

**COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF  
ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES (CCAMLR)  
43<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING, HOBART, 14 TO 25 OCTOBER 2024  
OPENING ADDRESS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
CCAMLR HEADQUARTERS, HOBART, MONDAY 14 OCTOBER 2024**

Mr Chair, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Good morning and welcome to the 43rd annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources here in Hobart. It is an honour to open this important conference once again. I extend a very warm welcome to Mr Tsymbaliuk in his second year as Chair of the Commission. We are delighted to have you with us as you continue your Commission's leadership during this pivotal period.

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, sky and waters.

It is a great pleasure for me to be able to address the Commission. The City of Hobart, as many of you know, is proud to be Australia's Antarctic Gateway. This unique status is something we deeply cherish. It reflects the central role that Tasmania plays in supporting Antarctic research, exploration, and conservation efforts. Our City's longstanding connection with Antarctica is more than just geographical — it is woven into the fabric of Hobart's identity.

Hobart is also proud to serve as the headquarters of CCAMLR. We are always inspired by the breadth and depth of the work conducted here. We value the deep and enduring relationship between the Commission and our City. The presence of Antarctic professionals year-round enriches our local community.

Through the collaborative efforts of the Tasmanian Polar Network, which includes research institutions, logistical operators, and government bodies, Hobart continues to strengthen its reputation as a hub for Antarctic and

Southern Ocean science and conservation. Recent developments such as the expansion of our airport, the ongoing Mac Point development, and the Antarctic Women's Network initiative are testaments to our commitment to bolster Tasmania's capabilities as a leading supporter of Antarctic efforts.

And, of course, we continue to value and support the key research conducted by our Institute for Marine and Antarctic Science, as part of our University of Tasmania, and by our Australian Antarctic Division.

Over the coming weeks, I know that your discussions will once again tackle the complexities of preserving Antarctic marine life in a rapidly changing world. We cannot ignore the profound impacts that climate change is having on Antarctica. In recent months, we have witnessed changing temperatures across the globe. Antarctica has not been immune to this trend. The Antarctic heatwave earlier this year saw temperatures soar to 50 degrees above normal, serving as a stark reminder of the urgent need for action. These events all reinforce the importance of your work here, as the marine ecosystems you strive to protect face ever-greater challenges.

One of the key developments this year has been the progress made in the Krill Fishery Management Approach. The discussions at the various intersessional working groups, along with the Harmonisation Symposium held in the Republic of Korea, represent critical steps towards creating a more unified and effective krill management system. The work to harmonise the proposed Marine Protected Area in the Antarctic Peninsula with a precautionary and ecosystem-based approach to krill fishery management, underscores the Commission's commitment to both conservation and rational use.

The fact that member nations work collaboratively to implement such significant initiatives indicates both your commitment to science-based inquiry leading to tangible outcomes, and also the esteem with which the Commission is held, on the international stage.

As you embark on your deliberations over the next two weeks, I wish you all every success in those deliberations. The challenges are immense. However, the history of this Commission shows that through cooperation, dedication, and innovation, great things can be achieved.

Thank you once again for choosing Hobart as the host for this significant event. I hope your time here is productive. I also hope that you have the chance to enjoy our beautiful city.

I shall conclude with my very best wishes for your deliberations during the meeting. I look forward to hearing about your progress on the many topics you have for consideration.

It is now my pleasure to hand back to your Chair to begin this 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Commission.

Thank you.