

# TASMANIAN



Explore opportunities for  
businesses in Tasmania's  
Antarctic and Southern  
Ocean sector



Tasmanian  
Government



## Message from the Deputy Premier

Tasmania is proud to be Australia's Antarctic gateway and home to one of the world's most dynamic Antarctic and Southern Ocean sectors.

Supporting more than 1,100 jobs and contributing over \$204 million annually to the economy, this vibrant sector continues to grow.

The Tasmanian Government is committed to expanding these opportunities through initiatives such as the Antarctic Gateway Campaign, backed by a \$1.4 million investment to attract visitors, strengthen international partnerships, and drive new business growth.

Businesses across a wide range of fields including specialised equipment, logistics, hospitality, creative services, and research have valuable opportunities to contribute to this internationally significant sector.

I encourage Tasmanian businesses to explore the opportunities outlined in this prospectus and consider how they can be part of our Antarctic gateway's future.

**The Hon. Guy Barnett**

Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs



## Tasmania's Antarctic connection

To our south lies the frozen continent of Antarctica. Its unique and pristine environment is recognised and protected under the Antarctic Treaty System.

Antarctica's climate influences global weather patterns, and trends observed in Antarctica's environment inform understanding of our changing planet. Antarctica's influence is felt in Tasmania – it shapes our climate, coastline and culture.

As one of the closest land masses to Antarctica and Australia's recognised Antarctic gateway, Tasmania has become a world-renowned hub of Antarctic and Southern Ocean excellence.

While human endeavours in Antarctica are centred on peaceful scientific research, supporting this purpose requires a significant range of activities. Our state is at the heart of a growing, globally important sector that is generating significant opportunities for a wide variety of Tasmanian businesses.

The Tasmanian Government is committed to growing this sector and is actively encouraging businesses to explore the opportunities it presents.

*Cover image: Polar weather sled, Elphinstone Engineering, French Polar Institute Paul-Émile Victor.  
Opposite image: Antarctic outlook.*

# How your business can get involved

Tasmania's Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector is increasingly identifying new opportunities for businesses. You don't have to go to Antarctica to be involved.

The sector requires a wide range of skills, services, and supplies from highly specialised maritime and logistics support to provision of everyday items used by people living and working in Antarctica. There are many examples where technologies and solutions from other sectors have been applied to Antarctic endeavours.

Opportunities also arise through international research conferences, science events and Antarctic tourism, which bring visitors from around the world to Tasmania. Our state has a rich Antarctic heritage that visitors can experience and explore.

If your business has capability, new technologies, or services to offer, there may be opportunities for you – the sector benefits from innovative, creative and passionate people.

Scan the QR code to learn how to connect your business expertise with Tasmania's Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector or visit [antarctic.tas.gov.au](http://antarctic.tas.gov.au)



*Image: Antarctic landing barge made by Taylor Bros being deployed from RSV Nuyina, Pete Harmsen/Australian Antarctic Division.*





# The Tasmanian Advantage

Tasmania's clean, green credentials and our long-standing history with Antarctica position Tasmanian businesses to sustainably support the sector.

The launch of Douglas Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition from Hobart in 1911 fortified the

state's relationship with Antarctica and became part of the Tasmanian identity.

With strong capabilities in science, policy, renewable energy, logistics, advanced manufacturing and technology, as well as Hobart's port and airport infrastructure, Tasmania is globally recognised as a hub of Antarctic capability and excellence.

Tasmania is home to the Australian Antarctic Program and Hobart proudly hosts the largest concentration of cold-climate researchers per capita in the world, with three major research organisations – the Australian Antarctic Division, the University of

Tasmania and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

Our status as one of only five internationally recognised Antarctic gateways, and Tasmania's international reputation for Antarctic excellence, attract national Antarctic programs from other countries to operate their logistics through Hobart. This also encourages scientific collaboration between local and international researchers.

Tasmania's role as an Antarctic gateway delivers enormous

economic value, from high-paying, highly skilled jobs to international collaboration, and the Tasmanian Government remains committed to supporting its continued growth.

This includes the launch of the Antarctic Gateway Campaign and a commitment of \$1.4 million over four years, extending through to 2028. The campaign is creating pathways for Tasmanian businesses to access procurement, partnership, and collaboration opportunities within the sector, where local expertise, proximity, and capability place the island's businesses in a uniquely competitive position.

