

**OPENING SPEECHES ON THE OCCASION OF THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW CCAMLR HEADQUARTERS
AT 181 MACQUARIE STREET, HOBART
(24 October 2005)**

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**The Hon. Alexander Downer, MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australia**

Australia Supports Antarctic Conservation

'I am pleased to be opening the new headquarters of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) on the occasion of the Commission's 24th annual meeting in Hobart today.

The Commission plays an instrumental role in the conservation of the unique and fragile Antarctic ecosystem and its work builds on the international cooperation that exists under the Antarctic Treaty. Over the next two weeks, 24 CCAMLR Members and a host of observer states will participate in the annual Commission meeting.

Australia is proud to be the host country of CCAMLR. We are a strong advocate for both the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources and the suppression of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in the Southern Ocean which undermines such conservation.

The new CCAMLR Headquarters in Hobart is funded by the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments. Australia is pleased to have provided a purpose built venue that will meet the needs of CCAMLR and its Members in the future.'

Full details of Minister Downer's opening speech are available at:
www.foreignminister.gov.au/speeches/2005/051024_antarctic.html

Lara Giddings, MHA
Minister for Economic Development, Tasmania

New Hobart premises for international Antarctic secretariat

'The Commission of the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) now has a new home at 181 Macquarie Street which in a former life was the Hutchins School.

The State Government will provide A\$125 000 a year towards hosting the Secretariat in Hobart.

The new Secretariat will enable us to better cater for international workshops and meetings and reaffirms Tasmania as a key Antarctic gateway.

A number of important international meetings are scheduled to take place at the new premises in 2006.

They include international workshops on Antarctic sea-ice thickness and biennial meetings of the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP) and the Scientific Committee of Antarctic Research (SCAR), to take place in July 2006.

All these meetings will attract between 600 to 800 Antarctic program managers and Antarctic scientists to Hobart, from over 29 countries.

They will provide huge opportunities for Tasmania's businesses, academia and industry to promote themselves to the broader international Antarctic community.

It will allow the local Antarctic sector to target countries to use the State as a future supply base for their operations, including the USA, Italy, China, India, Estonia, Japan and Russia.

The new accommodation and meeting facilities are a credit to the vision of CCAMLR director Dr Denzil Miller and his team and developer Nekon.

The State Government has been working to ensure that the future needs of CCAMLR continue to be met here in Tasmania.

I have no doubt this facility will truly become a hub for the international Antarctic community in Tasmania.'