

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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A day in history arrives - education backed as the key to unlock a better future for Tasmania

University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen today welcomed backing for the \$300 million transformation proposal to guide more Tasmanians into higher education and deliver new campuses.

The Liberal Government today announced it would commit to the *Education-Driven Revitalisation of Northern Tasmania*, heralding a historic point of political bipartisanship to the proposal.

The plan - already supported with \$150 million from the University, State Government and local governments - will deliver better educational attainment outcomes, social impact and economic renewal.

It will deliver 12,000 people into a new, contemporary curriculum in Tasmania and deliver modern, inner-city campuses in Launceston and Burnie.

“The immediate economic impact of this proposal will be significant and its lasting benefits will be profound,” Professor Rathjen said. “It is no overstatement to say that this is a watershed moment in history for Tasmania.

“Today a powerful set of ideas, supported by broad community sentiment, met with political will, providing the means to bring it to reality.

“If we are to truly put education and innovation at the heart of our economic future, we must put universities at the heart of our communities.”

University Chancellor Michael Field AC said it was important to recognise that a State long marked with division across politics and ideology had united around the promise of education.

“For many years, a consensus has been building that the answer to many of the most challenging questions in our State is to get more Tasmanians into higher levels of education,” he said.

“This is a great day for the University of Tasmania and a great day for the beautiful island state we serve.”

KEY ECONOMIC OUTPUTS

Jobs

- 265 new academic and supporting full-time jobs
- 185 additional indirect jobs
- 2660 construction related jobs

Students

- 9800 Tasmanian students
- 500 interstate students
- 1700 international students

Wages

- More than \$38 million in additional wages to University staff each year

Economic output

- \$1.1 billion economic output (direct and indirect) during construction
- Ongoing annual impact of \$428 million in direct economic output

Research

- Delivery of a new Launceston Institute for Applied Science and Design
- Investment in the Tasmanian Institute for Architecture

KEY MILESTONES

May 2015

The University, State Government, City of Launceston and TasTAFE sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to explore the idea of an inner-city campus in Launceston.

August 2015

Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen and Premier Will Hodgman sign an historic partnership which includes agreement to raise the number of Tasmanians in higher education by 10,000 and increase the turnover of the University to \$1 billion by 2025.

November 2015

City of Launceston Aldermen vote unanimously to provide in-principle support for the transfer of two parcels of land to explore the inner-city campus proposal.

February 2016

MoU signed between University, State Government, Burnie City Council, Cradle Coast Authority, TasTAFE which paves the way to expand West Park to become an internationally competitive education hub.

March 2016

The University, State Government and other partners launch formal business proposal, the *Education-Driven Revitalisation of Northern Tasmania*.

http://www.utas.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/809100/Northern-Proposal_A4_Booklet-March_Web.pdf

April 2016

Opposition leader Bill Shorten commits \$150 million to the proposal if Labor wins the July 2 election.

May 2016

University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen and University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor Glyn Davis sign an MoU which commits to closer research ties and evaluation of the impacts of the transformation plans, should they be realised.

The State Government commits \$75 million in the State Budget to support the proposal.

June 2016

The Liberal Government commits \$150 million if the Liberals win the July 2 election.

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