

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **\$45 million headquarters an emblem of State's world-class future**

The University of Tasmania's \$45 million Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) headquarters, which was officially opened on Hobart's Princes Wharf today, cements Tasmania's reputation as a global leader in research and teaching.

The five-star Green Star-rated building will house 290 staff and students, five purpose-built, state-of-the-art laboratories, a 92-seat waterfront lecture theatre and a public exhibition area.

University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen joined Tasmanian Liberal Senator David Bushby and Tasmanian Premier Lara Giddings to officially open the building.

"This building is a magnificent emblem of our University's strategic direction and our aspirations for Tasmania," Professor Rathjen said.

"We have a core belief at UTAS that our activities – both in research and teaching – be world class.

"At IMAS we are pursuing an agenda of global excellence around research and teaching focussed on Antarctic and the southern ocean; aquaculture, fisheries management and marine conservation. Not only is the work we do here as good as you'll find anywhere on the planet, but we have an ambitious agenda for the future.

"We know that to achieve global excellence in an increasingly competitive higher education sector will require both scale and investment – attracting the world's very best academics, to teach the world's brightest students."

The new building allows, for the first time, co-location of researchers from IMAS, the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre and Australia's Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS).

"This allows the University and IMAS to continue to build its collaborative research partnerships of state, national and international significance," Professor Rathjen said.

IMAS Executive Director Professor Mike Coffin said the new waterfront building ushered in another significant milestone for the Institute.

“Australia’s marine jurisdiction is the third largest in the world, and it is of vital national interest to understand dynamic marine and Antarctic environments and to sustainably manage ocean resources,” he said.

“Since its inception in 2010, the Institute has grown its research and teaching expertise through recruiting leading academics from across Australia and overseas.”

Today’s opening coincides with an internationally significant annual meeting of the Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO), co-hosted this year by IMAS and CSIRO in Hobart. It includes the leaders of 39 of the foremost marine research institutions globally, representing 21 countries.

Melbourne-based John Wardle Architects was the lead firm, working with Hobart’s Terroir on the design of the facility, which was constructed through a joint venture between John Holland and Fairbrother.

Its environmental credentials include a unique seawater heat exchange system to regulate the temperature of the building and it has outstanding bike facilities to encourage staff and students to commute by cycle.

### ***Background***

The IMAS building was funded by the Australian Commonwealth Government through the Education Investment Fund.

The Tasmanian State Government contributed the land for the project.

#### **Information released by:**

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