

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA**

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Partnership will deliver iconic new \$90 million cultural hub

Hobart's iconic new Creative Industries and Performing Arts Development will be delivered in partnership between the University and State Government.

The project will house the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music, along with a new performance, creativity and design research hub, the Creative Exchange Institute (Cxi).

The University will contribute \$60 million, including \$37 million from the Australian Government's Education Investment fund, with \$30 million from the State.

The project will deliver state-of-the-art performance and research spaces, as well as improvements for the Theatre Royal, including a new studio theatre, ticketing areas, disabled access and public amenities.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said the project was a testament to what could happen when support aligned across the political spectrum.

"This project has been enthusiastically supported by all sides of politics, at both a state and federal level," he said. "It shows what can happen when such broad support galvanizes around a powerful idea.

"This complex will become a beacon to creative students across the country, helping support and deliver further on the powerful momentum we are enjoying across the state's artistic and cultural communities."

Tasmanian College of the Arts Director and Head of School, Professor Kit Wise, said the project would have a profound impact on the state and further afield.

"This major investment in the creative arts and will benefit not just the Conservatorium and the theatre, but the school as a whole and the wider community," he said. "The development will confirm Tasmania's place at the forefront of the creative arts nationally, with real impact internationally."

CxI Director Professor Stephen Loo said the development would be a contemporary landmark for Hobart's inner city, designed by Tasmanian firm Liminal Architecture, partnering with internationally renowned Singaporean firm WOHA and Arup Acoustics and Theatre.

"This is a highly complex project given the trans-disciplinary functional requirements, inner-city nature of the site and the deep heritage value of the Theatre Royal," he said.

The project – which has been developed with ongoing engagement with the Tasmanian Heritage Council and the Theatre Royal – has involved the partial demolition of the historic Hedberg Garage, but the entire two-storey component will be preserved in the final design.

An archeological investigation of the site is complete and historically significant items will inform the passage of the project, as has been the case at other key inner-city University properties.

The new building and the Theatre Royal will be connected by a glass feature, which will provide access to every level of the theatre.