



Media Statement



25 February 2008

**PAUL LENNON
PREMIER**

PROFESSOR DARYL LE GREW
Vice Chancellor, UTAS

New Partnership Agreement Signed

A new institute for marine and Antarctic studies will be developed under a new Partnership Agreement between the Tasmanian Government and the University of Tasmania.

A series of research scholarships for exploring the potential of Tasmania's unique island culture is also among a range of initiatives as part of the partnership.

Premier Paul Lennon and Vice-Chancellor Prof Daryl Le Grew today signed the new three-year agreement, which focuses on the priority areas of health, education, climate change, Antarctic and marine science and island culture.

Mr Lennon said the five areas were essential to the State's ongoing development and were sectors in which the University made a vital contribution.

"The two previous partnership agreements have helped develop a productive and open working relationship between my Government and the University," Mr Lennon said.

"We are committed to combining our resources and expertise to generate positive economic, social and cultural development in Tasmania."

Prof Le Grew said the unique partnership had led to a number of significant cooperative ventures, including the Menzies Institute, Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute (TAFI) and Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research (TIAR), which had elevated Tasmania onto the international research stage.

“As the only university in the State, we have an enormous advantage in being able to work closely and cooperatively with the State Government in a partnership that benefits Tasmania and all Tasmanians,” he said.

Mr Lennon said the new institute of marine and Antarctic studies would incorporate all existing University marine and Antarctic researchers into a single large institute.

“This will build on Tasmania’s international profile in this field and enhance our capacity to attract research funding, and improve teaching and the transfer of knowledge to the industry,” Mr Lennon said.

Mr Lennon said the Government and University both recognised the value of features that make Tasmania unique, such as its island culture, creative and innovative industries and natural assets.

“The establishment of research doctorate scholarships is aimed at improving our understanding of how we can make the most of these attributes in the future in areas such as the creative industries and urban renewal.”

Prof Le Grew said UTAS, as one of Australia’s oldest and most respected universities, was delighted to continue to work with the State Government on some of the major issues in the State, and to create bridges of opportunity for Tasmanians.

Other initiatives under the agreement include:

- Design and implement a more collaborative approach to teacher training to ensure new teachers have the skills, knowledge and capacity to effectively teach literacy and numeracy, and to provide better professional learning opportunities for practicing teachers.

- Develop a strategy for Tasmania’s health workforce to plan for the delivery of a sustainable health workforce.
- Complete a feasibility study for the development of a primary health clinical education centre at Clarence to enhance the capacity for primary health training.
- Improve the commercialisation of Tasmania’s public sector research and its contribution to the economy.
- Collaborate with business and industry on climate change research to promote mitigation and adaptation strategies for the State.
- Increase the number of Tasmanian police officers completing Bachelor degrees through the Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies to improve the professionalism of the Tasmanian police service.

This program is part of the State Government’s commitment to progressing a range of *Tasmania Together* Goals including high quality education and training for lifelong learning and a skilled workforce; and active, healthy Tasmanians with access to quality and affordable health care services.

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