



**COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES (CCAMLR)
OPENING OF THE 45TH MEETING
ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE CAROLINE WELLS
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
HOBART, MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 2026**

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Commissioners, members of the Scientific Committee, colleagues, observers and friends.

On behalf of the State of Tasmania, I am delighted to welcome you to Hobart (Nipaluna) for the forty-fifth meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Palawa people as the First Peoples of lutruwita/Tasmania and the Traditional Custodians of the land we're gathered on today.

For countless generations, they have cared for this island, its landscapes, its waterways and its communities, and I'm grateful to be able to live here.

I pay my respects to Elders past and present, and to any Aboriginal people with us today. Your continuing contribution to the cultural, social and spiritual life of our State is deeply valued.

Growing up in Tasmania, I was aware from my earliest years of the distinctive role this State and city play in Antarctic affairs. Since assuming my office as Tasmania's thirtieth Governor in June however, I have been particularly struck

by the extraordinary depth of expertise and activity concentrated here in Hobart, as a global Antarctic Gateway City.

And, equally, by how enriched our community is in turn by the diversity of scientists, policymakers, businesspeople, academics and others from all around the world who have made Tasmania home due to this unique and special role.

I am also proud that the Headquarters of CCAMLR was established here in Hobart, as this is a critical international treaty that both Australia and Tasmania value highly.

Since CCAMLR was established, the Commission and its subsidiary bodies have made remarkable progress in the pursuit of the objective of Antarctic marine conservation.

From continuous improvements in precautionary ecosystem management, to dramatic species recoveries, reductions in incidental mortality, and the commitment to a framework to develop a representative system of Marine Protected Areas, the Commission has built a substantial record of achievement over the past four and a half decades for which it is justifiably renowned.

I would like to also recognise the outstanding individual contributions that have made CCAMLR such a success, noting particularly that some of you have devoted your life's work to the faithful implementation of the Convention.

I really appreciate that the awards that recognise those that have attended these meetings for a long time are named after local wildlife. The Wombat Award for attending CCAMLR meetings across 30 years, and the inaugural Echidna Award for those that have attended CCAMLR meetings across 15 years, reflect the close connection between Antarctica and Tasmania, and their natural environments.

As you meet here over the next two weeks, the Commission does so at a particularly consequential point in its history. Climate change, the protection of vulnerable species and the continuing evolution of fisheries management sit alongside significant proposals for marine protection and conservation. At the same time, the Commission and its work are attracting increasing international scrutiny.

There have been calls for CCAMLR to address the concentration of krill fishing effort, extending in some quarters to calls for moratoria, and ongoing calls for further areas dedicated to marine conservation.

These concerns underscore the significance of the matters before you. The decisions taken here will resonate well beyond these two weeks in Hobart.

The matters before you will demand careful consideration, scientific rigour and the mutual international cooperation upon which CCAMLR was founded.

I wish you well in that important work, and trust that your deliberations over the coming fortnight will reflect the seriousness of the responsibilities entrusted to this Commission.

It is a privilege for Tasmania to welcome you once again to Hobart.

Thank you.