

Tasmanian Antarctic Gateway Strategy 2022–2027





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COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF
ANTARCTIC MARINE
LIVING RESOURCES



COMMISSION POUR LA
CONSERVATION DE
LA FAUNE ET LA FLORE
MARINES DE L'ANTARCTIQUE



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Minister's foreword



For more than a century Tasmania has been the gateway for Antarctic expeditions, including those of Australia's own scientist and explorer Sir Douglas Mawson.

From those early beginnings, the skills, talents and entrepreneurship of Tasmanians and our natural geographic advantages have put Tasmania's capital Hobart on the

map as the leading gateway to East Antarctica, with a well-earned reputation for excellence in science, industry and logistics support.

Hobart's identity as an Antarctic city is well established and of great importance to its citizens. The sector makes a significant contribution to the Tasmanian economy, generating some \$160 million per annum with over 950 full-time jobs and over 7,000 expeditioner nights supporting local accommodation businesses.

Tasmania hosts an impressive assembly of Antarctic and Southern Ocean organisations and is the proud home of the Australian Antarctic Division. It hosts two international organisations which focus on the conservation of species living in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean: Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) and Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). Tasmania is recognised globally as the home of logistics and support services for East Antarctica. With this unique array of attributes, we are well placed to grow international engagement and visitation.

The science and research community is undeniably the backbone of our Antarctic and Southern Ocean endeavours.

Many organisations provide an array of research input alongside the Australian Antarctic Division, Australia's national science agency CSIRO, the University of Tasmania's Institute of Marine and Antarctic Science (IMAS) and the Centre for Antarctic, Remote and Maritime Medicine (CARMM).

Behind the science is a well organised, collegiate network of specialist support, logistics, supplies, equipment and technology businesses, represented by the Tasmanian Polar Network. This Government-supported membership organisation comprised of local businesses, research and government organisations is unique in the world.

It provides a single point of contact for international Antarctic programs, connecting Tasmanian businesses supplying comprehensive and reliable logistics and supply support, including equipment and machinery.

Hobart is home port to Australia's state-of-the-art icebreaker *RSV Nuyina* and the blue water research vessel *RV Investigator*. It also supports visiting research vessels and icebreakers from other nations, in particular the French icebreaker *L'Astrolabe*.

The Hobart International Airport provides ever-increasing capability for Antarctic-bound aviation services. Over the next 10 years, the Tasmanian Antarctic gateway community is well placed to benefit from significant new Australian Government investment in expanding Antarctic capability and leadership.

Modernisation of infrastructure, new traverse capacity, expanded aviation capability and major science projects pose a vast and diverse array of opportunities for Tasmanian businesses and increasing employment opportunities for Tasmanians.

The Tasmanian Government is committed to working with the Australian Government, local government and the private sector to build our gateway capability to support these investments and to grow the Tasmanian Antarctic brand. Leveraging the Australian Government commitment will create opportunities for enhanced overall Antarctic support capability driving outcomes across connected sectors such as advanced manufacturing, technology and innovation, and space research.

The release of this Strategy is supported by key initiatives that will be progressed over the next five years however, more than that, the Strategy underpins the Tasmanian Government's commitment to the future. It is part of our long-term vision to drive opportunities generated by a strong, vibrant and sustainable Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector.

Tasmania and Hobart are the best places to be as we enter a new era of Antarctic investment in science, including the development of the Antarctic and Science Precinct, a cornerstone of the Tasmanian Government's Antarctic science agenda, and the Australian Government's commitment to science through investment in the *RSV Nuyina* to drive scientific endeavours such as krill research.

The Tasmanian Antarctic sector is a high achieving sector with a proud history. Through this Strategy, the Tasmanian Government continues to deliver its vision of Tasmania as a globally recognised hub of Antarctic capability and excellence that generations of Tasmanians will aspire to be part of.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Barnett'.

