

**TASMANIAN LEADERS INC**  
**I-LEAD WOMEN IN INDUSTRY PROGRAM 2023**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2023**

**[Vice-Regal Salute is played]**

Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome you all here this evening.

I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather, who flourished on Country as part of the South-East Nation of Aboriginal people. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and waters.

We are here tonight to recognise and congratulate the graduates of the I-LEAD Women in Industry program. This is a critical initiative aimed at addressing the under-representation of women in leadership roles across key sectors of industry in our State. Completion of this program is a recognition of the significant efforts that you have undertaken over the past weeks.

The nine-week program reflects a commitment to fostering leadership and diversity in areas such as construction, mining, forestry, fisheries, STEM, and trades to name a few, where the gender gap in leadership roles is particularly pronounced.

Through your program, you have considered the qualities of leadership, not just to gain knowledge, but to reflect on your own preferred leadership style. By understanding leadership, you have gained useful insights that will shape your future endeavours.

This program has emphasised leadership skills to better enable you to navigate challenges and better shape our future.

Completion of this program signifies more than acquiring skills. You can now set personal and professional goals to steer your future leadership opportunities. The personal links that you have built and the knowledge that you have acquired are important. You can apply what you have learned and contribute to your organisations.

I would like to acknowledge the Tasmanian Government and Keystone for their scholarships and support, which acknowledge the importance of this program to shape a more inclusive and diverse professional workforce.

In conclusion, may I congratulate each one of you on the completion of the I-LEAD Women in Industry program. I wish you all the very best in your careers.

Thank you and please do enjoy the reception.