Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Monday, 26 June 2017

Working towards a Defence Innovation and Design Precinct in Launceston

The University of Tasmania today welcomed news the Australian Government will jointly fund a feasibility study into the establishment of a Defence Innovation and Design Precinct for Launceston.

Minister for Defence Senator Marise Payne announced the $250,000 commitment this morning before touring the University’s national specialist institute, the Australian Maritime College.

The University and the State Government will each contribute a further $125,000 to the study.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said the University was pleased to be working with the State and Australian governments on a project of such importance to Tasmania.

“There is significant potential to leverage and build on the region’s existing defence infrastructure and manufacturing capabilities,” Professor Rathjen said.

“We are pursuing a major investment in our campuses in northern Tasmania at the same time as the nation’s spending on defence will grow steeply – we aim to grasp the opportunities this presents to build on the excellence that exists in our Australian Maritime College and in the north of the State.

“A new precinct at Newnham, alongside the AMC, will encourage the collocation of industry with the University, catalyse new research and development collaborations and deliver significant investment in the Launceston region.”

The feasibility study will build on work currently underway by the University and the State Government to strategically review the opportunities in defence for the AMC in connection with the Tasmanian maritime cluster more broadly.

The Newnham Defence Innovation and Design Precinct initiative complements the new campus at Inveresk, which is being developed as part of the Australian Government’s City Deal.
Information released by:
University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office
Phone: 61 3 6324 3218 or 0438 510 616
Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au