

**TT-LINE COMPANY PTY LTD
OFFICIAL NAMING AND LAUNCH CEREMONY
FOR THE SHIP, *SPIRIT OF TASMANIA V*,
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC,
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
RAUMA MARINE CONSTRUCTIONS YARD, FINLAND,
FRIDAY 19 JULY 2024**

Distinguished guests and honoured crew members, thank you, Mike and Johanna, for such a warm welcome.

I am delighted and honoured, on behalf of my State of Tasmania, to be here today at Rauma Marine Constructions in Finland for this official naming and historic launch ceremony of *Spirit of Tasmania V*.

I was honoured to be asked earlier this year by Bernard Dwyer, CEO of the TT-Line, to be 'Godmother' and to perform this ceremony for this new and latest, *Spirit of Tasmania* vessel.

This naming and launch ceremony marks another significant highlight for our State of Tasmania in the ship delivery projects of Finland ship builders.

This *Spirit of Tasmania V*, and her sister ship, the *Spirit of Tasmania IV*, are the first vessels to be specially purpose-built for our Bass Strait crossing from mainland Australia to our State of Tasmania. These two *Spirit of Tasmania* vessels will each play substantial and critical roles in the transportation of people, vehicles and cargo between our State of Tasmania and mainland Australia.

May I take this opportunity to report that we are delighted with the substantially increased size of both *Spirit of Tasmania* vessels, *IV* and *V*. As we stand here so close, we can appreciate *Spirit V's* sheer size. Both ships look very similar to our current operating *Spirit of Tasmania* ships. However, these new *Spirit IV* and *V* vessels are 212 metres long with beams of 31 metres. By comparison, our current ships are about 194 metres long with beams of 25 metres.

In Tasmania, we are very proud that a number of contracts have been awarded to our local Tasmanian businesses. These include Tasmanian contract partners for the provision of catering and hotel equipment, marine fires safety insulation material, marine blinds, arcade games, reclaimed Tasmanian timbers and even some local artwork.

There is no doubt that this new *Spirit V* will be a significant and welcome addition to our Bass Strait sea connection.

May I extend my thanks to Rauma Marine Constructions Chairman, Stig Gustavson, and CEO, Mika Nieminen, and their team for building this outstanding vessel. May I also thank Chairman of the TT-Line Board, Mike Grainger, CEO Bernard Dwyer, his management team, and the crew, as we launch this *Spirit of Tasmania V*.

Following tradition, many modern vessels have a Godmother who attends the ceremonial naming and launch, and cracks a bottle of wine across the ship's bow to bring good fortune.

The first recorded case of our present-day custom of breaking a bottle of wine began in the 18th century. On occasions, this has been known to go wrong. One instance of this was when a Princess of Hanover threw the bottle and missed the ship entirely. She even injured one of the spectators, who put in a claim for compensation against the Admiralty.¹ I am sure there will be no claims today.

In the case of this *Spirit of Tasmania V* vessel, the bottle to be cracked is an excellent Tasmanian sparkling wine from Janz vineyards. Fortunately for you all, you do not need to stand back to protect yourselves as it will be impossible for me to miss the ship. All I need to do is cut the ribbon to release the bottle!

It is now my great honour and pleasure on behalf of our State of Tasmania to officially name this vessel, built here in Finland: the *Spirit of Tasmania V*.

May God bless all who sail on her.

Thank you.

¹ <https://www.rmg.co.uk/stories/topics/ship-launching-ceremonies>, accessed 10 July 2024.