

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Expert academic panel to host post-poll public forum

Local and international experts on multi-party systems will discuss how Tasmania can be governed successfully under a minority government, at a free public forum at the University of Tasmania tomorrow night.

Academics will discuss the topic, *Making multi-party systems work: Governing Tasmania beyond the 2010 election*, at the School of Government hosted event at the Centenary Lecture Theatre.

Event coordinator and speaker from the UTAS School of Government, Dr Richard Eccleston, said the forum aimed to shift the focus of Tasmanian political debate on the critical issue of how Tasmania should be governed.

“Instead of reflecting on Tasmania’s historical experience with minority government, these speakers will be drawing on their expertise and international experience to identify strategies that will enable Tasmania’s multi-party system to deliver good government,” Dr Eccleston said.

“This forum is about reviewing national and international structures, and identifying systems and practices that deliver good government.”

The panel of academic experts will lead the forum aiming to inspire debate and understanding of how Tasmania should be governed beyond last weekend’s poll.

“Tasmania’s political system is increasingly multi-party in nature. It’s a reality that Tasmania as a State has to come to terms with,” Dr Eccleston said.

“While uncommon in English-speaking countries, multi-party systems are increasingly common in advanced democracies, however, international evidence suggests that to govern successfully in these systems, distinctive strategies and institutions are needed.”

Guest speakers include:

- Dr Tony McCall (UTAS School of Government) – *Forming Government – Constitutional Issues and Challenges*
- Dr Richard Eccleston (UTAS School of Government) – *Multi-Party Government, Comparative Perspectives*
- Prof Jenny Stewart (UNSW School of Business) – *Multi-Party Government in the ACT*
- Ass/Prof Raymond Miller (University of Auckland Department of Political Studies) – *Governing New Zealand under MMP*

- Prof Carsten Daugbjerg (Aarhus University, Denmark, Department of Political Science) – *The Danish Experience of Coalition Government*.
- Prof Ian Marsh (UTAS' Australian Innovation Research Centre) – *Successful policy making in multi-party systems*.

Where: UTAS Centenary Lecture Theatre, Sandy bay Campus.

When: Thursday 25 March 2010, 5.30-7pm.

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