

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Monday 23 February 2015

New bus service links Launceston CBD to University campuses

Getting to University in Northern Tasmania has become easier with the commencement today of a bus service linking the Launceston CBD to the Inveresk and Newnham campuses.

The new high-frequency Turn Up and Go service will see buses running approximately every 15 minutes between 8:00am and 6:00pm on weekdays in a ten month trial.

A joint initiative between Metro, the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government, the service will offer convenient, sustainable transport to University students and the general public alike.

The University of Tasmania Provost, Professor Mike Calford, said improved public transport was a key element of the University's comprehensive sustainable transport strategy.

"Ensuring higher education is accessible to as many Tasmanians as possible is a fundamental part of our mission," Professor Calford said.

"In that sense, accessibility is a lofty aim but we also strive to make our Institution accessible in the most practical sense of the word – through convenient, safe and sustainable transport options.

"We are committed to improving the use of sustainable transport, including active and public transport, by our staff, students and visitors.

"This partnership with the State Government and Metro Tasmania to deliver a high frequency bus service demonstrates our commitment to the region and the benefits that we can bring to the community working in collaboration with others."

The new service strengthens further the University's sustainability credentials. In the 2014 Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability Green Gown Awards, the University won three categories including the Facilities and Services Award for implementation of initiatives that support sustainable transport.

“We take sustainability seriously,” Professor Calford said.

“Our new buildings are designed and constructed to be as energy efficient as possible and we continue to roll out initiatives ranging from virtual transport to increases in hybrid and electric vehicle numbers throughout our fleet.”

The University’s bike hub developments throughout its Northern campuses leverage the efforts the Launceston City Council, the Flood Authority and the State Government have put into bike lanes.

The new bus service in the North follows a similar Turn Up and Go services in the South and will greatly increase the sustainable and active transport options available to all those who study or work at, or visit, the University.

For further information about timetables, fares, concession entitlements and Greencard, passengers can contact Metro by phone 13 22 01 or visit www.metrotas.com.au

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