

**CLEAN AIR SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND (CASANZ)  
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 27<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CLEAN AIR  
AND ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
HOTEL GRAND CHANCELLOR, HOBART, MONDAY 26 AUGUST 2024**

Good morning and thank you for inviting me to be with you this morning to open your Conference.

I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, and waters.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this 27<sup>th</sup> International Clean Air and Environment Conference presented by the Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand (CASANZ), which is held in parallel with the International Water Association's (IWA) 10<sup>th</sup> Odours and Air Emissions Conference. I congratulate your conference Organising Committees for your wise and inspired choice of conference venue here in our beautiful Hobart.

This year's gathering is particularly special, as you bring together professionals, researchers, industry experts, and policymakers from around the world to explore the future of air quality and odour emissions management.

CASANZ, as many here know, has been at the forefront of promoting healthy air for all. Founded in 1960, your vision has always been to advance knowledge, foster scientific inquiry, and engage the community in ensuring access to clean air for all.

This year's theme, "Healthy Air for All? Responding to a Changing Environment", has attracted over 100 abstracts, a rich scientific program, and an exhibition hall, full of the latest innovations.

It is pleasing to hear that you are hosting your first carbon neutral CASANZ conference, emphasising your commitment to sustainability.

Your collaboration with the International Water Association's Odours and Air Emissions Conference will provide a unique opportunity to interact with distinguished speakers and thought leaders and share insights that can shape the future. This will provide many opportunities to connect, build partnerships, exchange ideas and explore future collaborations.

May I take a few moments to mention, entirely without bias, some aspects of our island location of Tasmania. We have stunning natural landscapes. We have a pristine environment that is home to some of the cleanest air in the world. Cape Grim on the north-west tip of our island is famous not only for its outstanding beef, but also for its pristine air. The Cape Grim Baseline Air Pollution Station plays a critical role in monitoring global air quality. The Station measures greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting substances in some of the purest air on our planet. This Station provides data that informs global climate science.

When Brand Tasmania recently conducted interviews, they asked, 'Imagine Tasmania 50 years from now ...' Air quality was a recurring theme in the responses. Tasmanians want to ensure and value clean air for their future.

One mother interviewed expressed the importance of clean air for her children and her grandchildren. We understand that our clean air advantage is precious and must be protected for future generations.

An interesting link from our natural resources to another well-known product, was given by one respondent, quote, "You can't beat Tasmanian beer, thanks to the clean air and water. Best beer in the world ..."

Despite our reputation for clean air, Tasmania represents a microcosm of the broader challenges of air quality management. Our island still has air quality issues. Smoke from planned burns, some industry, and household wood heaters can periodically degrade air quality. So, having some of the world's cleanest air

alongside episodic pollution, highlights the complexities you must navigate in your work.

As we have interstate and international delegates, may I give you a brief sketch about our island. Our population density is low, with about 550, 000 people living in an area the size of Sri Lanka, that has a population of around 22 million.

In Hobart, we have a bustling waterfront, and we are the centre of Antarctic activity of science and research. Our surrounding wilderness has accessibility to stunning walks. In fact, around half our State is set aside for national parks and reserves. Our Wilderness World Heritage Areas cover almost 20 per cent of our island.<sup>1</sup>

Our island is the last remnant of the ancient continent of Gondwanaland, with a legacy of complex geology. We have our planet's largest exposure of dolerite, a stunning example being the Organ Pipes rocks on the face of our kunanyi/Mt Wellington.

May I conclude and wish you all the very best for your discussions over the next few days, as you contribute to our shared goal of healthy air for all.

I wish you a productive and enjoyable conference. I also hope you have some time to enjoy our Tasmanian clean air, exceptional food and wine, and friendly community.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://parks.tas.gov.au/about-us/managing-our-parks-and-reserves/reserve-listing> accessed 22 Mar 23