Guy Barnett
Minister for State Development



Pete Harmsen - AAD



Nicole Webster - AAD

Introduction

Tasmania has a proud heritage of supporting Antarctic and Southern Ocean endeavour with explorers and scientists using the port of Hobart as a base for expeditions since the 19th century.

Today, Tasmania possesses a unique aggregation of characteristics in support of the Antarctic sector and is recognised around the world as an exciting and vibrant centre of international Antarctic science, logistics, operational support and diplomacy.

Many Tasmanians have historic and/or emotional links to Antarctica and place great importance on this connection. Over the last six decades Hobart has operated as the Antarctic and Southern Ocean gateway for the Australian and French Antarctic programs, with research and supply vessels from other nations visiting regularly. The sector is an integral part of the strong, quality Tasmanian brand.

Tasmania is home to a substantial number of significant Antarctic and Southern Ocean science and research organisations, which form the heart of the sector and are at the core of its success.

Without a strong and internationally significant scientific presence, the sector in Tasmania would be greatly diminished.

Since the first Tasmanian Antarctic Gateway Strategy was released in early 2018 a new policy environment and new challenges have emerged, and this refreshed Strategy will address those challenges. With the Strategy's release, the Tasmanian Government is highlighting its commitment to new goals and actions, with a focus on infrastructure, collaboration, and international engagement.

The Strategy also facilitates access to Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector opportunities for Tasmanian businesses and creates greater visibility of the sector across the Tasmanian community.

The refreshed Strategy also integrates with other State Government strategies such as the Tasmanian Trade Strategy 2019–2025, Tasmanian Trade Action Plan 2022–23, Tasmanian Advanced Manufacturing Action Plan 2024, and the Tasmanian Defence Industry Strategy 2023 to maximise synergies across government.





Why a Tasmanian Antarctic strategy?

Antarctic and Southern Ocean organisations spend almost \$160 million annually in Tasmania. The sector as a whole employs over 950 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs, or 0.47% of the Tasmanian workforce. Wages in the sector are well above the average.

Tasmania's geographic location means it is a natural gateway to the East Antarctic. Of the five recognised Antarctic gateways around the world, Hobart is unique in its depth, breadth and combination of infrastructure, logistics support, and world class Antarctic scientific and diplomatic expertise.

Importantly, Hobart is also home to the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD). The AAD lead the Australian Government's engagement in policy, science, logistics and operational activities in Antarctica.

The Australian Government's 2022 update to the *2016 Australian Antarctic Strategy and 20 Year Action Plan* (Strategy and Action Plan) outlines an exciting future for Australia's Antarctic program. It sets out Australia's national interests in Antarctica and vision for future engagement. Antarctica is home to critical ongoing scientific research.

Discoveries made by the scientific community in Antarctica are of global significance. The 2022 update further strengthens Australia's scientific capabilities and sets out major projects to be undertaken.

It also emphasises collaboration with other Antarctic nations and building Tasmania's status as the premier East Antarctic gateway. These activities are being driven by the Australian Government and the AAD with the support of the local Antarctic community.

New infrastructure at both the Hobart port and Hobart International Airport will also open up greater opportunities for Hobart as a shipping and aviation hub. The Tasmanian Government is also supporting the development of a new Antarctic and Science Precinct at Macquarie Point in Hobart.

With new infrastructure being built, increased logistics and science collaboration between Antarctic nations, and the release of the updated *Australian Antarctic Strategy and Action Plan*, a number of substantial opportunities have emerged for Tasmania's Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector.

The Tasmanian Government is directing its revised *Antarctic Gateway Strategy 2022–27* at maximising these opportunities for the benefit of the broader Tasmanian industry and community. It is an important part of the Government's long-term vision to build Hobart as a world leading Antarctic hub and gateway that supports a thriving Antarctic sector.

