

**TASMANIA FIRE SERVICE
(DEPARTMENT OF POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT)
MORNING TEA TO ACKNOWLEDGE
TASMANIA FIRE SERVICE AND TASMANIA STATE EMERGENCY
SERVICE VOLUNTEERS RE DOLPHIN SANDS FIRE INCIDENT
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC,
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
SWANSEA FIRE STATION, SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2026**

Good morning, everyone. I am delighted to be here in Swansea to acknowledge and thank you all for the work that you do, but particularly in response to the Dolphin Sands bushfire last year.

May I acknowledge the palawa people and today's Aboriginal community. I acknowledge their enduring culture and deep connection to sky, sea, land and waters.

May I thank you all for coming today. I have been wishing to pass on my thanks for some time, without impacting your ongoing operations. As dedicated volunteers of our Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) and our State Emergency Service (SES), your service is vital to the safety of our communities.

The Dolphins Sands bushfire was the most destructive in Tasmania since the Dunalley bushfires¹. As you all know, in total, 33 homes were damaged, including 19 destroyed. A further 122 assets (sheds, caravans, water tanks, garages and electrical poles) were also impacted.

I understand that SES had approximately 40 volunteers from the Glamorgan–Spring Bay Unit involved in the Dolphin Sands response². Other southern teams were also involved. All your support has been critical in assisting affected residents and providing essential information to guide relief and recovery planning.

¹ [Dolphin Sands bushfire sparked by improperly extinguished burn off, Tasmanian authorities confirm - ABC News](#)

² [Dolphin Sands fire: SES helps isolated resident after 19 homes lost | The Mercury](#)

I know a couple whose house and sheds were destroyed. They sent a personal email which brought home the ferocity of the fire, and I quote, "...there was molten aluminium and molten glass around the site, the temperatures had to be in excess of 900 degrees. The volunteer firefighters who attended our property said that the flames approaching from the west were about 50 m high. Given that to exit they needed to drive about 250m through the bush, they decided that they would retreat. Good decision!" end of quote.

May I thank our Tasmania Fire Service and our State Emergency Service Tasmania for all their extraordinary work – from fighting the fire front under challenging conditions day and night, conducting backburning operations, and protecting the community to the very best of their abilities. The important jobs continued to develop from doorknocking, to clearing debris, from welfare checks to providing food to residents and supporting recovery efforts – a mammoth effort for which we are all immensely thankful and proud.

To everyone involved – thank you each and all on behalf of our Tasmanian community.