

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS to seek public feedback on home for new Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies

Hobart's Princes Wharf No 2 has been identified as the University of Tasmania's preferred site for the proposed new Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS).

Funding of \$45 million to establish a purpose-built facility for the new Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) in Hobart was announced in last night's Commonwealth Budget.

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said UTAS also received \$44.7 million for the Menzies Research Institute building along with \$52 million in funding for the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) housed at UTAS.

In addition, UTAS was part of the consortium with CSIRO in a successful \$120 million bid for a new research vessel to replace the existing *Southern Surveyor* and \$30 million for maintenance of the existing vessel.

Prof Le Grew said today the proposed new Institute would greatly enhance Hobart's status as a key Antarctic centre and provide a boost to research as well as a focus for visitors interested in Antarctica and the southern oceans.

"We are announcing today our interest in developing the new IMAS building at Princes Wharf No 2," he said.

"A purpose-built facility for IMAS on the Hobart waterfront will be a significant infrastructure project for Tasmania and it will give Hobart and Tasmania an international-standard venue for conferences, symposiums and seminars, further adding to the economic benefit for the State.

"Potentially it might also include cool climate aquaria, discovery spaces, facilities for visitors and additional public space for community events."

"The University has held initial discussions with the State Government and other key stakeholders, including Tasports and the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority, and is committed to a public consultation process.

"Like all Tasmanians, UTAS recognises the iconic status of Sullivans Cove and the innate beauty of Hobart's waterfront."

The public will be provided with opportunities to have an input into all stages of the process. If the community supports it and the development proceeds on the Princes 2 site it will comply with all relevant planning and development requirements.

IMAS will be a significant collaboration between UTAS and the State Government.

It will integrate the well-established Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies (IASOS) and the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute (TAFI), Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre (ACE CRC) and IMOS and work closely with industry stakeholders, CSIRO and the Australian Antarctic Division.

“One of the main themes of IMAS will be climate change and its impacts, along with a focus on aquaculture, fisheries management, biodiversity, ecosystem management and modelling, plankton research in the Southern Ocean and physical oceanography,” he said.

Prof Le Grew said IMAS will attract marine and Antarctic research scientists and benefit the Hobart Port, local businesses and the Tasmanian economy.

From next year, staff at IMAS will be co-located at the UTAS Sandy Bay campus, with the longer term intention to develop a purpose-built facility in Hobart.

Prof Le Grew said the redevelopment of Princes Wharf No 2 would:

- Consider adaptive re-use options;
- Ensure continued ship access to the wharf apron;
- Align with any redevelopment of Princes 1 to improve public access to the waterfront;
- Enhance the public amenity for major waterfront events;
- Complement and enhance surrounding developments and business establishments.

Prof Le Grew said he is also very pleased that the University has secured the continued development of the Menzies Research Institute, which will make an increasingly significant contribution to the economic growth of the State through the additional \$44.7 million announced last night for Stage 2 of the Menzies building work.

This work, which is part funded by UTAS, the State Government and the US based Atlantic Philanthropies, totals \$90 million and builds on the already \$58 million invested in Stage 1 - making a \$150 million complex.

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