TASMANIA FIRE SERVICE – SOUTHERN REGION
PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL MEDALS
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE CAROLINE WELLS AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
HOBART, SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2026

It is a great pleasure to join you today to recognise and celebrate the outstanding service and dedication of members of the Tasmania Fire Service.

Thank you, Scott, for your Acknowledgment of Country. I'd like to also 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.

The presentation of the National Medal and Long Service Awards provides an important opportunity to acknowledge those who have devoted many years to protecting and supporting the Tasmanian community.

First instituted in 1975 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as one of the first three elements of the newly established Australian honours system, the National Medal recognises long and diligent service by members of eligible government and voluntary organisations who place themselves at risk in the protection of others, whether responding to emergencies, natural disasters or upholding the law. The Medal is awarded following 15 years of qualifying service, with additional clasps recognising each further 10 years of service.

Similarly, the State-based Tasmanian Fire Service Long Service Medal recognises career firefighters, volunteers and employees who have completed 10 years of dedicated service, with additional clasps awarded at 10-year intervals.

The fact is however that these medals and clasps represent far more than the passage of time. They reflect years, and in many cases decades, of commitment, professionalism, courage and a willingness to serve others, often in difficult and dangerous circumstances.

Every single member of the Tasmania Fire Service, whether serving on the frontline, providing operational support or working behind the scenes, plays an essential role in helping keep Tasmanians safe.

Across our State, firefighters are called upon during some of the most challenging moments in people's lives. Whether responding to fires, natural disasters, road accidents or other emergencies, their presence brings reassurance, assistance and hope when it is needed most.

Tasmania's volunteer firefighters hold a particularly special place in the communities they serve. They give generously of their time, often balancing their service with work, family and other responsibilities. They stand ready to respond at all hours, frequently placing the needs of others ahead of their own.

As Governor, one of the great privileges of my role is the opportunity to recognise and celebrate Tasmanians who make an enduring contribution to our State. Today's recipients are wonderful examples of that commitment to community.

I would also like to acknowledge the families and loved ones of those receiving awards today. Behind every recipient are people who have shared in the demands of service, including unexpected callouts, missed family occasions and long hours away from home.

Today, we honour not only the years represented by these medals and clasps, but also the countless acts of service, personal sacrifices and moments of courage that lie behind them. To all those receiving awards, please accept my warmest congratulations and sincere gratitude.

Your service is deeply valued, your contribution is greatly appreciated, and your commitment to the people of Tasmania is an inspiration to us all.

Thank you, and congratulations.