

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Monday 14 September 2015

Early work starts on Hobart's new \$75 million cultural and performance precinct

Construction hoarding is going up around the site of the University of Tasmania's new \$75 million creative industries and performing arts development, on the corner of Campbell and Collins Streets in Hobart, marking the start of early works on the site.

The development will create a new education and research hub to contribute to Tasmania's creative industries, along with a custom-built home for the Conservatorium of Music and state of the art performance spaces for public enjoyment.

University of Tasmania Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor David Sadler said the new development would capture the momentum of Tasmania's cultural and artistic resurgence.

It would be funded with \$37 million from the Australian Government's Federal Education Investment Fund, \$15.3 million from State Government, and the remainder from University of Tasmania and other sources.

"This complex will provide a significant enhancement to the State's arts, cultural and performance landscape, incorporating cutting-edge immersive technologies and consolidating the State's position as a leader in the creative and digital arts, and design," Professor Sadler said.

"The completed project will create a new landmark for the Hobart CBD, joining other transformative projects such as the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies and the Medical Science Precinct, while complementing, enhancing and preserving the district's heritage values, particularly the historic Theatre Royal."

The Theatre Royal chief executive, Tim Munro, said the Theatre Royal had been working with the university throughout the project.

"The Theatre Royal is very pleased that the Australian and Tasmanian governments, and the University of Tasmania are working together to support such a significant development, which will benefit Tasmanians in many ways and make a strong contribution to the social, cultural economic and educative future of the state," Mr Munro said.

The final design for the building will be bookended by the façade of the Hedberg Garage on one side and the heritage of the Theatre Royal on the other, with a glass feature to both connect and clearly separate the modern structure from the theatre, complementing and enhancing its heritage values.

The new development also will bring benefits for Theatre Royal patrons – with a new multi-level foyer space adjoining the Theatre Royal that features new ticketing, bar and toilet facilities – and resolve issues such as access for people with a disability.

Construction will be sympathetic to the running of the Theatre Royal and the early works will include an archaeological investigation of the site.

Hobart firm Liminal Architecture is finalising the building's design, in collaboration with globally recognised partners WOHA and ARUP, and will incorporate any necessary changes to the design based on the archaeological results.

The project has already achieved both development and building approvals for the early works, including approval from the Tasmanian Heritage Council

Major construction is expected to commence shortly after completion of the early works, and is likely to generate around 250 jobs at the peak of construction, before completion in late 2017.

Information released by:

University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office

Phone: Jason Purdie – 0455 838 945.

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au