
NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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New Zealand and Tasmania join forces in agriculture research and education

The agriculture and food sectors of Tasmania and New Zealand, which have much in common, are set to benefit from today's signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the University of Tasmania and Lincoln University in New Zealand.

The agreement was co-signed by the Universities and witnessed by Tasmania's Deputy Premier and Minister for Primary Industries and Water, and Education, the Hon Jeremy Rockliff, as part of the Tasmanian Government-led delegation visit to New Zealand.

The MoU formalises current research collaborations and paves the way for new research opportunities in dairy, vegetables, viticulture, apples, pasture production, and food safety and innovation.

Another key potential collaboration will be in education and training, through joint training of postgraduate research students and joint exploration of new flexible pathways into agriculture studies at the University of Tasmania.

The agreement brings together two of the world's leading universities in agriculture, with the University of Tasmania being in Australia's top two agricultural research institutions and ranked in the top 100 in the world in the US New Rankings of Best Global Universities.

Lincoln University is ranked 13 in the QS rankings for universities with less than 5,000 students. It is a specialist land-based university focussing on Agriculture and Agribusiness, with both being the underpinning of the fast-growing NZ economy right now.

Uniquely, Lincoln also offers bridging programs for students who do not have university entry pre-requisites to accelerate them into degree-level study, which is emblematic of their commitment to increasing higher education graduates in their specialised fields.

"Building collaborations between New Zealand and Tasmania through university connections and partnerships offers many potential opportunities for innovation and niche market growth to benefit agriculture and food systems on both sides of the Tasman Sea," University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said.

"The MoU signals a commitment by both parties to expand research capability and education to build sustainable and profitable agriculture and food industries both in Tasmania and New Zealand.

"As part of this we will also investigate synergies and potential collaboration on future delivery of associate degrees and explore opportunities to work together in the promotion of careers in agriculture."

Lincoln University Interim Vice-Chancellor, Dr John Hay, said the agreement offered unique opportunities for joint research and teaching of benefit to New Zealand, Tasmania and the world.

"Through this MoU we will tackle complex research challenges, share knowledge and attract talented students and scientists that will cement both universities' profiles as world-leading in agriculture education and research," Dr Hay said.

"New Zealand's agriculture industry has much in common with Tasmania in terms of size, climate, diversity and increasing emphasis on innovation, niche marketing and branding quality produce.

"Working together we will link in to each other's relative strengths by sharing technological and research information that can help both Tasmania and New Zealand with new product development and diversification."

Director of the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture and Head of the School of Land and Food, Professor Holger Meinke, said agriculture education is a key driver of innovation in the agriculture and food sector.

"The University of Tasmania is the source for much of the innovation that we see in agriculture across our state, including in private businesses," Professor Meinke said.

"And this partnership between the University of Tasmania and Lincoln University further builds on the work we are already doing in investing in our greatest asset, our people."

Information released by:

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