

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE VISIT OF A TRADE DELEGATION LED BY THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, USA, TO TASMANIA
REMARKS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE ALAN BLOW AO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2023**

Good evening, everyone. Welcome to this reception to mark the visit of a Trade Delegation led by the Governor of the State of Washington, the Honorable Jay Inslee.

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.

It really is a great pleasure for my wife, Margaret, and me to welcome you all to Tasmania for your visit, and to have with us representatives of Government, Industry and Community groups.

Australia has had a long and productive relationship with the United States, one forged in battle and one that now transcends politics to extend to bilateral Defence agreements. This visit will cement significant trade ties between our two States.

I understand that you have already had a very busy day of meetings with representatives of our State Government regarding trade and Antarctica. You may be aware that Hobart is one of five Antarctic gateway cities, and that we are very proud to have had a long association with Antarctic exploration and scientific endeavour.

The Australian Antarctic Division, which leads Australia's scientific research program, is headquartered about 20 minutes south of Hobart in Kingston. Hobart also hosts the secretariat of "CCAMLR" — the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. That international body holds annual meetings in Hobart, the most recent having concluded on the 27th of October.

The Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, part of the University of Tasmania, is another important part of the gateway, conducting research in collaboration with the AAD and other bodies.

As most of you will not have visited our Government House previously, I thought that I would provide some history. Originally a Government House made of wood was built in the centre of Hobart, in what is now Franklin Square. That house proved somewhat rickety, and it was decided that a more substantial building would be constructed on the current location. The main neo-gothic structure was completed on the current site over the period 1853 – 1858, when the then Governor Sir Henry Fox Young and his family took up residence. The house was not completed then, however, and final finishings took another two years.

Stone for the building was quarried on site. You may have noticed the Quarry Pond on your left as you came down the main driveway. This ball room is an example of the workmanship of the time.

The mirrors behind me, at the time they were installed, were the largest in the southern hemisphere, and the floor remains the largest huon pine floor in the world. Our Honorary Aides-de-Camp will open our other State Rooms at the end of the formalities, and I encourage you to look around. You are welcome to take photographs.

The aim of this reception is to provide an opportunity for you all to mingle, so I will conclude by wishing you all the best for tomorrow with your visits to the Premier, and to Incat, and, Governor Inslee, for your coming address to the World Wind Energy Conference.

David ...

[HE and MB move from stage to the Ball Room floor; Governor Inslee to the stage to respond.]