*Image: Polar igloos made by Penguin Composites, Adam Darragh/Australian Antarctic Division.*

The *2023-24 Antarctic and Southern Ocean Economic Contribution Report* reveals that being part of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector in Tasmania means businesses can take advantage of:

- significant spending in Tasmania by Antarctic and Southern Ocean entities which reached over \$204 million in 2023-24
- an increasing workforce with the sector now supporting 1,166 full-time equivalent jobs
- expanding opportunities in tourism and hospitality. In the 2023-24 financial year, conference delegates and Antarctic expeditioners accounted for \$3.31 million and \$6.56 million in expenditure respectively during their time in Tasmania. In 2026 the state will host the following events:
  - Beaker Street Festival, 6-17 August
  - Australian Antarctic Festival, 20-23 August
  - Australian Antarctic Research Conference, 24-28 August
  - World Seabird Conference, 7-11 September
  - International Whaling Commission (IWC) Biennial Commission Meeting, 28 September – 2 October
  - Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) Meeting, 19-30 October

*Image: Inland traverse – Caterpillar tractors modified by William Adams and sleds made by Elphinstone Engineering, Jay Burges/Australian Antarctic Division.*





## Antarctic gateway infrastructure enhancements

The Tasmanian and Australian governments, in partnership with other organisations, are making significant investments towards Antarctic gateway and Australian Antarctic Program operations.

For Tasmanian businesses, this level of investment signals a pipeline of future opportunity across a wide range of industries and capabilities.

The following projects are underway or recently completed and will generate opportunities to grow the value of the sector:

*Image: Hobart Airport runway from Seven Mile Beach, Hobart Airport.*

### Hobart Airport Upgrade

Significant runway improvements at Hobart Airport allow for sustained use by heavier aircraft. This enables Hobart to have one-stop international Antarctic flights and attract logistics visits from international Antarctic programs.

### Macquarie Wharf Redevelopment

The development of the Port of Hobart will provide berthing capability for Australia's research icebreaker, the RSV *Nuyina*, and will support capacity for visiting international Antarctic vessels. Aligned with this, a refuelling solution is being developed by the Tasmanian Government.

### Antarctic Infrastructure Renewal Program

Works will be carried out over the next seven years by the Australian Antarctic Division to deliver major upgrades to Australia's research stations in Antarctica.

### Southern Ocean Research Aquarium

A partnership between the Australian Antarctic Division and the University of Tasmania is overseeing the development of a Southern Ocean Research Aquarium. With expected completion by 2028, this new, world-leading research facility will have a real and positive economic impact on the Tasmanian economy through employment, research outcomes and logistics visits.

Increasing visitor attraction, investment in Antarctic gateway and on-ice infrastructure, and interest from international Antarctic programs to collaborate on logistics, science, and research, will bring significant opportunities for economic growth in this sector.



# Tasmanian Polar Network

There are many ways to get involved and make the most of Tasmanian Antarctic gateway business opportunities.

The Tasmanian Polar Network (TPN) is the peak industry body representing the island's Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector. Its members come from a variety of different areas with a diverse range of interests and capabilities:

- Fisheries
- Government, research and education organisations
- Independent consultants
- Polar design and engineering
- Polar operations
- Specialised equipment and services
- Specialised training providers
- Tourism operators and attractions
- Hospitality, accommodation and conference facilities
- Transport and logistics

