

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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## **UTAS opens discussion on building strength for the future**

University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew has launched a wide-ranging discussion into the University's organisation aimed at generating ideas to build on existing strengths and position UTAS firmly for the future.

Professor Le Grew said UTAS academics, students and staff together with the wider UTAS community and its supporters would be encouraged to participate in the *Building on Strength* review and to contribute ideas on how the University can adapt to the changing global landscape.

"We need to position ourselves for the complexities of the contemporary world so that our graduates have the best possible preparation and skills, and our research interests and ideas remain dynamic and relevant," Prof Le Grew said.

Climate change and eco-sustainability, human rights and social justice, poverty and human health, rapidly changing technologies and new dimensions to global conflict are among a range of complex issues which are demanding attention by universities world-wide.

"Universities can no longer afford to sit back and do things the same way as they have in the past: to do so is to risk sliding into oblivion," Prof Le Grew said.

"As part of the discussion process, I will be raising a series of questions on where and how UTAS needs to adapt and evolve its academic processes and structures to best confront these issues and challenges head on," he said.

Prof Le Grew said a central component of the discussion was how to improve the effective use of University resources to maximise teaching and research opportunities.

“I will bring my own ideas to the table, but I am keen to gather suggestions from the UTAS academic, student and administrative community and those of the wider UTAS community: this is a call for ideas and discussion,” Prof Le Grew said.

A series of internal forums and discussion groups will be held from next month and information is also available at the Vice-Chancellor’s website ([www.utas.edu.au/vc](http://www.utas.edu.au/vc)).

Prof Le Grew said depending on the outcome of the discussions, he anticipated that changes would not be introduced until 2010.

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