

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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UTAS to lead world-class research network

The University of Tasmania will host a national network to bring together researchers and stakeholders concerned with helping Australia's marine environment and those who depend on it adapt to climate change.

UTAS will host the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Network for Marine Biodiversity and Resources announced this week by Australian Government Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong.

The UTAS-hosted network will work closely with the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility based at Griffith University.

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said the network will add to the internationally significant research being undertaken by the University.

"UTAS is already recognised nationally and internationally for its research excellence and the announcement by Minister Wong reaffirms that recognition," he said.

The network will foster a collaborative and interdisciplinary research environment to inform the development of appropriate climate change adaptation responses by policy-makers and managers.

In this way, the network will advance knowledge about climate change adaptation and adaptation options for stakeholders of Australia's marine biodiversity and resources.

The network will bring together researchers and stakeholders from a broad range of disciplines – including climate change science, ecology, economics, and the social sciences to foster collaborative research and activities in adaptation.

Associate Professor Neil Holbrook from the UTAS School of Geography and Environmental Studies led the successful bid and said the network would be open to all marine researchers, stakeholders and end-users.

"Many issues will influence the adaptability of Australia's marine biodiversity and living marine resources, and its stakeholders, to climate change including societal attitudes, economic policy and management approaches. It's an interdisciplinary issue," Assoc Prof Holbrook said.

The UTAS led consortium includes the Australian Maritime College (an institute of UTAS), the Australian National University, CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, James Cook University, the Northern Territory Government, the Western

Australian Marine Science Institution, the University of the Sunshine Coast, the University of New South Wales, Charles Darwin University and Macquarie University.

Another UTAS researcher, Professor David Bowman, from the School of Plant Science will be involved in the Terrestrial Biodiversity network which will be based at James Cook University in Queensland.

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