Governance

The Department of State Growth leads the coordinated and collaborative approach to the implementation of this Strategy, drawing on the expertise of other government bodies such as Infrastructure Tasmania, and other key stakeholders such as the University of Tasmania, the AAD, TasPorts, Hobart International Airport, science and research organisations and other key industry partners.

The Tasmanian Antarctic Gateway (TAG) Advisory Committee will develop an annual implementation plan to deliver the Strategy and convert Tasmania's opportunities for the sector into outcomes. The TAG Advisory Committee is a platform for a coordinated whole of government and industry approach to the implementation of this Strategy through commercial and government channels and monitoring its effectiveness.

This committee is chaired by an independent chair and reports on progress against the five goals of this Strategy. Representatives are drawn from key stakeholders in government, infrastructure and logistics, science and research and industry.

The membership of the TAG Advisory Committee will be expanded to include Hobart City Council on behalf of the four greater Hobart councils, and a representative of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to reflect the significance of international relationships in our Antarctic gateway.

Vision

Our vision is for our state to be a globally recognised hub of excellence and destination of choice, connecting the world to Antarctica through vibrant and collaborative partnerships founded on Tasmania's sense of connection to Antarctica.

Our reputation as a world leader in Antarctic innovation, research and logistics support will attract the very best global players and thought leaders and stimulate our community with opportunities generated by a strong, vibrant and sustainable Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector.



Paula Roberts - AAD



Purpose

With this Strategy we aim to:

- enhance Hobart's standing as an international Antarctic and Southern Ocean logistics, science and research hub
- attract international Antarctic program visits to Tasmania
- stimulate export and trade of Tasmanian cold-climate products and services
- encourage and facilitate a collaborative approach to growing the sector
- attract Tasmanians to train and work in the Antarctic sector.

Goals and actions

The *Tasmanian Antarctic Gateway Strategy* is built on five goals:

1. Invest in Tasmania's strategic Antarctic gateway infrastructure.
2. Build Antarctic community awareness, brand and workforce.
3. Grow international engagement and visitation.
4. Grow polar innovation, technology and expertise.
5. Facilitate active collaboration and partnerships.

Goal I: Invest in Tasmania's strategic Antarctic gateway infrastructure

TasPorts and the Hobart International Airport provide crucial infrastructure for our Antarctic gateway's future success. This infrastructure also provides many economic benefits for trade, tourism, defence capability, maritime safety and support of maritime search and rescue. These benefits could grow significantly with uplifts in infrastructure.

TasPorts provides port services for Antarctic research and supply vessels in Hobart and has previously invested in a dedicated Antarctic and cruise terminal at Macquarie Wharf No 2. A business case is under way to provide for critical wharf upgrades to enable year-round berthing of the new Australian icebreaker *RSV Nuyina* and summer operations of several other Antarctic and research vessels.

In addition, a potential fuel barge service in Hobart would enable delivery of fuel at berth-side, thereby reducing the demand for vessels to transit under the Tasman Bridge and allowing larger vessels that currently cannot fit under the bridge to take fuel in Hobart.

Under the Hobart City Deal, the Tasmanian Government has partnered with other levels of government to develop an iconic Antarctic and Science Precinct (ASP) at Hobart's Macquarie Point, with world-class facilities that will attract international visitors for research collaboration and tourism.

Hobart Airport is home to Australia's Antarctic aviation program. The AAD operates an Airbus A319 and, with the Royal Australian Air Force, utilises a Globemaster III C 17 aircraft to undertake regular flights from Hobart to the Wilkins blue ice runway and McMurdo runway in Antarctica. The Hobart Airport runway has been lengthened to allow for larger payloads and longer-range flights. Hobart Airport has also developed an Antarctic and freight precinct to support existing operations and opportunities for a future East Antarctic aviation network.

Another forthcoming investment in the airport will be the strengthening of the runway which will support Antarctic aviation capability, and will enable larger planes, heavier cargo and more flights to deliver equipment and passengers to Antarctica.

