

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Thursday 5 June 2014

New institute to promote world class research and help local community with social challenges

The University of Tasmania is launching a major new research institute today (**Thursday 5 June**).

The Institute for the Study of Social Change will build on the University's world class reputation for social research. In addition to promoting research excellence the Institute will also make a significant contribution to the University's social mission by providing a forum for community debate and through working with the Tasmanian community to develop and trial innovative responses to the social challenges we face.

The launch of the institute will be marked with a free public lecture by leading economist Professor Ross Garnaut titled: *Managing Massive Change: Australia's economic and social future after the resources boom*.

University political scientist Professor Richard Eccleston has been appointed the founding director of the Institute.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Paddy Nixon, welcomed the establishment of the institute and the appointment of Professor Eccleston.

"This new initiative reflects the University's ambition of fostering distinctive world class research which benefits the Tasmanian community," he said.

"Professor Eccleston's deep connections to the Tasmanian community and outstanding record as a researcher mean he is perfectly suited to lead the Institute for Social Change.

Professor Eccleston believes the focus on social change is timely given the significant challenges we face locally, nationally and internationally as a result of technology, economic transition, environmental challenges and the aging population.

“The University is well placed to host such an institute because while Tasmania is especially vulnerable to the winds of change blowing through Australian society, we believe that this potential vulnerability also represents an opportunity to work with the Tasmanian community to develop and test strategies for adapting to and, in some cases, capitalising on social change.”

Additional information on the Institute can be found at:

www.utas.edu.au/social-change

Event details

Who: All are welcome to attend this free public lecture.

What: Public Lecture by Professor Ross Garnaut, to celebrate the launch of the Institute for the Study of Social Change.

When: Thursday 5 June, 6-7.30pm. Refreshments will be served from 5.30pm.

Where: Stanley Burbury Theatre, University Centre, Sandy Bay campus.

RSVP/contact information: UTAS.Events@utas.edu.au (03) 6226 2521.

Professor Ross Garnaut is one of Australia’s most distinguished and influential economists. His career has been built around the analysis of and practice of policy connected to development, economic policy and international relations in Australia, Asia and the Pacific. He has held senior roles in universities, business, government and other Australian and international institutions.

University of Tasmania
Private Bag 95
Hobart TAS 7001
T 03 6226 2999
media.office@utas.edu.au

utas.edu.au

CRICOS 00568B