

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Buildings fall to make way for new future in Hobart's city heart

Demolition of inner-city buildings starts today to make way for a keystone project in the renewal of Hobart's city heart.

University of Tasmania Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Mike Calford said the 430-apartment complex, at the corner of Melville and Elizabeth streets, would help realise a future which had been envisaged by institutional leaders for a number of years.

"The benefits delivered by this project will be manifold," Professor Calford said. "It will provide an immediate and direct economic stimulus for the city, as have other major projects in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie.

"Once complete it will provide ongoing social and economic revitalisation for the CBD, and also an unrivalled student experience in one of the nation's truly beautiful harbourside cities.

"In the future we see a city in which University life moves between major complexes such as these apartments, the Domain, Medical Sciences Precinct, IMAS and the future Creative Industries and Performing Arts Complex."

Professor Calford said the broad principle of a University which exists as a natural part of its inner city was one being pursued at other campuses such as Inveresk in Launceston and West Park on the Cradle Coast.

Professor Calford said the Hobart apartment complex – funded by the National Rental Affordability Scheme – also would provide new retail space, a University shop front, public spaces and a park-and-ride hub.

Stage one, which is expected to take nine months and employ 80 people at a cost of \$9.7 million, follows the completion of an archaeological survey on site. Tasmanian contractor Fairbrother will demolish the Black Prince Hotel, the Brown and Banks Building and the Transit Centre over the next two months and then construct a three-level car park.

Demolition work is expected to have minimal impact on the site's neighbours and the public. Prior to work commencing, Fairbrother briefed the site's immediate neighbours to

ensure the nearby business owners were fully informed about the nature of the work and the upcoming construction sequence.

NRAS is a program jointly funded by the Australian and Tasmanian governments. The project has been designed by local firm Terroir and Melbourne's Fender Katsalidis (the designers of MONA) and is due to be completed for occupation by Semester 1 in 2017.

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