

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: THURSDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2007

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS comes to town

NEW ICON TO BE BUILT IN HOBART

The University of Tasmania is embarking on a major building project which will make a unique and iconic contribution to Hobart cityscape.

A striking new building, to be built on the site of the existing Menzies Research Institute on the corner of Liverpool and Campbell Streets, will create a medical educational 'hub', bringing additional energy and activity to the city centre.

The new building will consolidate both the School of Medicine and the Menzies Research Institute, providing a state-of-the-art facility for training the health professionals of the future. The first stage of the building will also provide facilities for much of the biomedical research carried out in Tasmania.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daryl Le Grew, said the building made a strong statement at a time when Hobart is focused on building innovation.

"This is an unashamedly contemporary and modern building which will draw national attention to the innovative image of Hobart," said Professor Le Grew.

Professor Le Grew said the building's design took into account an extensive analysis of the site's history and drew on the landscape surrounding the City, in particular the mountain, harbour and heritage stone walls.

"It is designed to complement the surrounding heritage rather than mimic it. This site contains several important heritage buildings which have been carefully integrated into the overall design."

"The design evolved as the architects considered how the shapes of the mountain and surrounding foothills might lead to a building with a more fluid form than many contemporary buildings.

"The design has been linked to the medical theme of the building by using photos of cells and tissues from molecular research as inspiration for the window shapes. Feature areas of the facade have been designed to reflect the surrounding mountains, creating a fluid and expressive building form connecting the building with the city streetscape."

The new building will have five floors accommodating research laboratories and teaching environments. The architecture of the building is adaptable, enabling the University to respond to changing needs over time.

The value of the project is approximately \$43 million. The building's completion is planned for late 2008 and occupancy in early 2009. The Architects are Lyons of Melbourne and JAWSARCHITECTS, Hobart.

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