

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS aquaculture and marine conservation to move under IMAS umbrella in Launceston

A University of Tasmania review has recommended that a section of the Australian Maritime College become part of the newly-established Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS).

Announcing the proposal, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor David Rich and the Principal of the Australian Maritime College, Professor Malek Pourzanjani, emphasised that the recommendation was for aquaculture and marine conservation areas based on the Newnham campus in Launceston to remain there with a continuation of the teaching programs and no staff redundancies or forced relocations.

Prof. Rich said that the aquaculture and marine science components of the National Centre for Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability, one of three national centres currently in the AMC, would become a northern node of IMAS.

“That recommendation, from a review by former James Cook University Deputy-Vice Chancellor Professor Norman Palmer, is designed to be a constructive change to give these areas a fresh start,” he said.

“The review will be used as a basis to reinvest in these areas of expertise and will give UTAS and Tasmania a competitive edge in important areas.”

“I believe that the proposed change demonstrates a University commitment to supporting and resourcing excellence in aquaculture and marine conservation at the Launceston campus.”

Prof. Rich said that the recommendations of the Palmer Review would be worked through in full consultation with staff to develop detailed proposals and resourcing needs.

Other major recommendations include:

- That a fisheries and seafood unit be established in the Australian Maritime College to enhance UTAS' capacity to respond in national and international markets for innovative and collaborative teaching and training programs;

- That UTAS commit appropriate funding to upgrade research and teaching infrastructure in the new northern IMAS node, complementing those in the southern IMAS facilities.

Prof. Pourzanjani said under the new arrangements the AMC would continue to be a key player in maritime matters and continue to raise its international profile in its unique areas of expertise and excellence.