

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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University and its partners unveil \$300m plan to transform lives, transform cities

The University of Tasmania, the State Government and partners today unveiled a \$300 million business proposal to address a unique set of circumstances in Tasmania around educational attainment and economic renewal.

The proposal would deliver 12,000 additional students into higher education over the next 10 years – many of those in the North and North-West of the State - and create 3110 jobs.

It was launched today by University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen, State Treasurer Peter Gutwein and representatives from partners TasTAFE, City of Launceston, Burnie City Council and Cradle Coast Authority.

Mr Gutwein said: “If realised, this offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to stimulate the Northern Tasmanian economy, create jobs and generate work opportunities for local companies, revitalising the CBDs of Launceston and Burnie.

“It will grow the University and its offerings, increase student numbers, improve educational outcomes and underpin the future for Northern Tasmania, a future of growth and competitive industry.

“The Tasmanian Government is very supportive of the *Education-Driven Economic Revitalisation of Northern Tasmania* proposal which is why we have earmarked funding to support it.

“The distinct focus is to create jobs and opportunities, now and into the future.”

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said: “This is an historic step. Today the Memorandum of Understanding partners are affirming their belief that the future of these northern communities lies with education and research.

“Between us, we have significant money to invest in this belief and together are ready to seek the Federal Government’s support to help make our vision a reality.”

The cornerstone of the plan includes the relocation of University campuses to inner-city sites at West Park and Inveresk. The Australian Maritime College (AMC) would remain at Newnham and be strengthened as the heart of a precinct focused on advanced design and manufacturing, firmly linked to industry development in the North.

Professor Rathjen said while there was breadth to the proposal, the key priority was to increase student participation in current and new programs.

The State Government and University yesterday released a set of principles and objectives (**attached**) which will underpin the delivery of the proposal.

The principles are:

- **Aspiration** – Northern campuses will work to meet increasing demand for higher education among growing numbers of school-leavers and others seeking the advantages that education will bring.
- **Influence** – Northern campuses will have a voice in influencing the overall functioning of the University of Tasmania.
- **Presence** – Northern campuses will be visible and integrate with the broader community, making a positive contribution to the social and economic prosperity of our distinct communities in the North and North-West.
- **Growth** – Clearly-defined strategies will ensure the significant growth in student numbers necessary to underpin the sustainability of the Northern campuses.

“We need to be very clear – this proposal is not about some lesser or diminished University presence in the North,” Professor Rathjen said.

“It is about building sustainable world-class campuses, an outstanding student experience and research which will help deliver better futures for our State and its people.”

As part of the proposal, the Tasmanian Government and the University will develop a process that will maintain strong links and close partnership during the delivery of the project, as well as reviewing annually the shared objectives outlined in the State Government and University of Tasmania Partnership Agreement.

Information released by:

University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office

Phone: Jason Purdie on 0455 838 945

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au