

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Thursday, 28 July 2016

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## Expanding engineering study opportunities in regional and remote Australia

Residents in regional and remote Australia aspiring to become engineers will have increased opportunities to gain a university degree when a national online training resource is unveiled in Tasmania's North-West tomorrow.

Engineering Pathways for Regional Australia (EPRA) is a partnership between six higher education institutions, including the University of Tasmania which is leading the initiative, as well as vocational education and training providers across the country.

Tomorrow the consortium will officially launch a website which consolidates engineering units from each institution into a shared curriculum, and allows prospective students to plan a pathway towards an Associate Degree in Engineering.

EPRA Project Manager Dr Peter Doe from the University of Tasmania said the website was a first-of-its-kind learning platform in Australia, and underpinning the launch was a movement to counter geographical limitations faced by many capable and interested students.

"The EPRA website allows applicants to 'design' an associate degree in civil, electrical, mechanical, maritime or mining engineering by selecting units from any of the partner institutions. Prospective students are able to enrol regardless of finishing Year 12 and can choose from online or face-to-face units to suit their location, commitments, and needs," Dr Doe said.

Professor Janelle Allison is Principal for the University of Tasmania's academic unit which will deliver new associate degrees.

She said the new website would help up-skill the country's engineering workforce, and align with a regional push to develop industries and improve productivity into the future.

"Industries particularly in Tasmania, are in need of a more skilled workforce as technology drives change. This website is opening doors for people who wish to access higher education in engineering, but it also reinforces the University's

important work to deliver an associate degree curriculum and produce job-ready graduates whose qualifications and skills will forge future regional development,” Professor Allison said.

Upon completing an Associate Degree in Engineering through EPRA, students gain an accredited engineering qualification which will allow them to begin working in the industry, or they can choose to pursue further study to become an Engineering Technologist or a Professional Engineer through any of the partner institutions.

The Engineering Pathways for Regional Australia initiative is funded by the Australian Government’s Office for Learning & Teaching.

The EPRA website can be accessed [here](#).

### **MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:**

**What:** Launch of Engineering Pathways for Regional Australia website

**When:** Friday, 29 July, 10.30am

**Where:** Domestic Arts Building, West Park Precinct, Bass Highway, Burnie

### **Information released by:**

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