

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE GROWTH | TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS  
RECEPTION TO MARK THE VISIT OF A DELEGATION OF  
EUROPEAN UNION ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COUNSELLORS  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 3 MARCH 2026**

Good evening, everyone, and a very warm welcome to you all to mark the visit of this European Union trade delegation to our State.

May I acknowledge 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.

It is a pleasure to host representatives from 17 EU Member States. You are led by Ms Joanna Poczowska, Head of Trade and Economic Affairs at the EU Delegation in Canberra. Your presence here reflects the depth of the relationship between Australia and the European Union, and the growing interest in strengthening ties at state and regional levels.

This visit builds on the official visit to Tasmania by His Excellency Mr Gabriele Visentin, EU Ambassador to Australia, in August 2024. At that time, we hosted His Excellency here and held a State Dinner to mark the visit.

This delegation visit comes at a significant time. Negotiations towards an Australia–EU Free Trade Agreement are intensifying, with both sides seeking to diversify trade and investment.

Over the course of your five-day program, you have engaged directly with the sectors that define Tasmania's future: advanced manufacturing, defence and maritime industries; green energy and the circular economy; Antarctic and space science; and agritech.

Tasmania is recognised as Australia's Antarctic Gateway. Our science institutions, research infrastructure and international collaborations position us as a natural partner for European countries with strong polar, maritime and space interests.

On behalf of the people of Tasmania, I thank you for including our state in your national program.

Please now enjoy our hospitality, House, and the opportunity to sample some of our best Tasmanian produce.