

**ROYAL HOBART SHOW  
OPENING SPEECH BY  
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA SHOWGROUND 25  
THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER 2019**

Good morning. Dick and I are delighted to be here to again officially open the Royal Hobart Show.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

Agriculture is about our land and so this is an appropriate context for this acknowledgment, given the Aboriginal people's skill in caring for and managing the land for many thousands of years before European settlement. Using fire-stick farming, Aboriginal people shaped country to ensure continuity, balance, abundance and predictability.

Thank you to Peter Spotswood and Helen Geard, President and Vice-President, and Scott Gadd CEO for this invitation – we continue a very long and tradition of Tasmanian Governors, and before them Van Diemen's Land Lieutenant-Governors, being closely associated with the Show.

May I also take this opportunity to note the importance of the Royal Launceston Show continuing as a going concern, albeit in a reduced format. Dick and I were there two weeks ago and I expressed the importance of the fact that the Launceston Show, first held in 1873, will continue to be a significant showcase of Tasmanian agricultural excellence.

I remember so well as a child that the Royal Hobart Show was a highlight of the year, something that we looked forward to for months. But as we know, the last few years have been challenging for traditional agricultural shows, with declining attendances and rising costs. This has required organisers to move with the times and adapt, to reimagine what these events should offer.

There are two recent developments that promise a revival of our agricultural shows. The first is the Federal Government's announcement of a \$20 million grants scheme to help keep shows alive. This will provide up to \$500,000 per grant to upgrade, maintain, build or buy new showground infrastructure.

The second promising development is the success of the recent Burnie Show at its new venue which attracted big crowds and greatly pleased its organisers.

There will be eight more agricultural shows in Tasmania from now until the end of November, and it's vital that each of them continues. After all, arguably each individual show is tied to the future of the Tasmanian show circuit as a whole.

Agricultural shows like this one are important because they encourage city residents to better understand where their food and fibre comes from and this I think is all the more relevant today, when we consider the increasing global stresses on agricultural production when linked to environmental concerns about water usage, land degradation and climate change.

The Life on the Farm display is a great way for urban kids and their parents to understand more about agricultural production with demonstrations of sheep shearing, bee keeping, chook washing and butter making. You can also watch chickens and ducklings hatch, dig for potatoes, grind some grain, feed a baby goat and milk a pretend cow! The Show's website has some great educational resources for kids, teachers and parents.

Which all goes to illustrate that there is more to the show than show bags, side shows and rides.

In closing, I congratulate everyone who is supporting this year's Royal Hobart Show. As you will have seen from the four-day program, there is a vast amount to enjoy.

Thank you.