

**NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM**  
**REMARKS BY**  
**HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC**  
**GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**  
**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 14 OCTOBER 2024**

Good morning, everyone, and a very warm welcome to Government House for this morning tea to recognise students selected to attend the National Youth Science Forum for 2025.

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 deep connection to land, sea, sky and waters.

I understand that 19 Tasmanian students have been selected to participate in the 2025 Forum program. Seventeen of these students are here today. May I first congratulate each one of you on your selection and achievement. You have all been selected on merit from around Tasmania, including schools in the North and the South.

Rotary was a founding partner of this Forum and has provided significant support, especially in the form of grants to participating students to assist with the cost of their attendance. May I acknowledge that important support in making this Forum such a success.

Our selected participants will join some 450 like-minded students from across Australia this year, and 15,000 strong alumni of this important and impressive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) literacy and experiential program.

May I also thank returning NYSF alumni who freely give their time to be Student Staff Leaders, making possible this special and life-changing program.

As has been the format for recent years, residential programs are being held in January in two places; Canberra at the Australian National University and Brisbane, hosted by the University of Queensland. These programs have been specially planned to offer students a broader understanding of the many study and career options in STEM fields. The programs also encourage continued study in areas of national importance.

In conclusion, I again congratulate all selected students, and I also congratulate their families and teachers. I encourage you to make the most of the Forum and the opportunities provided. And now, please enjoy the morning tea.

Thank you.