

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS leading research in Southern Ocean studies

Tasmania will be a world leader in marine, Antarctic and climate change research with the establishment of the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) at the University of Tasmania.

IMAS will integrate the well-established Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies (IASOS) and the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute (TAFI), and collaborate with State Government, industry stakeholders, CSIRO and the Australian Antarctic Division.

IMAS will be a centre of excellence in the study of the Southern Ocean on a local, national and international level. It will focus on aquaculture, fisheries management, biodiversity, ecosystem management and modelling, plankton research in the Southern Ocean and physical oceanography. One of its main themes will be climate change and its impacts.

Vice Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said UTAS already has internationally recognised expertise in marine and Antarctic research and IMAS will add to this reputation by nurturing a collaborative research environment.

“IMAS will provide UTAS with a cohesive research structure allowing the ability to foster a stimulating and productive research program of national and international significance,” he said.

The benefits for the Tasmanian marine industries are also apparent, he said.

By incorporating TAFI, which is jointly run by the Department of Primary Industries and Water, IMAS would continue UTAS’s close relationship with the State Government.

IMAS will also have a cooperative relationship with the National Centre for Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability based at the Australian Maritime College and with other Faculties within the University.

“This is an excellent opportunity to increase the profile of marine and Antarctic science at UTAS and in Tasmania as well as strengthen our collaboration with CSIRO and the Australian Antarctic Division,” Prof Le Grew said.

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