

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: FRIDAY 8 JUNE 2012

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Local success story wins tender to design new student accommodation

A Tasmanian-based company has won a very competitive tender process to design new student accommodation at the University of Tasmania's Newnham campus.

The company, Morrison & Breytenbach Architects, has been engaged as principal design consultant for the first stage of the University's National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS)-funded student accommodation project in Launceston.

This first stage will see 180 studio apartments constructed at Newnham by December 2013. The apartments will be sited close to the existing student accommodation at Investigator Hall.

The total NRAS project will involve building 770 apartments across the State. The University is involved in discussions over other sites in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart.

"A key feature of the NRAS project will be to greatly increase the stock of affordable housing for students state-wide and, more generally, will help relieve pressure on the supply of affordable housing in areas of identified high demand," the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Rathjen, said.

Morrison & Breytenbach, co-founded by James Morrison and Yvette Breytenbach, has been commissioned to produce schematic plans for the Newnham project and to produce material to allow the University to lodge a Development Application with the Launceston City Council.

"Interest in the NRAS project has been extremely high and very competitive," the Director of Commercial Services and Development, Jacinta Young, said.

"More than 20 high-quality applications were received from Tasmanian and mainland companies for the Newnham project.

"The University will shortly be seeking an independent Quantity Surveyor for the project and be issuing an Expression of Interest for a managing contractor to see the Newnham NRAS project to completion."

Morrison & Breytenbach Architects, which enjoys a strong reputation for delivering environmentally and socially sustainable projects, won a slew of

national and state awards for its Tarremah Hall project last year, and its Balamara Street project was named the HIA Special Purpose Housing Project of the Year.

“We are delighted to have been appointed as Head Consultant for the design of the Newnham student accommodation and with the recognition this affords us - all the more so being a Tasmanian practice,” Yvette Breytenbach said today.

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