



Tasmanian Polar Network

**Media release
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Chinese ship visit another positive sign for Tasmania's Antarctic support

The arrival of the Chinese icebreaking ship *Xue Long* this weekend continues the work of the Tasmanian Polar Network and Antarctic Tasmania (Department of State Growth) in building a relationship with China.

Chair of the Tasmanian Polar Network, Mr John Brennan, said today that the visit continues the long-term collaborative effort of industry working with government to achieve a positive outcome for Tasmania's drive to consolidate the state's potential as an Antarctic Gateway.

"We are committed to pursuing opportunities to grow the Antarctic operations sector and creating critical mass for our Antarctic and Southern Ocean science agencies and the suppliers of goods and services that will contribute to the economic and social benefit of Tasmania.

"We are proud that Tasmania is the gateway to East Antarctica and our energies are directed at building a hub of excellence for science, research, education and commercial activities for the sector," Mr Brennan said.

The *Xue Long* last visited Tasmania in January 2013.

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