

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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University celebrates community support for northern expansion plans

The University of Tasmania has warmly welcomed today's unanimous decision by the City of Launceston to support bold northern campus expansion plans with the transfer of land at Inveresk and Willis Street.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen described the decision as history in the making.

"Certainty around land is a key step in realising a vision for an expanded University and curriculum, bringing greater numbers of Tasmanians into higher education and rebuilding the regional economy around knowledge and learning," Professor Rathjen said

"We are literally talking about bringing education into the heart of the city, along with a significant direct boost for jobs and the economy through the development period. In its decision today, the Council has signalled clearly that it, alongside the University and Tasmanian Government, is ready to invest in a brighter future for Launceston."

University Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Mike Calford said securing the sites was a key milestone and council's decision was a clear sign of community support.

"Much progress has been made in the months since the project partners – we, the Tasmanian Government, the City of Launceston and TasTAFE – agreed to explore new futures for Launceston," Professor Calford said.

"In the very best university cities of the world, the energy of the institution infuses the community and the energy of the community in turn helps drive and define the nature of the University.

"We have much to do, but we are seeing that dynamic at play as we continue to explore and develop these exciting ideas.

“These are bold plans and we are committed to a deep and enduring process of consultation with our staff, students and the broader community.”

Partners to the proposal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in May in which they committed to consider the freeing up of land, an expansion of courses and greater collaboration between the University and TasTAFE around the delivery of post-school teaching.

In meeting the terms of the MoU, the University subsequently delivered concept plans which include new fit-for-purpose facilities at Inveresk and Willis Street, joined by a walkway across the Tamar River.

Under the proposal, most of the University’s existing Newnham operations would relocate, except for Australian Maritime College. AMC would continue to operate on its current footprint, with the prospect of expansion as surrounding buildings became available.

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