

Braille text consisting of several lines of raised dots, likely representing the title and volume information in Braille.

# Tactual Atlas of Australia

**VOLUME 2**  
People and Industry

**MAPS**



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# Preface

Many nations produce a national atlas. The maps and commentaries which make up these atlases provide an overview of a country's physical and human resources and as such give readers an appreciation of a nation's social, agricultural and industrial development.

This *Tactual Atlas of Australia* is Australia's tactual national atlas. It aims to provide the blind with an overview of Australia's physical and human resources, and is based on AUSLIG's *Atlas of Australian Resources*, Australia's national atlas. However, since touch conveys less information than sight, maps in the Atlas cannot be merely tactual copies of maps in the *Atlas of Australian Resources*. The wealth of data has had to be generalised, themes divided and commentaries condensed. Indeed, several new themes have been included. Just as a well prepared precis can, in some ways, be more easily understood than the work it summarises, the Tactual Atlas retains the scope and wealth of the information contained in the *Atlas of Australian Resources*. The Tactual Atlas is aimed primarily at secondary and tertiary level students.

The increasing availability of tactual mapping brings with it a need for training in map reading and use. Consequently *A Map User Guide to Reading Tactual and Low Vision Maps* has been published as a companion volume to the Tactual Atlas. This Guide is intended to assist in the understanding of maps and the development of skills considered essential to efficient map reading. It also describes cartographic concepts and practices and includes illustrations which provide an opportunity for practical exercises in map reading.

The *Tactual Atlas of Australia* is published in two volumes.

Volume 1, *General Reference and Physical Environment*, introduces the braille reader to the shape of Australia and its States, the location of major geographic features and the position of Australia in relation to its neighbours and the rest of the world. Then follow maps of each of Australia's capital cities and a major section dealing with the physical characteristics of the country: its climate, landforms, soils, vegetation, etc. A comprehensive gazetteer of names occurring on the maps completes the volume.

Volume 2, *People and Industry*, provides an overview of the distribution and characteristics of Australia's population and its agricultural, mining and manufacturing industries. It also includes maps of the European exploration of Australia, contemporary communications and transport. Comparisons of maps in Volume 2 with those in Volume 1 will help to show how the spread of population and the development of industry has been affected by the physical environment.

Both volumes have been divided into two separate books - one for maps and the other for the braille commentaries.

Printing techniques used for reproducing tactual maps are necessarily different from those normally used for making braille text. Tactual maps made by these techniques feel quite different from braille made by embossing or thermoforming methods. These images are not necessarily less effective for reading, but some familiarisation with the texture of the printed image may be necessary to improve tactual recognition skills.

The five parts which make up the *Tactual Atlas of Australia* provide a major national reference work designed to enhance blind readers' knowledge and understanding of Australia.

# Acknowledgements

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