Science is at the core of every national Antarctic program and this requires substantial technical support and research infrastructure. A range of significant science and research organisations and programs located in Hobart benefit from international project offices and secretariats such as the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS), the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS), the Headquarters of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and the Secretariat for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). Australia's world-class research icebreaker *RSV Nuyina* and the National Marine Facility *RV Investigator* are homeported in Hobart and provide a direct interface with the research community, enabling collaboration and easy access. Additional facilities to support international collaboration, such as the efforts by multiple nations to drill for the oldest ice ever discovered would further build on this ecosystem of Antarctic and Southern Ocean expertise.

Action 1.1

- Support port upgrades in the Port of Hobart.

Action 1.2

- Work with Hobart City Deal partners to establish an Antarctic and Science Precinct at Macquarie Point.

Action 1.3

- Encourage an industry led collaboration for a fuel barge to facilitate refuelling efficiencies and future growth in vessel visitation.

Action 1.4

- Support Hobart Airport runway project and other upgrades.

Action 1.5

- Support delivery of technical and science infrastructure.

Action 1.6

- Support delivery of international project offices and secretariats.

Action 1.7

- Support sustained Antarctic research in Hobart.

Action 1.8

- Investigate establishment of an International Ice Core Facility in Hobart.



Goal 2: Build Antarctic community awareness, brand and workforce

Support from all levels of government and the University of Tasmania has played a crucial role in developing Hobart's endowment of globally significant research and teaching infrastructure. At the same time, Hobart is known for its logistics capability, strong and united industry network, and strength of niche manufacturing and operational goods and services. These services have been provided since Antarctic exploration first commenced. These capabilities, developed over time, differentiate Hobart from other gateway cities and contribute to our unique brand.

The University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and many of the CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere researchers are located in purpose-built facilities on the Hobart waterfront. Co-located with IMAS is the international project office for SOOS, the national project office for IMOS, the Australian Antarctic Program Partnership (AAPP) and Australian Centre for Excellence in Antarctic Science (ACEAS). Hobart is also home to the Bureau of Meteorology's (BoM) Antarctic office.

Antarctic organisations and companies support more than 950 full time jobs, making Hobart's role as an Antarctic gateway city unique as a site of cold-climate expertise and research. It is important that Antarctic and Southern Ocean research continues to be well supported in Tasmania to sustain this special research ecosystem and build on past successes.

These institutions support postgraduate students from all over the world. In 2022 there were 57 PhD students in various fields of Antarctic study enrolled at the University of Tasmania. These early-career scientists will become the next generation of global scientific leaders and form an important part of the local community.

The co-location of key research institutions in Hobart stimulates opportunities for Tasmanians to forge a career across the Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector and contributes to Tasmania's ongoing transformation to a more diversified, knowledge-based economy and to the Tasmanian Government's efforts to grow the population through attraction and retention of skilled migrants from interstate and overseas.

Workforce challenges are now emerging in most sectors, and the Antarctic sector is not exempt. Future science and research demand increasingly sophisticated technology and data, and building a capable local workforce will become critical to success.

The Tasmanian Government recognises the importance of reflecting its Antarctic and Southern Ocean credentials and heritage in the Brand Tasmania stories, and the significance of including Tasmania's community across the state in the development of the sector in future. Antarctic tourism experiences such as museums, displays, festivals and Antarctic cruises all assist with creating Tasmania's Antarctic identity and form an important part of our story as an Antarctic hub and gateway.

The City of Hobart is recognised as a key partner in our community's awareness of and interest in the Antarctic sector. As part of the Council's strong commitment to Hobart's reputation as a leading gateway city, the Council hosts an annual reception to mark the opening of the Antarctic summer.

The Council also supports the bi-annual Australian Antarctic Festival and many other Antarctic related events and activities within the city each year in which the community is encouraged to participate.

A key priority for the City of Hobart is looking to increase the community's connectedness to our Antarctic sector and cement our identity as an Antarctic gateway through community engagement.

