2027 AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS FOR TASMANIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE CAROLINE WELLS AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BELLERIVE, FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2026

Good evening, everyone. I am honoured to be here this evening as we celebrate a group of remarkable Tasmanians and announce our Australians of the Year for 2027.

I too acknowledge the Palawa people as the First Peoples of lutruwita/Tasmania and the Traditional Custodians of this land, recognising their enduring care for its landscapes, waterways and communities.

Tonight we recognise 16 truly **outstanding** people from right across our State who have made a valuable and lasting impact on their communities and on the **lives** of their fellow Tasmanians.

Their challenges and triumphs, often extending beyond their professional achievements, tell the story of lives dedicated to service, excellence and helping others. While they are being recognised this year, their nomination honours a lifetime of achievement and contribution, as well as their ongoing commitment to making a difference.

Our Tasmanian nominees for 2027 have made an extraordinary contribution across a wide range of fields, including health, science, education, wildlife conservation, community service and the arts.

They have worked to increase awareness of health conditions, raise funds for medical research, prevent violence, tackle homelessness and encourage kindness. They have dedicated themselves to volunteering across our community, helping others develop their creativity and fostering social inclusion.

All of those put forward, whether for Australian of the Year, Senior Australian of the Year, Young Australian of the Year or Local Hero, have identified a need and taken action to address it.

What is more, they have all been recognised by their fellow Tasmanians, who have nominated them in acknowledgement of their efforts. May I thank everyone who took the time to honour those who inspire them and who work to make our State, and indeed our nation, a better place.

As Governor, I often talk about leading with kindness, compassion and purpose. People may ask, what does that look like in practice?

Well, it's making the effort to listen to others, to advocate for their needs and to inspire those around you to make a difference. It's about treating people with respect and dignity and working to build a more caring and inclusive society. It is reflected when we celebrate the achievements of others and uplift those around us to succeed.

I think it is clear that all our nominees today demonstrate kindness, compassion and purpose in action. They embody the very best of Tasmania: generosity of spirit, a commitment to service, and a determination to improve the lives of others.

On behalf of all Tasmanians, congratulations to each of you on this well-deserved recognition and thank you for all you do for your communities and for our State.

Thank you.