

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA
RECEPTION TO MARK THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INTEGRATED MARINE OBSERVING SYSTEM (IMOS)
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2026

Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome you all to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Australia's Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS).

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 deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

Tonight provides an opportunity not only to mark two decades of scientific achievement, but also to reflect on the collaboration that has made IMOS such an important national capability.

From the beginning, IMOS was built on the idea that understanding the ocean requires long-term, sustained observation, shared openly for the benefit of science, policy, industry and the community. Since 2006, IMOS has done that, deploying observing equipment across Australia's coastal and open oceans, gathering data that helps us understand how our seas are changing.

We are a maritime nation, and our Exclusive Economic Zone is among the largest in the world and encompasses diverse marine environments. Understanding these environments requires scientific infrastructure of national scale. That is provided by IMOS, which is a uniquely Australian consortium of collaboration.

Our University of Tasmania serves as the consortium lead agent and hosts the IMOS head office. This reflects Tasmania's long-standing role as one of Australia's centres of excellence in marine and Antarctic science.

IMOS has helped strengthen this position by enabling researchers to better understand complex ocean systems.

As we look to the future, your work will become more important. The ocean plays a central role in regulating the Earth's climate. Better understanding the ocean is not only a scientific challenge, but a global imperative.

May I congratulate everyone involved with the Integrated Marine Observing System on its twentieth anniversary. To everyone involved in building and sustaining IMOS in universities, research agencies, government and industry, thank you for your dedication. I wish you all continued success in advancing our understanding of the oceans.

Thank you and enjoy your reception.