

**COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF  
ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES (CCAMLR)  
42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING, HOBART, 16 TO 27 OCTOBER 2023  
OPENING ADDRESS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC,  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
CCAMLR HEADQUARTERS, HOBART, MONDAY 16 OCTOBER 2023**

Mr Chair, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, good morning and welcome to the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Commission.

Mr Tsymbaliuk, I would like to extend to you a very warm welcome to Hobart, and I congratulate you on your appointment as Chair of the Commission. I understand that you attended last year's meeting, and that this has already been a busy year for you, as you chaired the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Meeting of the Commission in June, in Santiago, Chile. We are very honoured that you are here.

It really is a pleasure for me to be able to address the Commission, and to have been able to open your annual meetings over the last three years. Looking back, even over such a short period of time, the issues affecting the Antarctic and its surrounding waters have continued to evolve, and I have no doubt that they will be the subject of your work over the next two weeks.

Uppermost in many people's minds now is climate change. Scientific evidence for the impacts of climate change has been clear for some time. But it is becoming increasingly apparent to everyone, even in the absence of detailed scientific measurement, that major changes are occurring at a global scale.

To name but a few of the events this year – the northern hemisphere summer wildfires in Canada, Greece and elsewhere; the record low summer and winter extent of Antarctic sea-ice; reports of abnormally warm ocean temperatures; and the recently reported mass mortality of emperor penguin chicks, caused by the breakup of usually stable sea-ice in the Bellingshausen Sea.

The elevation of the issue of climate change in your agenda is therefore very timely. The focus given to this topic by the adoption of a new climate change

resolution last year, and the convening of the Workshop on Climate Change last month, will, I am sure, be important for your continuing discussions.

Of course, I am aware that your agenda contains many issues of very high importance to delivering on the objective of the Convention. I have noted your discussion last year, of the need to develop a holistic approach to krill management in the Antarctic peninsula region. There is continued international interest in the krill fishery and its possible interaction with krill predators, as well as uncertainty about how climate change might affect the distribution of krill and the ecosystems of which it is a part.

The other interlinked topic that has garnered attention from the wider public is the issue of marine protected areas and their place in the Antarctic. The initiative that the Commission took to hold a special meeting on this issue in June this year, in Santiago, Chile, sent a clear signal to the world of the importance that the CCAMLR attaches to this work.

The task that you have set yourselves, the conservation including rational use of Antarctic marine living resources, is a daunting one with many complexities, set against a dynamic and changing environment. Nevertheless, your track record over the last 42 years has shown that you have an enviable ability to solve complex problems together.

Distinguished Delegates, I will bring my brief address to a close by wishing you well in your endeavours over the next two weeks. The fact that CCAMLR is headquartered in Hobart, one of the five Antarctic Gateway Cities, is a source of huge pride to Tasmania. Your annual visits, and the connection with Antarctic professionals throughout the year, enrich our community. We thank you for your contribution to Antarctica and to the vibrant life of Hobart and wish you an enjoyable stay here.

The relationship between the Commission and Government House, dating back to the 1980s, is one of personal pride to all of us who work there, and it is my great pleasure to be able to continue that tradition by opening this 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

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