

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: FRIDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2012

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Australian Statistician to head up Advisory Panel of world-first sensor network

The Australian Statistician has accepted an invitation to become the Independent Chair of the Advisory Panel overseeing the development in Tasmania of the world's first economy-wide intelligent sensor network.

Mr Brian Pink, who is head of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, is one of three new members to be appointed to the Sense-T program's Advisory Panel. The others are the Director of IBM Research and Development – Australia, Glenn Wightwick, and the CEO of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, Jan Davis.

Sense-T is a partnership program between the University of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Government, CSIRO and IBM. The Australian Government under the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement funds Sense-T. The initial investment is \$50 million over five years.

The program will combine real-time and historical data and makes this available to government, the private sector and to the community through user-friendly apps.

"I am confident that Brian will make an invaluable contribution to the development of Sense-T. We are honoured that he has accepted the role," the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, Professor Peter Rathjen, said.

"His expertise, combined with his national and international standing, makes him uniquely qualified to guide Sense-T in its formative stages."

The Federal Minister for Regional Australia, Simon Crean, said the Sense-T project is a great example of the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments working together with the education sector and industry partners to help diversify the state economy.

"It will utilise the rollout of the National Broadband Network and mesh together historical, spatial and real-time data to deliver agricultural information and better decision-making in real time.

"The Sense-T project joins the dots between addressing local priorities, leveraging other funding sources and sustaining the economic and social future of the region."

The Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, David O'Byrne, also welcomed the appointment.

“The Tasmanian Government has partnered with the University of Tasmania, CSIRO and IBM on Sense-T because we believe it is a highly significant project with the power to drive this State's economic future.

“I welcome Brian Pink's appointment as Chair of the Advisory Panel for Sense-T. His leadership will be invaluable in achieving the potential of Sense-T.”

Mr Pink is head of the Australian Bureau of Statistics. He was Chairman of the OECD Committee on Statistics (2008-2012) and is Chair of the Statistics Committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Vice-Chair of the UN Statistical Commission.

The three new appointees join current panel members Professor Paddy Nixon, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), UTAS; Ian Opperman, Director of the Digital Productivity and Services Flagship, CSIRO; Fiona Wilson, Deputy Secretary (Strategy, Enterprise and Regions), Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts; and Ros Harvey, Director of Sense-T.

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For more information about Sense-T see www.senset.org.au

