

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



New building earns 5 Star Green Star rating

UTAS' new Medical Science 2 (MS2) building has become the first educational building in Tasmania to achieve a Green Star rating for environmental design.

The project has been awarded a 5 Star Green Star - Education Design v1 rating by the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA).

MS2 is also only the fifth building in Tasmania to achieve a Green Star rating.

Jacinta Young, Executive Director, UTAS Commercial Services and Development, said the rating was a demonstration of the University's commitment to more sustainable, productive and healthy education facilities.

"MS2 will have teaching facilities for more than 1,000 undergraduate students and office and laboratory facilities for 450 staff and postgraduate students.

"It is important that while the building provides excellent, cutting-edge facilities for students and staff, its environmental impacts are minimised and the building's features are sustainably designed and constructed.

"It is significant to achieve a 5 Star Green Star building rating for a building of this scale anywhere.

"However, to achieve it in Tasmania where electricity is largely renewable is a fabulous result."

Chief Executive of the GBCA, Romilly Madew, says: "We are delighted to certify Tasmania's first green education facility, and applaud the University of Tasmania's commitment to Green Star certification, which will see a number of other projects achieve Green Star ratings in the future.

"A range of studies has confirmed that green education facilities can improve the health and learning of students, reduce teacher sick days and turnover, and offer interactive learning about sustainability and the environment.

"We congratulate the University for demonstrating that sustainability in the built environment can be affordable and achievable," Ms Madew concludes.

MS2 was constructed by a joint venture between John Holland and Fairbrother. John Holland State Manager, Gary Baird, said achieving the Green Star status is significant for the company.

“Our project team were dedicated to achieving UTAS’ vision, as well as providing an end product that is not only innovative but contributes to the long- term sustainability of our built environment,” Mr Baird said.

Some of the building’s environmentally friendly attributes include:

- A 80,000-litre rainwater harvesting tank, serving toilets
- Solar hot water
- Energy-efficient lighting units with proximity sensor activation
- Daylight glare controls – external sunshades, highly-efficient glass and user-controlled blinds to all office/ lab environments.
- 200 secure bike parking spaces with a shower and storage for staff and students
- Priority parking for small cars
- Natural rubber-based flooring, recycled timber and recycled content carpets.

MS2 is the second stage of the Medical Science Precinct, a joint project of the UTAS Menzies Research Institute Tasmania, the UTAS Faculty of Health Science and the Department of Health and Human Services via the Royal Hobart Hospital to build an integrated health research facility in Hobart.

UTAS also recently won the Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability Award of Excellence Award.

Media: To arrange an interview with Jacinta Young, Executive Director, UTAS Commercial Services and Development, please contact UTAS Media, details below. She is available between 1-2.30 today.

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