

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Feasibility study for new Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies

The first steps in the development of a purpose-built facility for the new University of Tasmania Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies on Hobart's waterfront are under way.

UTAS is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified firms to prepare a feasibility study for the \$45 million building proposed to be located at Princes Wharf No 2.

Advertisements calling for expressions of interest will appear in Tasmania's three daily newspapers and *The Australian* tomorrow.

UTAS has identified Hobart's Princes Wharf No 2 as the preferred site for the proposed new Institute and the feasibility study will identify possible options for the proposed site.

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew says IMAS will greatly enhance Hobart's and Tasmania's status as a key Antarctic centre.

"IMAS will provide a boost to research, be a focus for visitors interested in Antarctica and the southern oceans and benefit the Port of Hobart as well as the broader Tasmanian community," he said.

"It will give Hobart and Tasmania an international-standard venue for conferences, symposiums and seminars, which further add to the economic benefits of the project to the State.

"Like all Tasmanians, UTAS recognises the iconic status of Sullivans Cove and the innate beauty of Hobart's waterfront and, should the development proceed on the Princes 2 site, it is our intention that it comply with all relevant planning and development requirements."

Prof. Le Grew said a key part of the proposal will be mandating public access to the waterfront.

"UTAS will work with the planning authorities and the community to ensure this requirement is met at the highest level," he said.

The \$45 million funding for the IMAS building was provided under the under the Commonwealth Government's Education Investment Fund.

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