

**RECEPTION TO MARK THE  
AUSTRALASIAN POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES GAMES 2025  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE BALLROOM, FRIDAY 14 MARCH 2025**

**VICE-REGAL SALUTE**

Good evening, everyone, and a very warm welcome to Government House to mark the Australasian Police and Emergency Services Games 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 enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

These Australasian Police & Emergency Services (AP&ES) Games have a rich history dating back to 1984, when the inaugural National Police Games were held in Melbourne.

These Games are the largest multidisciplinary sporting event to be held in Tasmania. Participants come from Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and the Pacific Islands.<sup>1</sup>

These are your 19<sup>th</sup> Games and, significantly, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your founding. Tasmania hosted you all in 2010, and Hobart welcomed 1,400 competitors. In 2025, we are delighted to host over 3,000 participants from across more than 60 sporting events, ranging from football to running to golf.

These Games allow you all to challenge yourselves physically and, more importantly, to make and renew lifelong friendships.

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<sup>1</sup> Email Renee Oates / Paula Chatwood 26 Feb 25

These Games also embody the values that define our emergency services: teamwork, resilience, and a shared commitment to public service.

May I extend my thanks to the more than 200 volunteers who have contributed their time to ensure the success of these Games. We all appreciate and acknowledge your commitment, dedication, and efforts in making this event possible.

May I also acknowledge the organisers, sponsors, and officials who have brought this event to life. You have ensured that participants will be competing at premier venues across Hobart.

On behalf of all Tasmanians, I wish you the most successful and memorable Games. We should however share a thought for participants in the Cycling—Hill Climb event: They have an early start at 7.00 am tomorrow, before the official Opening Ceremony even takes place! For everyone else, please enjoy your reception, a tour of our State Rooms, and of course, your Games.

Thank you.