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## A one-of-a-kind bridge to connect the city

Launceston's newest piece of infrastructure and the first piece of the University of Tasmania's new campus at Inveresk to be completed – the striking bridge over the North Esk River – was officially opened today.

Designed and constructed by local Northern Tasmanian company BridgePro, the innovative pedestrian and cycle bridge offers a safe and accessible journey between the Inveresk Precinct through to the city.

“This is a vital new connection for Launceston that brings the city together, linking our beautiful parks and CBD with a vibrant educational, sporting, and cultural hub,” University of Tasmania Pro Vice-Chancellor (Launceston) Professor Dom Geraghty said.

“The bridge will encourage people to come and explore, learn and collaborate with each other at Inveresk, ensuring a strong connection to the river and history of this significant place.

“As well as ensuring people can easily come to the Inveresk Precinct, the bridge will also enable the life and activity of the University campus to easily flow into the city. It will create a new pedestrian and cycle street connecting the precinct to the CBD.”

Part of the University's transformation and an initiative of the Launceston City Deal, the cutting-edge bridge links people and activities on both sides of the river, supporting sustainable modes of transport for both commuters and recreation.

The unique design featuring rounded edges and striking stainless-steel handrails pushes engineering forwards and provides the Launceston community with an innovative and beautiful structure. In an Australian first, the plate girders were folded rather than welded to provide rounded edges and seamless structure with no exposed cross-bracing.

The first stage includes ramp exits onto the existing levy bank pathways. The second stage of the bridge will fly over Boland Street, becoming a plaza walkway through to Cimitiere Street. This stage will be completed in line with the University's Willis Street building, scheduled for completion at the end of 2023.

**Media contact:** Ben Wild – 0438 510 616 (University of Tasmania)

**Information released by:**

Communications Office  
University of Tasmania  
+61 3 6226 2124

[Communications.Office@utas.edu.au](mailto:Communications.Office@utas.edu.au)

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