

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: WEDNESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



IMAS plans lodged with Authority

A development application for the new \$45 million building for the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies has been lodged with the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said the plans for the Princes Wharf 2 site would be a significant addition to Hobart's waterfront, not only adding to the scientific and Antarctic hub but also the cultural amenity of the precinct.

Preliminary consultations have been undertaken with interested members of the community as well as key stakeholders since the State Government announced in August that it would transfer the site to the University.

"The University wants and fully expects this to be a very open process of consultation and assessment through the state's planning authorities and we encourage everyone to look at the plans which will be available on the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority website as well as through the UTAS website," Prof Le Grew said.

"That initial consultation has shown a healthy level of support for the plans by award-winning architects, John Wardle Architects in conjunction with local architects, Terroir.

"We would anticipate works could start following the summer festivals next year."

Prof Le Grew said the new home for IMAS will recognise the significance of Tasmania's proximity to Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, and the importance of the marine environment for both science and industry. The funding of \$45 million for the building has been allocated from the Australian Government's Education Infrastructure Fund.

"I applaud the value that the State Government places on the educational potential of this emerging University institute," he said.

The IMAS building will have a gross floor area of approximately 7,500 square metres, constructed over three levels with a strong public and port interface, particularly along Castray Esplanade and the wharf apron. The building will not be greater in height than the adjacent CSIRO facility.

Prof Le Grew said the building will be mostly open plan offices and research facilities as well as a range of laboratories together with meeting and teaching spaces.

“Importantly, there will be an emphasis on welcoming the public in, with the ground level being publicly accessible and inclusive of an auditorium and exhibition space.”

“This building will exemplify the vision for IMAS as a centre of excellence in the study of the Southern Ocean on a local, national and international level,” Prof Le Grew said.

“With a focus on climate change and the Antarctic as well as aquaculture, fisheries management, biodiversity, ecosystem management and modelling, plankton research in the Southern Ocean and physical oceanography, I can’t imagine a better or more relevant location.”

Prof Le Grew said there will be many economic spin-offs as well from locating IMAS on the waterfront, including other nations’ use of Hobart as a logistics point, and international visitors who will use IMAS for research collaborations.

Information about the IMAS and the IMAS building project can be found at <http://www.utas.edu.au/major-projects/> and the plans and drawings will be available on the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority website at http://www.waterfront.tas.gov.au/planning/stat_notices.htm from Thursday this week.

Information Released by:

UTAS Communications and Media, University of Tasmania

Phone: (03) 6226 2124 Mobile: 0417 517 291

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au