

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE
54TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL PLANT PRODUCTION SOCIETY, AUSTRALIAN REGION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 26 MAY 2026**

Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome you to Government House and to Tasmania for the 54th annual conference of the International Plant Production Society, Australian Region.

May I begin by acknowledging 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.

Firstly, may I offer a warm welcome to everyone who has travelled from across Australia and around the world to be here in Hobart for this year's annual conference.

This week you have a busy programme of presentations, workshops and tours, discussing topics including conservation horticulture, endangered species, biosecurity and plant breeding.¹

I understand some of you have already enjoyed some of our State's stunning scenery.² We are also renowned for our cultural and scientific heritage, and, of course, for our fine food and wine.

¹ [International Plant Production Society Australian Region Conference](#), accessed 11 May 2026

² Ibid.

We are also a horticultural leader. Thanks to our climate, environment, and biodiversity, we are an important region in Australia for horticultural production, research and native plant conservation.³

We have some of the world's most ancient and rare plant species, and our growers and researchers are at the forefront of sustainable production practices.⁴ Our horticultural industry is investigating opportunities to respond to climate change, particularly in wine production, but also in the production of vegetable, fruit and berry crops, as well as essential oils.⁵

Here at Government House, plants are important to us. As you may have seen as you drove in, we look out over a 15-hectare Estate, which includes paddocks, ornamental gardens, kitchen and picking gardens, an orchard and even a vineyard.

Our dedicated Garden Team takes great care in looking after the many plants, including the beautiful flowers in this room and the Estate-grown produce on this evening's menu.

They are also planning for sustainability, planting species and varieties most likely to cope with climate change and remain viable in the future.

I wish you all the best over the coming days for your conference – sowing the 'seeds of success' as you seek and share knowledge to secure a sustainable future.

Now, please enjoy your reception. Thank you.

³ Information supplied by Angus Stewart, conference convenor, to SMCA, 7 May 2026

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.