

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY  
OFFICIAL RECEPTION ONBOARD HMAS *HOBART* TO MARK  
FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE CITY OF HOBART  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
HMAS *HOBART*, FRIDAY 8 MARCH 2024**

Good evening, everyone. It is my great pleasure to join you all for this reception onboard HMAS *Hobart*, our magnificent Guided Missile Destroyer.

I begin by acknowledging all serving members and veterans present and include in that number those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have served in our Defence Force in times of peace and war.

May I warmly welcome the Commanding Officer of HMAS *Hobart*, Commander Tina Brown, and all her crew and members of our Tasmanian community for this official reception to mark the right to Freedom of Entry to the City of Hobart to be exercised by HMAS *Hobart*.

Freedom of Entry is a significant grant from a City to a military unit, squadron, or, in this case, a ship. It dates back to a time when cities were walled to protect against hostile enemy forces. In those times, the citizens could refuse entry to armed groups for fear that they would be attacked. Freedom of City allowed forces to replenish supplies and rest in the protected area. This was extended to Naval vessels and units recognised by seaport cities.

So, Commander Brown and your crew, I wish you all our very best for the Freedom of Entry parade tomorrow. May I hope that you enjoy your visit in our wonderful city and port that shares its name with your warship. I am sure that you will continue the tradition of marching proudly, armed with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, colours flying, drums beating and band playing.