

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
40th Annual Meeting, Hobart, 18 - 29 October 2021
Opening Address (recorded) by
Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania

Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good morning and welcome to the 40th annual meeting of the Commission.

Dr Granit, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you in what is the first year of your Chairmanship of the Commission.

I understand that under the continuing circumstances of the pandemic many of you have not been able to travel to Hobart for the meeting but are joining us online. I can assure you that the City of Hobart has missed you over the last two years just as much as you have missed coming to this wonderful island of Tasmania.

However, we are fortunate that CCAMLR is headquartered here in Hobart, and we have enjoyed visits from the Executive Secretary and Secretariat staff over these two years, helping to keep the relationship between Government House and CCAMLR strong.

This is a particularly special meeting in that it is the 40th meeting of the Commission. The first meeting of the Commission was held in May 1982 at Parliament House in Hobart, very soon after 7 April 1982 when the Convention came into force. Coincidentally both Parliament House and the current Headquarters building of the Commission on Macquarie Street are important historic Hobart buildings dating from the 1840s.

The 40th anniversary of any organisation is a significant milestone. CCAMLR can rightly look back with pride on 40 years of cooperation and successful delivery of the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. CCAMLR has developed an enviable international reputation and is rightly looked on as a leader in the field of marine conservation and resource management for its very significant achievements over these years.

I know that you are all proud of this history but are also looking forward to continuing your work on the many pressing issues that are in front of us. Of course, in this year of the COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference the issue of climate change is uppermost in our minds.

I know that you will also tackle many other important and diverse issues in your meeting. The international community, and all of us who care deeply about the future of our oceans and of Antarctica, owe you a debt of gratitude for continuing to work hard to develop innovative and effective solutions to the problems that confront us.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I will bring my brief address to a close by wishing you well in your endeavours over the next two weeks. Tasmania, and Hobart, is immensely proud of the fact that this highly respected international organisation, with its 40 years of achievement, is headquartered in Hobart. So, without further ado I will hand you back to your Chairman to start your deliberations.

Thank you for your attention.