

**OPENING OF THE 44TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE
LIVING RESOURCES (CCAMLR)
ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
CCAMLR SECRETARIAT HEADQUARTERS, HOBART
MONDAY 20 OCTOBER 2025**

Distinguished Commissioners, members of the Scientific Committee, esteemed observers, colleagues, and friends,

It is both a privilege and a pleasure to welcome each and all of you to Hobart for this 44th Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. On behalf of the people of Tasmania and our wider Australian community, I extend our warmest greetings as you gather once more in Hobart, renowned as Australia's Antarctic gateway.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose land 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.

For more than forty years, CCAMLR has embodied the principles of the Antarctic Treaty System: peace, science, and international cooperation. Together, you have demonstrated how shared stewardship of one of our planet's last great wildernesses can be achieved through careful science-based management and principled diplomacy. The record high catches in the krill fishery this year have brought global attention to the need for continued vigilance in ensuring sustainable use of Antarctic resources. The eyes of the world remain on CCAMLR. The Commission's commitment to precautionary, ecosystem-based management has never been more important.

There are important transitions to note this year. I would like to extend thanks to Mr Tsymbaliuk of Ukraine for his leadership as Chair and to offer our warm

congratulations to Mr Robbie Bulloch of the United Kingdom on assuming that role. We also look ahead to the election of a new Executive Secretary during this meeting, who will assume the role at the close of the current Secretary, David Agnew's distinguished eight-year term. Leadership renewal, coupled with institutional continuity, will be vital as you guide CCAMLR into its fifth decade.

Here in Hobart, the Commission's presence is interwoven with Tasmania's identity as a global Antarctic hub. The Australian Antarctic Division, the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation's Marine Laboratories, and the CCAMLR Secretariat itself, all contribute to making this City a centre of excellence in Antarctic science and governance.

Earlier this year, in August, we also welcomed the Emerging Leaders of the Australian American Leadership Dialogue, who met here to consider the future of Antarctic affairs. While in Hobart, the emerging leaders were involved in a series of focus sessions on Antarctica hosted at Anglesea Barracks, just up the road. We also hosted them for a reception at Government House. All these things act as a reminder that Hobart is not just a host, but a place where international dialogue and innovation flourish.

I also wish to honour the memory and contribution of Sir Guy Green, a distinguished former Governor of Tasmania, who passed away in July. Sir Guy maintained a deep and knowledgeable interest in Antarctic affairs and was a long-time supporter of CCAMLR's mission. His legacy of engagement underscored the deep bond between the Office of the Governor, this State and the work of this Commission.

As you commence your deliberations, you will be inspired by the Antarctic Treaty System itself: a framework that has kept an entire continent dedicated to science and peace for over six decades. The decisions you make here about conservation, sustainable fisheries, and ecosystem health have an impact that resonates far beyond the Southern Ocean. Your decisions affirm that nations can come together, guided by science, to safeguard a shared heritage for all humanity.

May your discussions be ambitious, productive, and collaborative in their vision. Welcome once again to Hobart. I wish you every success in your important work ahead.

Thank you, and I now have the pleasure to hand over to the Chair, Mr Bulloch.