

MEDIA RELEASE

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NBN to revolutionise education

The national broadband network (NBN) roll-out will transform access to education for all Tasmanians, says UTAS School of Computing and Information Systems head Dr Julian Dermoudy.

Dr Dermoudy said despite flexible learning being available at schools and universities in the state, the internet bandwidth available to students studying off campus had limited its success.

“Teaching material has only been able to be delivered in passive and generally static forms over the internet as text documents, email, blogs and slow and often interrupted audio and video streams,” Dr Dermoudy said.

“This is all about to change with the national broadband network roll-out giving people access to high internet speeds at home and work.

“Learning can become more interactive and students could potentially log-in to attend a lecture while sitting at home or work.”

Dr Dermoudy said the NBN would foster a new generation of applications, not only in education, but also health and business

“The NBN will not replace people, but it will provide better access to people through the new technology,” he said.

“We’re about to go from the state with the lowest internet connectivity to the state with the highest internet connectivity, but it is how we use this new physical utility that will determine the real benefits.”

Dr Dermoudy said many of the ways that the new fast speed broadband can be used had not yet been invented.

Researchers at UTAS are already developing new applications for the NBN, including web monitoring systems using artificial intelligence, marine science monitoring systems and applications in the E-Health domain.

With Tasmania being the first state to receive a \$700 million optic fibre network, the State Government and University of Tasmania have invited internet pioneer and physicist Professor Larry Smarr to talk with government, industry and UTAS staff and students next week about new opportunities the NBN will provide the state.

Professor Smarr is also the guest speaker at the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's inaugural Joseph Aloysius Lyons Lecture on 10 August.

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