) of coastline. Discovered in the mid-19th century, the islands lie on the Kerguelen Plateau in the Indian Ocean and have been an Australian territory since 1947. Heard Island and McDonald Islands contain Australia's only two active volcanoes.

Is there a threat to Heard Island and the McDonald Islands?

Ongoing and accelerating climate change poses an increasing risk of fundamental alterations in biodiversity. Geological processes (primarily volcanism and glacial retreat) continue undisturbed. The overall assessment is that there is a low threat to the World Heritage values of Heard Island and the McDonald Islands if visitation remains low.

Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) are a sub-Antarctic island group. They are located in the Southern Ocean, about 4,000 km south west of mainland Australia. Penguins are by far the most abundant birds on the island.

The activity on the McDonald Islands group resulted in the island doubling in size and increasing in elevation by about 100 m (Australian Government 2016). Along with the French Kerguelen group of islands 440 km to

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the northwest, Heard and McDonald Islands form the only exposed parts of the submarine Kerguelen plume (Australian Government 2016).

The islands are a territory (Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands) of Australia administered from Hobart by the Australian Antarctic Division of the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

OverviewAdministration and economyHistoryGeographyWildlifeSee alsoFurther readingExternal linksThe United Kingdom formally established its claim to Heard Island in 1910, marked by the raising of the Union Flag and the erection of a beacon by Captain Evensen, master of the Mangoro. Effective government, administration and control of Heard Island and the McDonald Islands was transferred to the Australian government on 26 December 1947 at the commencement of the first

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The Proposal to expand Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve - Public consultation paper ("proclamation proposal") has been prepared to support public consultation on the proposed design of an expanded Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) Marine Reserve.

expand protection for the diverse and vulnerable benthic assemblages present on the shallow plateau, banks and upper slopes around Heard Island and McDonald Islands by including examples of all depth ranges and associated demersal fish ...

Island and McDonald Islands group show unique evolutionary adaptations to the environment, and several other invertebrate groups provide opportunities to study evolutionary processes in undisturbed populations at the southern limits

Heard Island and McDonald Islands are located in the Southern Ocean, approximately 1,700 km from the Antarctic continent and 4,100 km south-west of Perth. As the only volcanically active subantarctic islands they "open a window into the earth", thus providing the opportunity to observe ongoing geomorphic processes and glacial dynamics.

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