

**INTERNATIONAL ICE CHARTING WORKING GROUP MEETING
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA, MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Good evening and welcome to this reception to mark the annual meeting in Hobart of the International Ice Charting Working Group.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land – those who have passed before us; and in acknowledgement of today's Tasmanian Aboriginal community, being the custodians of this land.

I understand that this is only the second occasion that your meeting has been held in the Southern Hemisphere and the first time in Australia. That being so, Dick and I are particularly pleased that we can host this reception for delegates.

May I acknowledge among you:

- Sir Guy Green, Honorary Tasmanian Antarctic Ambassador and former Governor of Tasmania;
- IICWG Co-Chairs Diane Campbell and Marianne Thyrring;
- John Falkingham, IICWG Secretariat;
- Mark Kelleher, CEO ACE CRC;
- Professor Richard Coleman, Director IMAS and the Antarctic Gateway Partnership;
- Dr Gwen Fenton, AAD Chief Scientist;
- Dr Tony Worby, Director CSIRO Ocean & Atmospheric Division and Organising Committee colleagues.

And of course there are many heads of international ice services present here this evening. Welcome to you all.

May I also congratulate the Co-hosting organisations, the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre, and the Antarctic Gateway Partnership.

Facilitating a meeting of this international stature in Tasmania is both testament to the quality of maritime research that is being conducted in the Island State, and the increasing importance of Tasmania as an Antarctic gateway.

I therefore have no doubt that Tasmania is a most suitable location for your eighteenth meeting,ⁱ as you work through your theme “New technologies, big data, and the future of ice charting and forecasting”.

Of course, Australia as a continent does not have sea and lake ice and icebergs as a factor in our coastal maritime operations – with the notable exception of our work in the Southern Ocean and Antarctica – instead we are a hot, dry island continent in which low intensity fire is the crucial element in maintaining thriving and healthy ecosystems across what is a largely flat, ancient landmass.

But we do have robust and dynamic scientific communities, for a country with a relatively small population of some 24 million, and I am sure you will find much to interest you in the work of your Tasmanian colleagues. Hobart is home to a significant concentration of scientists engaged in Antarctic and Southern Oceans Research, with more than 800 scientists and technical staff employed in agencies which include the Australian Antarctic Division, IMAS and CSIRO.¹

And I am surprised by how many Antarctic related conferences are hosted here in Hobart – less than two weeks ago I opened the Australian Academy of Science’s Antarctic Frontier Conference for early and mid-career researchers.

As well as Hobart’s shipping gateway capability, Hobart is the home airport for the AAD Airbus A 319 intercontinental Antarctic air link service which operates from Hobart to Australia’s Wilkins and the United States’

¹ Antarctic Tasmania,
http://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/antarctic/home/hobart_world-class_research_hub_and_science_gateway, accessed 13 September 2017.

McMurdo runways. It's exciting that the Hobart Airport runway is currently being lengthened which will allow it to meet the needs of a number of international Antarctic programs with aviation requirements in East Antarctica.

The Australian Antarctic Strategy and 20-year Action Pplan has a number of actions relevant to Hobart as an Antarctic gateway, including scoping options for a year-round aviation capability between Hobart and Antarctica.²

In conclusion Dick and I wish you a most successful and enjoyable meeting. Do take a moment if you wish to take a look at some of our lovely State Rooms – and do enjoy what I see your agenda paper wittily calls this: your “Icebreaker Reception”!

Thank you.

¹ The first meeting was held in 1999. (Historical perspective document page 1.) No meeting in 2002.

² <http://www.antarctica.gov.au/about-us/antarctic-strategy-and-action-plan> accessed 13 September 2017.