Action 2.1

- Connect Tasmanian training organisations with workforce needs.

Action 2.2

- Collaborate with Brand Tasmania to promote the Antarctic brand as part of being 'Tasmanian'.

Action 2.3

- Develop community engagement to increase awareness of sector in collaboration with local and Australian government partners.

Action 2.4

- Support development of Antarctic heritage and tourism opportunities as part of building a coordinated gateway brand.



Goal 3: Grow international engagement and visitation

As the gateway port closest to East Antarctica, Hobart has been the headquarters and resupply port for the Australian Antarctic Program (AAP) for over 40 years. This has initiated many international engagement opportunities for Tasmania.

The Institut Polaire Français Paul-Emile Victor (IPEV) has also been using Hobart as its Antarctic support base for many decades. IPEV provides valuable support to Hobart-based science programs through shipping, logistics and research support.

The French icebreaker *L'Astrolabe* provides shipping support for the French station Dumont D'Urville as well as the French-Italian station of Concordia and for the Australian base on Tasmania's Macquarie Island.

The Tasmanian Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IPEV on Antarctic gateway collaboration in 2019. During the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tasmanian Government provided extensive assistance to IPEV to enable Antarctic operations to continue through Hobart.

The AAP also enjoys close collaboration with many nations through, for example, the provision of logistics support, scientific research, bilateral and multilateral cooperation and a range of other partnerships.

Key international Antarctic institutions such as CCAMLR, ACAP and SOOS are headquartered in Hobart and contribute significantly to Tasmania's standing as a global centre of expertise.

The Tasmanian and Australian Governments have also signed a MoU to partner in CARMM which provides further opportunities for international engagement in the delivery of excellence in Antarctic and Southern Ocean healthcare, and research in extreme environments.

In association with these and other engagements, Hobart has hosted visits from polar and research vessels from several countries including the United States, South Korea and Japan, as well as from foreign representatives involved in a wide range of Antarctic partnerships and collaborative work.

Hobart's status as a gateway and hub for Antarctic activity and engagement is an asset that will be leveraged to further support our state's interests in international engagement and visitation.

Building on civic gateway collaboration between Hobart and the other four gateways of Christchurch, Cape Town, Ushuaia and Punta Arenas will also be a focus area for the Tasmanian Government, and an ideal opportunity for closer involvement by the City of Hobart in the TAG Advisory Committee as the representative of greater Hobart Councils.

Action 3.1

- Build relationships with National Antarctic Programs and organisations operating in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

Action 3.2

- Explore the role of an Antarctic Advocate to grow and support international relations and partnerships with other Antarctic nations.

Action 3.3

- Engage with the five Antarctic gateway nations in collaboration with Australian and local governments.

Action 3.4

- Explore the feasibility of establishing an International Antarctic Office with hot desks for National Antarctic Programs.

Action 3.5

- Grow Antarctic and Southern Ocean-based conferences and events in Tasmania.

Action 3.6

- Support the development of Antarctic tourism opportunities in the gateway.



Goal 4: Grow polar innovation, technology and expertise

Tasmania is fortunate to host globally recognised polar expertise which supports the complex science undertaken in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. Many national Antarctic programs, including those of Australia, France, Italy, China, the United States, New Zealand, Korea, Russia and Japan, have sourced cold-climate products and services provided by Tasmanian businesses. A multitude of specialised manufacturing and technical products have been customised to meet the operational needs of different Antarctic programs. The design, engineering and manufacture of equipment for traverse in the Antarctic interior is just one such area of Tasmanian industrial innovation.

These capabilities have been developed over many decades of support for Antarctic program activities and are constantly evolving to respond to new challenges. Ground-breaking innovation is evident at the University of Tasmania, through the Australian Maritime College (AMC), which has developed a next generation polar-capable, autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV), underpinned by a \$7.5 million investment from the Australian Government. The Centre for Antarctic and Southern Ocean Technology (CAST) is another good example of innovation in practice, and was formed as a partnership between AAD, CSIRO and IMAS.

