

GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENT SCHOLARSHIPS 2023
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 2 AUGUST 2023

Good morning and a very warm welcome to this Governor's Environment Scholarships presentation ceremony for 2023.

I pay 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.

The Governor's Environment Scholarships were first awarded in 2000 to encourage graduates to pursue studies in environmental management. They were the outcome of a collaboration between industry, the State Government¹ and the University of Tasmania.

Although these scholarships bear the Governor's title, as Governor, I have no role in selecting the scholarship recipients, each year. However, the association with the Office of the Governor is valued. Our State, our University and our commercial sector are united in concerns about the care of our environment.

As you will hear shortly, our two successful recipients' projects are highly specific to our Tasmanian environment. Both have an emphasis on the present and future health of our island. That is why these scholarships will always be of significance to our State.

One of the projects this year addresses an issue of growing current concern; the other looks at ways of addressing future issues.

The value of academic study into environmental issues is more important than ever. The cascading effect of scientifically proven negative climate effects right

¹ YE – there is no actual State Government support; Hydro as a GBE is what is meant by it. (There used to be some actual input by Government departments, but no longer.)

across our planet – from Antarctic Sea Ice melt to threatened and endangered species – is deeply troubling.

The northern summer's global record-breaking and extended heatwaves have challenged the climate change sceptics. One commentator noted that you really should believe in climate change – providing you can read a thermometer.

Today's postgraduate recipients, Luke Saunders and Erin Woodward, went through a competitive process assessed on: academic merit; capacity to deliver project outcomes; practical applications; and the environmental worth of the project. Congratulations to you both.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the Governor's Environment Scholarship sponsors: Hydro Tasmania; Liberty Bell Bay; Norske Skog; Nyrstar; and Rio Tinto Aluminium.

On that note, thank you. David ...

[invites Terry Bailey, UTAS Executive Dean College of Science and Engineering to read out the citations]