

**STATE RECEPTION TO MARK THE VISIT OF
THEIR MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN OF DENMARK
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2026**

VICE REGAL SALUTE

Good evening to you all.

May I warmly welcome Your Majesties to this State reception to mark your highly anticipated and awaited visit to Tasmania. Not only everyone gathered in this room, but also all the people of Tasmania, are delighted that you are here.

May I thank Graham Gardner for his Welcome to Country this morning here at Government House and also to Fiona Maher and Mona Hart for their cleansing ceremony. I too acknowledge the Muwinina people upon whose land we gather and I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of country.

Your Majesties, as Crown Prince and Princess, you stayed here at Government House in 2005. Our State has been hoping that you would visit Tasmania as King and Queen following the Proclamation on January 14, 2024. So, we are all delighted to have you with us tonight.

Our State's relationship with Denmark is strong. We are proud of our close connections. Since July 2023, my husband and I have hosted the official visits of the previous Ambassador of Denmark, Her Excellency Ms Pernille Dahler Kardel, and, more recently, your current Ambassador, Her Excellency Ms Ingrid Dahl-Madsen, who is here tonight. We know that this Royal visit will further build our ties and open new relationships.

Since you arrived in Tasmania, you have had a busy program experiencing our major shipbuilding, premium agriculture, green technology, marine research, and cultural gems.

Our State, with fewer than 600,000 people, produces food and agricultural products that supply markets worldwide. Our researchers at our Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies run some of the most significant Southern Ocean science programs. Some of our artists and authors have international profiles.

And as we all know, Incat has built the world's largest battery-electric ferry, and three electric ferries have been ordered for delivery to Denmark. These electric ferries represent our shared commitment to clean energy, as Denmark has for decades led the world in sustainable design and green energy.

Tonight, we are pleased that you will hear a string quartet from our Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, as well as members of our Australian Army Band – Tasmania. We shall also be sampling some of Tasmania's best produce and Government House garden-sourced ingredients, and premium Tasmanian wines.

May I mention, Your Majesty, that we are both alumnae of Sandy Bay Infant School, Waimea Heights Primary School and the University of Tasmania. And we share a love of border collies. How very Tasmanian!

May I now conclude by thanking you all for being here tonight to make this such a special and historic occasion.

It is now my pleasure to invite Her Majesty The Queen to the lectern.

Your Majesty ...

[After The Queen, OS invites Premier to speak, then HE back to conclude.]