

**WOMEN IN RESOURCES TASMANIA AWARDS**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**BALL ROOM, WEDNESDAY 30 MAY 2018**

Good evening and welcome to Government House for the 2018 Women in Resources Tasmania Awards presentations.

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

May I acknowledge among you:

- the Honourable Elise Archer MP, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Corrections, Environment and the Arts;
- Ella Haddad MP;
- Jen Butler MP
- Ms Kim Millar, who will be facilitating this evening's proceedings;
- and all speakers and sponsor representatives, who Kim will introduce to the stage.

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the Women in Resources Tasmania Awards and the first occasion they have been held at Government House.

At the end of August last year I attended and spoke at the Women in Resources National Awards, held in Launceston. I am so pleased to be able to again support the Women in Resources awards by hosting the Tasmanian Awards here.

The fact that these awards demonstrate a commitment to improving gender equality in the sector resonates very strongly with me.

They provide a platform to showcase and encourage gender diversity program and female talent in the industry, demonstrating to younger women (and their mothers and fathers) a set of path breakers and role models across occupation categories in mineral and resources and they provide an opportunity to celebrate the advances that have been made in gender equity in this sector.

There is a business case for increasing female workforce participation in mining and resources – it has been shown that teams with gender diversity, improve decision making, innovation and financial results.

And there is an equity case for doing so – mining and resources is one of the highest paying industries but has the lowest participation rate for women. Increasing the proportion of women in male dominated, higher paying work is one way in which we can address the gender pay gap.

So it goes without saying that as Tasmania's first female Governor I'm enormously supportive of these Awards, which greatly encourage increased female participation in and high achievement in our important mining and resources sector.

So may I say congratulations to all finalists; thank you to the sponsors; and well done to all of the employers represented here this evening.

Thank you.