

# Media Release

## Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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### Official opening for Newnham student apartments

The University of Tasmania today cut the ribbon on 180 student apartments at its Newnham campus – the first delivered under a bold program to construct a total 770 across the State worth \$120 million.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said the apartments – delivered under the joint Federal/State-funded National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) – were fully subscribed when the first student intake arrived at the start of semester.

“In no small way, this NRAS program underpins the University’s mission to improve Tasmanians’ access to and attainment in higher education,” Professor Rathjen said.

“Quite simply, there are students at the University today, that wouldn’t be if not for the provision of this unit accommodation.

“The NRAS units are an important bridge across some of the deep challenges to providing world-class higher education in Tasmania, including a dispersed population and our University’s multi-campus model.”

The units were officially opened by Professor Rathjen and Member for Bass Andrew Nikolic.

“These apartments show what strength can be drawn from the University working in partnership with Government and the community, funded as they have been under a State/Federal program and generously supported by Launceston City Council,” Professor Rathjen said.

“The Newnham apartments, along with 120 scheduled for construction at our Inveresk campus, represent the single biggest investment by the University in the north of the State.”

The apartments are self-contained, offering a standard of accommodation particularly sought-after by mature-aged students who are returning to higher education.

Unit complexes are also scheduled for West Park at Burnie and at the Melville Street car park in Hobart.

Professor Rathjen said the University had strategically sought sites that were either in, or within easy access to, community centres.

“It is critical in a university sector becoming increasingly competitive – both nationally and globally – to offer students an experience and lifestyle which exists beyond the curriculum,” he said.

“When I think about the great university cities of the world – and I do think about that quite a bit – they contain the city, the university and student accommodation.

“The buildings of the university are spread throughout the city, and the life of the city goes on in and around those buildings.

“That’s the dynamic we see will be emulated through the NRAS program.

“We see these projects not only providing a direct economic benefit to Tasmania during construction, but a source of ongoing economic stimulus and renewal within these centres into the future.”

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### ***Background***

The Newnham apartments were made possible as part of a wider program funded with approximately \$75 million from the National Rental Affordability Scheme.

The State Government is providing direct support through an up-front, in-kind contribution of \$17.6 million.

The University of Tasmania is spending approximately \$120 million on the project.

**MEDIA CONTACT: Jason Purdie (0455) 838 945**