

# MEDIA RELEASE

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: CHIEFS OF STAFF; NEWS DIRECTORS

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## More flexible, effective Council for University

The University of Tasmania will move towards a more efficient and effective governing model, to ensure its role is better focussed on supporting the strategic development of the University for the State.

The move follows an external review of the size and composition of the University Council conducted earlier this year. University Chancellor Mr Damian Bugg said the issues raised in the review have since been carefully considered by a working party from Council.

Mr Bugg said the working party recommended a reduction in size from 18 to a maximum 14 and changes to the composition of the Council. The Minister for Education and Skills, Mr Nick McKim, has now approved the new model in principle and will propose changes to the *University of Tasmania Act* to implement it.

“The University is both an academic institution and a large business – with a gross turnover exceeding \$400 million and a salary bill of about \$250 million it’s one of the largest businesses in the State. We are also responsible for the academic and pastoral wellbeing of almost 25,000 students both here and offshore,” Mr Bugg said.

“We cannot deliver on that responsibility unless we have a strong governance model.”

Mr Bugg said the new model will help the Council become more responsive to the day-to-day needs of a University with five major campus locations.

“The size, make-up and functioning of university governing bodies have been the subject of review and direction from the Commonwealth during the last decade,” he said.

“This new model will allow the Council to respond to that governance framework.”

Mr Bugg said the Council had always attracted the highest calibre of representation. The new model will allow for identification of skill sets to properly govern a large business that is required to provide a tertiary education to as many students as possible, he said.

Mr Bugg said the ideal composition would be the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and Chair of Academic Senate; one elected member of academic staff, one elected member of professional staff, one appointed student and four to eight members appointed by Council after consultation with the Minister for Education and Skills.

The current requirement that the Minister and Council have due regard for the balance of skills and experience, regional representation and appropriate gender balance will continue to operate.

The Minister and Council are inviting interested people (particularly women and those from the North and North-West) to nominate for two existing vacancies under the current structure of Council. Both will be interim initial appointments ending 31 December 2012. Further information can be obtained from the University Council web site: [www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil](http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil)

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