*Image: RV Investigator, CSIRO.*

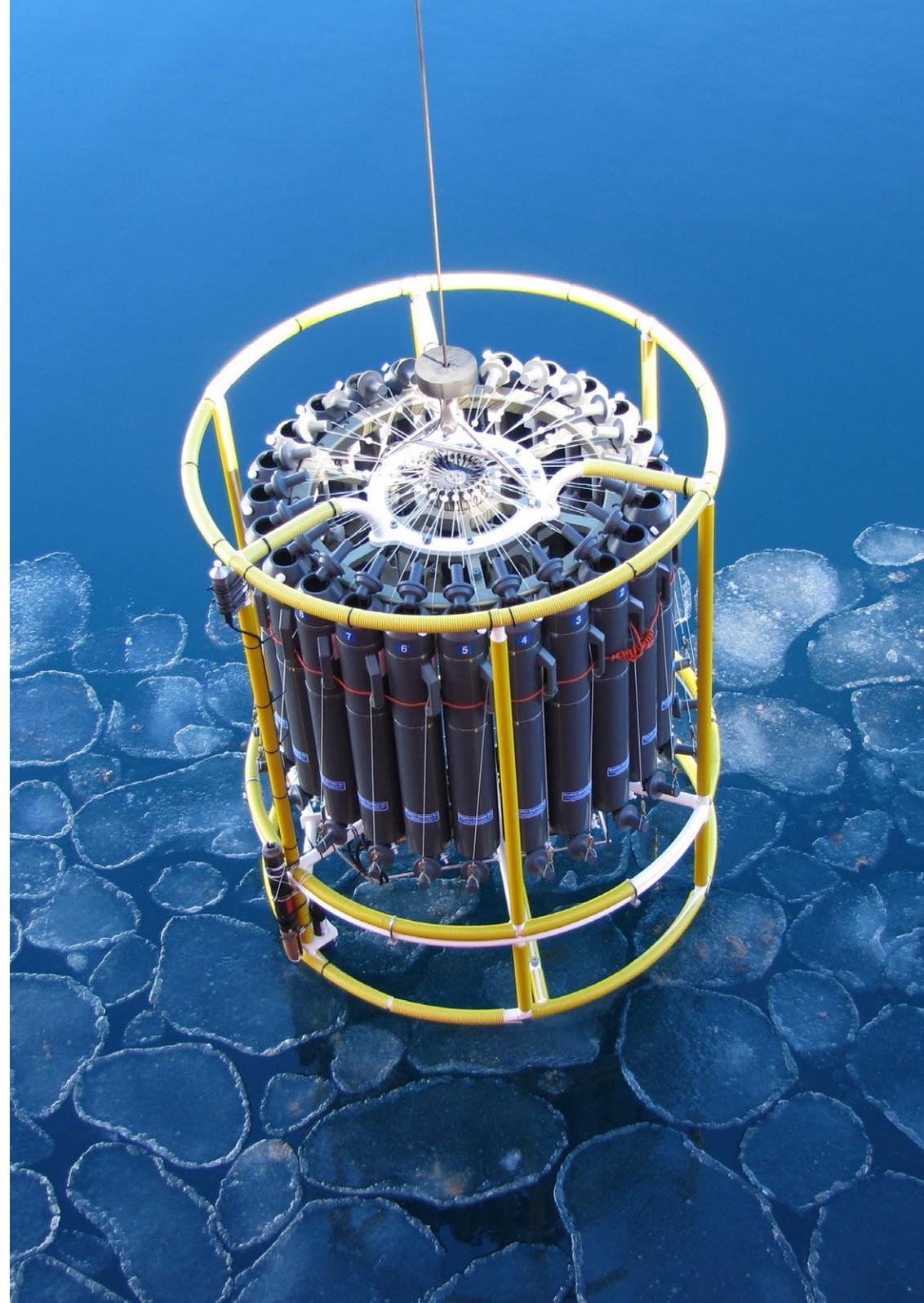
Joining the TPN can put your business in front of Antarctic and Southern Ocean operators, researchers, and agencies that are actively sourcing local suppliers and partners.

TPN members work together to strengthen, promote and grow Tasmania's business, manufacturing, education, training and research expertise in the Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector.

The TPN is an important component of Tasmania's Antarctic offering and is well known and respected within the international Antarctic community. Its networking and promotional activities are an important supplement to the Tasmanian Government's Antarctic endeavours.

TPN membership is open and welcomes members with diverse expertise and backgrounds. For many TPN members, the Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector is a small but important component of their business activities.

To learn more about the Tasmanian Polar Network please visit [tasmanianpolarnetwork.com.au](http://tasmanianpolarnetwork.com.au) or email [info@tasmanianpolarnetwork.com.au](mailto:info@tasmanianpolarnetwork.com.au)



*Image: Oceanographic instrumentation (CTD), Southern Ocean Observing System, Sebastiaan Swart, University of Gothenburg.*



Image: RSV Nuyina at Heard Island, Simon Payne/Australian Antarctic Division.

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