

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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UTAS VC welcomes State budget investment in education

Professor Daryl Le Grew, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania today welcomed the increased investment in education in the State budget.

Professor Le Grew said he was pleased with the acknowledgement of education as a key economic driver.

"The Treasurer is absolutely right in identifying that every additional year of education across the community will increase long term State productivity by 8%," he said.

Professor Le Grew was also pleased to see \$1m in funding to the University's Australian Innovation Research Centre to foster leading-edge industry development, and the continuation of funding for fishing, aquaculture and maritime training at the Australian Maritime College.

Professor Le Grew said that historically a low proportion of secondary students in Tasmania took a tertiary entrance track compared with mainland States - about one-third in Tasmania compared with half in the rest of Australia.

"Based on our figures, up to 1400 more Tasmanian year 12 students each year are capable of university study but do not undertake appropriate subjects in years 11 and 12."

"If the Academy proposal lifts the number of Tasmanian school students coming to university, then we very much welcome that," he said.

The Academy will need a well-prepared stimulating curriculum, and the University looks forward to working with colleges, schools, and the Department of Education to support and develop this exciting initiative.

This investment in education is essential to the development of a sustainable economy for attracting new business and industry to the State, and in the retention of young people with the skills to be part of developing knowledge-based industries.

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