

**FUJIAN PROVINCE VICE-GOVERNOR DELEGATION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 28 AUGUST 2023**

Good morning and a very warm welcome to you all.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea and waters.

As Governor of Tasmania, I am delighted and honoured to welcome to Hobart Mr Chang Bin, Vice-Governor of Fujian Province. May I also warmly welcome your Provincial Government colleagues:

- Mr Lin Changyuan
- Mr Ye Shen
- Mr Luo Cibing
- Mr Chen Shijie
- and Ms Wu Aihong

Vice-Governor, you are making an educational and cultural visit to Hobart. We are very pleased to be joined today by our Minister for Education, Children and Youth, the Honourable Roger Jaensch MP, and senior representatives of a number of Tasmanian government departments, including:

- Premier and Cabinet
- Foreign Affairs and Trade Tasmania State Office
- State Growth
- Education, Children and Young People

You enjoyed a meeting earlier today with our Premier, the Honourable Jeremy Rockliff MP. I am sure that this meeting was fruitful and friendly.

May I acknowledge your courtesy visit to Mrs Honey Bacon. Her late husband, Jim Bacon, was a former Tasmanian Premier. He visited Fujian and met with your President His Excellency the Honourable Xi Jinping, formerly Governor of Fujian Province.

That meeting was historic and memorable. It furthered the formal relationship established in March 1981 in Hobart, between our State of Tasmania in our Commonwealth of Australia, and the Province of Fujian in the People's Republic of China.

The Tasmanian and Fujian relationship has prospered and ensured cultural, political, and economic engagement and many exchanges between our two States.

May we recall with much friendship the activities and exchanges marking the 40th Anniversary of our relationship, from March 2021 to March 2022. The State Reception held here at Government House, on the evening of 15th December, was memorable. We were honoured to host that event, here in the Ball Room. We acknowledge the formal speeches by:

- His Excellency Mr Zhao Long, then Acting Governor of Fujian;
- Mr Long Zhou, Consul General in Melbourne of the People's Republic of China;
- and the video livestream by Mr Lin Songtian, Chairman of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship to Foreign Countries.

These formalities were followed by a wonderful social gathering in a marquee on the South Terrace. Music was presented as a joint virtual concert by the Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra and our Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

This afternoon, I am sure you will enjoy and appreciate your two visits, to Hobart College, Sister City School of Fuzhou Number 8 Middle School; and then to our University of Tasmania.

We are all delighted that you are making this visit. Your visit strengthens our now long-term sister state relationship. Our relationship is as important as ever, not only for Tasmania and Fujian, but also more broadly for Australia and China.

Now let us enjoy a light lunch.

Thank you very much.

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