

**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
TASMANIA BRANCH – ANNUAL LECTURE 2025
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2025**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Good evening and a very warm welcome to you all to Government House for this 2025 Lecture of the Australian Institute of International Affairs Tasmania Branch.

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.

The Australian Institute of International Affairs, as many will know, was founded in 1933 with a mission to help Australians better understand and engage more in international affairs. The Institute has a nationwide and international agenda, founded on the dual principles of political neutrality and open debate.¹ It is recognised as Australia's longest established private research institute in politics and international relations.

This is the eleventh lecture in the Institute's series to be held at Government House. It is an honour to continue our tradition of Governor's patronage of the Institute in Tasmania, dating back to the late 1980s and then Governor Sir James Plimsoll.

I am delighted to warmly welcome Professor Gordon Flake to Government House, Tasmania, to deliver the address for this year. Professor Flake is one of the world's leading authorities on strategic developments in the Indo-Pacific and US foreign policy in the region. We are all looking forward to hearing from him.

¹ <https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/about-us/about-the-aiia/> accessed 22 Oct 24

Official Secretary ...

[David invites Prof Marcus Hayward, AIIA Tasmania Branch President, to introduce the Lecturer.]