

**TASMANIAN CANOE CLUB  
SEA KAYAK PLATFORM LAUNCH  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
DON HEADS, SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2025**

Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for having me here at Don Heads today. It is a pleasure to visiting this area again, after many visits this year.

May I begin by acknowledging the Palawa 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.

Those who know this coastline will appreciate how special this location is. Don Heads has a rugged shore formed by basalt flows. Tides, swell and weather have shaped the scarp coast<sup>1</sup>. It is dramatic and beautiful.

However, as many eager paddlers have learned over the years — it is not the easiest place to enter the water. So, today marks an advance.

This launch platform is unique in design and built to withstand the tidal environment. It represents a new chapter for access, recreation and connection to this extraordinary stretch of coastline. It will open the water to more people: beginners, young people discovering their confidence, locals, visitors and seasoned paddlers.

This project has been years in the making, and has been completed through advocacy, collaboration and persistence.

The idea was championed early by members of the Tasmanian Canoe Club, in particular, its Paddling Pirates group.

I am reliably informed by my Aide, Captain Calderwood who, during his time with Paddle Tasmania, was approached by Bruce Cameron and other local paddlers to gain

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<sup>1</sup> [Don Heads | Devonport City Council](#)

support for this project. The enthusiasm and expectation for this project has remained constant over many years.

This launch platform was made possible through support from many organisations, the Tasmanian Community Fund, the Devonport City Council, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife, and Paddle Tasmania<sup>2</sup>.

This new platform will allow more people, regardless of age or experience, to discover the joy of being on the water, and to appreciate this special part of Tasmania.

To everyone involved in this project, I offer my congratulations.

It is now my honour to declare the Don Heads Kayak Launch Platform officially open.

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<sup>2</sup> Email Bruce Cameron / Government House Administration