

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Northern campus MoU partners inspect Inveresk site

Partners to a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today inspected the site of a potential new inner-city educational precinct.

University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen joined Tasmanian Treasurer Peter Gutwein and Launceston Deputy Mayor Rob Soward to inspect the Inveresk sites under consideration for an expanded Northern University campus.

In May, the State Government, Launceston City Council and TasTAFE joined the University as signatories to an MoU to discuss the establishment of a new campus in central Launceston.

It followed a State budget allocation of \$60 million to underwrite northern infrastructure development. More recently, the State and University signed an historic partnership to achieve a number of milestones, including an additional 10,000 Tasmanians into higher education over the next decade.

Concept plans for the Launceston campus proposal were discussed by the partners in the project on August 31 with the aim of developing a shared vision which can be released for community consultation in the coming weeks.

Professor Rathjen said an expanded campus close to the CBD could revitalise and energise Launceston while providing modern, fit for purpose facilities that would be more attractive to local, interstate and international students.

“With its proximity to the city and existing University and cultural infrastructure, Inveresk is an exciting option for an expanded Northern campus,” Professor Rathjen said.

“Improving educational attainment in Tasmania is widely recognised as one of the keys to a more modern and prosperous Tasmanian economy.

“To attract more Tasmanians into higher education and gain a greater share of national and international students we need to provide high quality facilities that will deliver world class educational outcomes.

“The proposal we are considering along with the State Government, Launceston City Council and TasTAFE offers a rare opportunity to transform the State’s educational outcomes while bringing new infrastructure, jobs and vitality to Launceston.”

Professor Rathjen said an expanded campus would sit comfortably alongside iconic facilities such as the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, providing a vibrant cultural and educational precinct for the community.

“The Tasmanian College of the Arts and the School of Architecture and Design will soon be complemented by the new Inveresk apartments and, as was clear during our site inspection today, there is great potential to add further to the precinct’s unique and rich range of facilities.”

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