

**OPENING OF THE NEW ROYAL THAI CONSULATE IN TASMANIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
KINGBOROUGH COMMUNITY HUB, KINGSTON
MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2025**

Good afternoon, everyone. I am pleased to be with you today as we mark the opening of the new Consulate of the Kingdom of Thailand in Tasmania.

I thank Lucian [MC] for his Acknowledgement of Country and also pay my respects to the Muwinina people and to today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community.

This new Consulate is a symbol of the continuing friendship between the Kingdom of Thailand and Australia, a relationship that has grown over more than 70 years.¹

In recent years, we have welcomed many distinguished visitors from Thailand, including Her Excellency Ambassador Arjaree Sriratanaban. We are delighted to have Her Excellency with us again today.

Your Excellency, it was a pleasure to host you at Government House following your appointment in 2023, and to share in the celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two nations.

I also recall the visit of the Thai Buddhist monastic delegation last year, when we celebrated the opening of the Wat Sanggharangsee Temple in Hobart.

Today, we also extend our congratulations on this opening to the Honorary Consul for Thailand in Tasmania, Mrs Wimalin Beattie. As Honorary Consul, you play an essential role in supporting Thai nationals, fostering trade and cultural exchange, and strengthening ties between Thailand and our State.

¹ <https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/thailand/thailand-country-brief> accessed 22 Oct 25

This opening also reflects the contribution of the Thai community in Tasmania, which continues to add to our cultural and social life.

According to the latest census², more than 860 Tasmanians were born in Thailand, and the Thai Association of Tasmania (TATAS) plays an important role in supporting community members and promoting Thai culture, language and heritage.³ Through events, festivals, and cultural exchanges, the Thai community has fostered goodwill and harmony between Thai-Australians and our Tasmanian community.

The establishment of the Royal Thai Honorary Consulate here will provide practical assistance to Thai citizens, strengthen our friendship and encourage Tasmanian engagement with Thailand.

I congratulate all involved in making this day possible. May this new Consulate be a lasting symbol of the friendship between the Kingdom of Thailand, the Commonwealth of Australia, and the State of Tasmania.

Thank you.

² https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/5104_6 accessed 10 Oct 25

³ <https://thaiassociationtas.org/about-tatas/> accessed 10 Oct 25