

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Inspiring academic leader appointed to champion new courses, deliver participation goals

The University of Tasmania has appointed Professor Janelle Allison to deliver a contemporary new curriculum, producing the workforce for Tasmania's future industries.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said Professor Allison was an inspiring leader and educator, who had an intimate understanding of the State's challenges and opportunities.

Professor Allison will take up the role of Principal for an academic unit which will deliver a series of associate degrees, a key part of the University's \$300 million transformation program for the State.

"Professor Allison will work within the University to deliver a series of courses which will be distinctive," Professor Rathjen said. "They will be more affordable, flexible and relevant to the regions in which they will be offered.

"There is a clear need in Tasmania for education which builds a bridge between regions with high unemployment and our industries which are in need of a more skilled workforce.

"Our expectation is that the first of these courses - in agribusiness, a sector in which there are three jobs for every graduate - will be on offer in Semester One next year."

Professor Rathjen said Professor Allison would continue to serve in a leadership role for the University - principally in the North and North-West of the State. Her current role of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Community, Partnerships and Regional Development) will be taken up by respected Launceston-based Professor David Adams.

Professor Adams, an expert in public and social policy, along with regional development, has had a distinguished career in the private and public sectors.

"I also have a long and proud association with the North and North-West of the State, so am highly invested in the future of these regions and communities," Professor

Adams said. “I look forward to the next exciting phase of regional renewal and am looking forward to be part of that transformation.”

Professor Allison said the new offerings would be world class and current thinking was informed by examples of this style of curriculum in the United States and other parts of the world.

“What we do know – based on extensive examination – is that teaching will be delivered more intensely and there will be an unwavering focus on producing graduates who are job-ready for specific industries where there is employment need,” Professor Allison said.

“We also see a future in which the students spend meaningful time in industry, along with greater exposure to real-world teachers and mentors throughout their study.

“The nature and structure of these courses will make them more attractive to young Tasmanians who are not now accessing bachelor courses and for people in employment who are ready for a change in career.”

“The evidence from other parts of the world is that a high percentage – up to half – of people to undertake an associate degree articulate through to full bachelor study.”

The associate degree in agribusiness and a second in applied business would in time be joined by others in sectors underpinning the State’s economic prosperity, including health and aged care, business, tourism and advanced manufacturing.

“Unlocking the great potential of our State and its future industries will require a workforce which is job-ready and better equipped than is currently the case,” Professor Allison said.

“The status quo will continue to be a choke on economic development for the State and lock regional communities into unacceptably poor levels of educational attainment.”

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