Public and private sector organisations are coordinated through the Tasmanian Polar Network (TPN), a cohesive membership organisation of more than 70 businesses, research institutions and government agencies which work together to build opportunities for the sector. TPN members provide specialised products and services in areas as diverse as scientific instrumentation, ship outfitting and food provisioning, technical and mechanical products and services, waste management, medical services and marine engineering. No other Antarctic gateway hosts an organisation like the TPN, with its diversity of membership and range of capabilities.

Modernisation initiatives being delivered by the AAD over the next decade include improved aviation capacity, station renewal, environmental management, autonomous science technology and more. As well as strengthening Australia's activities in Antarctica, these projects have the potential to generate employment and prosperity for Tasmania if local companies' capability is developed and leveraged. The Tasmanian Government will work with local industry, industry associations and government bodies to build skills and capabilities to enable businesses to respond to these opportunities. This will include accessing Tasmanian Government initiatives such as assistance offered under the Tasmanian Advanced Manufacturing Action Plan, the Defence Industry Strategy, the Trade Strategy and through Skills Tasmania.

As in many other sectors such as manufacturing and mining, the Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector has historically been a predominantly male work environment. With changing expectations for women to join these sectors, an effort to engage with women and other under-represented groups in Antarctic workplaces will broaden the potential workforce considerably.

Action 4.1

- Maintain support for the Tasmanian Polar Network and its strategic activities.

Action 4.2

- Support the role of women and other underrepresented groups in Antarctic workplaces.

Action 4.3

- Work with and support businesses to access opportunities arising from Antarctic science, traverse, aviation, shipping and station modernisation and environmental management requirements.

Action 4.5

- Support Tasmanian businesses to develop and commercialise new technology for Antarctic science and research.

Action 4.6

- Explore Tasmanian green renewable energy solutions for Antarctic and extreme environments.



Goal 5: Facilitate active collaboration and partnerships

Antarctic stakeholders include Australian, Tasmanian and local governments, scientific research and education organisations, local businesses and international secretariats. Broad collaboration between these stakeholders enhances Tasmania's scientific reputation and economic competitiveness.

In support of the AAP the Tasmanian Government can play a leadership role in facilitating collaboration and supporting stakeholders by providing organisational support, resources and policy advice through Antarctic Tasmania, a dedicated business unit within the Department of State Growth.

The TAG advisory committee facilitates collaboration by bringing together senior representatives from government, science and industry and by providing advice to the Tasmanian Government on opportunities for future growth.

Many new opportunities for collaboration and partnerships can be developed in areas such as space industry development, innovation and technology, commercialisation and education and training. Hobart's position as the capital city of a maritime state in the southern-most part of Australia makes it the natural gateway of choice for all activities to the south, including Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

The benefits of the inclusive and collaborative approach to Antarctic gateway initiatives identified in this strategy also flow to related industry sectors such as manufacturing, international education and defence.

At the very heart of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector are the science and research organisations and their partnerships and collaborations, many of which are located in Hobart. It is critical to sustain science and research in Tasmania for the long term to ensure the sector continues to grow and flourish for the benefit of future generations of Tasmanians.

Action 5.1

Work with the AAD to strengthen collaboration opportunities between the state and Australian government organisations.

Action 5.2

Seek advice from the TAG Advisory Committee in implementing the Strategy.

Action 5.3

Support the Tasmanian Polar Network in building collaboration among its membership.

Action 5.4

Seek to increase and expand opportunities arising from collaborative partnerships, such as Centre for Antarctic Remote and Maritime Medicine (CARMM) and the Centre for Antarctic and Southern Ocean Technology (CAST).

Action 5.6

Facilitate growth of the international Antarctic and Southern Ocean research community in Tasmania and support existing science institutions in their scientific endeavours.

WELCOME TO HOBART





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