

**COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES
41ST ANNUAL MEETING, HOBART,
24 OCTOBER TO 4 NOVEMBER 2022
OPENING ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC,
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
CCAMLR HEADQUARTERS, MONDAY 24 OCTOBER 2022**

Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, good morning and welcome to the 41st annual meeting of the Commission.

Dr Granit, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you again to Hobart. These are very different circumstances to those from last year when due to the COVID pandemic I had to cancel my in-person address, instead addressing you online, and I am very pleased to see you here for a second time.

I must say it is wonderful to see everyone here in person. International travel is still not easy, and it is an honour that so many of you have made the effort to come here in person. I understand that in addition to those of you in this room, many more are joining remotely as audience, and I welcome you all both in person and virtually to Hobart. The pandemic has not been a good experience for us all, with much sadness caused around the world, but it is obvious that necessity has stimulated new ideas about how to make meetings such as this most effective and inclusive.

Tasmania is immensely proud of the fact that this highly respected international organisation, with its 40 years of achievement, is headquartered in Hobart. We highly value the continuing relationship that we at Government House have with the Commission and with your Secretariat. I am honoured to be able to open your meeting and can report that this has been an almost unbroken tradition since 1984 when one of my predecessors, Sir James Plimsoll, opened your third meeting.

Since this is the first in-person meeting since 2019, I am sure that you have much to discuss, and I am aware that despite the pandemic you have made significant progress in your work over the last two years.

I am encouraged that the working groups of the Scientific Committee have continued to make progress during their intersessional meetings on the new krill management plan. Effective management of this fishery, delivered over the last 40 years by CCAMLR, is of course of great importance to the Antarctic ecosystem as well as to the world, more so than ever given the strong and increasing interest in krill harvesting.

I note that data and research now being reviewed by the Scientific Committee to assist with krill management decisions includes information on the changes that are happening to Antarctic marine ecosystem. This includes the welcome recovery of previously depleted populations of fin and humpback whales. Of course, there are also broader changes arising from climate change that are impacting all ecosystems across the globe, including the Antarctic. This was starkly brought into focus by the record temperatures, droughts and bushfires seen across the northern hemisphere this summer. I am pleased that you regularly include consideration of climate change in your work, and I note that you have set aside specific time later today to hear from the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research on this very topic.

Finally, I was interested to see that at your last meeting you agreed to consider holding a special meeting on Marine Protected Areas, which would be only the third special meeting that you have had as a Commission. I can assure you that if you choose to have a meeting on this subject here in Hobart you will again find a very warm welcome from us.

Distinguished Delegates, I will bring my brief address to a close by wishing you well in your endeavours over the next two weeks. The international community, and all of us who care deeply about the future of our oceans and of Antarctica owe you a debt of gratitude for continuing to work hard to develop innovative and effective solutions to the problems that confront us.

So, without further ado, I will hand you back to your Chair to start your deliberations.

Thank you for your attention.