

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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UTAS future and past in historic property transfers

The University of Tasmania is celebrating the transfer of the Princes Wharf 2 building for its new Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies and the historic return of its original home on the Queen's Domain.

University Chancellor Mr Damian Bugg and Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew today applauded the State Government for its vision in negotiating the historic transactions.

Mr Bugg said the State Government needs to be acknowledged for recognising the critical role the University plays in the Tasmanian community, both now and for the future, with the transfer of the significant properties.

"Clearly, the Government's objectives align very much with our own, in working to further excellence in education, research and health in this State for the benefit of all Tasmanians," he said.

"The UTAS Council is pleased to support these initiatives, which we want to see providing lasting and tangible outcomes for the whole Tasmanian community.

"The UTAS Council wants the community to connect and engage with its University and believes that the agreement announced today will help make the University more accessible and encourage participation from a wider part of the community in all that we do."

Professor Le Grew said the new home for IMAS at the Princes Wharf 2 shed will be a celebration of Antarctic and marine science on Hobart's waterfront.

"Subject to consultation and planning approvals, we want to deliver a wow-factor to the Tasmanian community to match the anticipated profile of IMAS in the world marine research field," he said.

"IMAS' visibility and public accessibility on Hobart's waterfront will serve to educate and inform our community about the place of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean in Australia's national psyche, as well as the importance of Tasmania's marine environment.

"This development will place Tasmania at the centre of Australia's responsibility for a significant part of Antarctica, which already is home to the CSIRO Marine Laboratories and the Australian Antarctic Division, and I believe it will not be long before IMAS is internationally regarded as the

institute with the sharpest southern focus and greatest aggregation of teaching and research expertise.”

The new building for IMAS has received \$45 million from the Australian Government’s Education Infrastructure Fund last year.

Professor Le Grew also welcomed the return of Domain House to the University by the State Government.

“This is not just our original home, it is also the sentimental home for the University – it represents the beginning of the University as the fourth oldest university in Australia in 1890,” he said.

“This heritage building gives the University its undoubtedly deserved ‘sandstone’ status in the Australian university context.”

Plans to refurbish Domain House will now begin.

Professor Le Grew said community consultation also will be held to discuss the concept design for the IMAS building at the PW2 site, with the consultation feedback to be used to refine the concept design and progress to development application.

Information Released by:

The Communications and Media Office, UTAS

Phone: (03) 6226 2124

Mobile: 0417 517 291

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au