

MEDIA RELEASE

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



IMAS building work to begin

Construction of the new \$45 million Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) building on Hobart's waterfront will begin next week.

The first step will be preparation for the demolition of the Princes Wharf No 2 Building on Castray Esplanade to make way for the state-of-the-art building.

The Executive Director of IMAS, Professor Mike Coffin, said the new building will be a fitting home for the scientists of IMAS undertaking research in temperate marine, Southern Ocean and Antarctic research.

"The new building, funded by the Australian Government through the Education Investment Fund and on land provided by the State Government, will bring together much of Tasmania's considerable strengths in marine and Antarctic studies in one precinct, encouraging interaction and offering opportunities for collaborative research of state, national and international significance," Professor Coffin said.

IMAS was created as a University Institute in 2010 and is currently headquartered on the Sandy Bay campus.

Construction, which follows an extensive planning and consultation process, is expected to take about 18 months, with an anticipated completion date in mid-2013.

Contractor John Holland/Fairbrother is scheduled to begin work on the Princes Wharf 2 shed site on Monday. Initial activity will focus on site establishment and structural reinforcement of the adjoining CSIRO building.

Demolition of the PW2 shed is expected to begin in October and be completed by the end of November. The University hopes to begin construction of the new building early in the New Year.

The project is an initiative of the Australian Government, being conducted as part of the Nation-building Economic Stimulus Plan.

Monthly updates on demolition and construction, as well as more general information about the institute and its research and teaching activities, can be found on the IMAS website: www.imas.utas.edu.au

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