

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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### New bike hub encouraging healthy living

The University of Tasmania's commitment to healthy living and communities has produced a new \$65,000 bike hub in Launceston.

The Inveresk Bike Hub is the latest piece of infrastructure designed to make it easier for staff and students at the University to travel by bike.

Officially opened today by University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen, the bike hub features 40 secure and sheltered storage spaces, solar-powered recharging points for electric bikes, repair and water filling stations and nearby shower and change facilities.

"We know – thanks in part to our own research – that we need to improve the health and wellbeing of our community and encourage greater sustainability," Professor Rathjen said.

"But we need to provide more than just information if we want to encourage people to ride their bikes; we need to provide people with a place to securely store and maintain their bike and somewhere to wash and change at the end of their trip.

"As a community, we need to provide infrastructure that makes riding as safe as possible."

The Inveresk Bike Hub is located at the rear of the University's School of Architecture and Design, close to cycle ways that are currently being upgraded by the Launceston City Council.

Supported by the State Government through a \$10,000 grant, the hub follows the successful installation of a similar facility at the Sandy Bay Campus and the recent addition of all-electric cars to the University's vehicle fleet.

"The University of Tasmania is committed to sustainability and improving the health and wellbeing of the community," Professor Rathjen said.

"As a centre of learning, we deliver on those commitments through the provision of knowledge. But as one of the state's largest employers and with 30,000 students, we

also have an impact by paying attention to how we operate and how we support our staff and students.”

The Inveresk Bike Hub incorporates a number of sustainability features including rainwater tanks and the use of recycled materials. The façade was made and installed by School of Architecture and Design students.

**Information released by:**

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