



UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA

Friday 21 June 2019

Media note: Details regarding interview opportunities and a link to download images of the new plans are at the end of the release.

Updated plans unveiled as University's Launceston developments near \$350m

Launceston's new university campus will increase access to education, attract students to the city, boost the region's economy and connect the Inveresk Precinct to the CBD.

Today the University of Tasmania released its updated plan for the campus, details of the staging for the project, and the designs for the first of the buildings.

"It is a campus designed to deliver the aspirations of the University's Northern Transformation Program, educating more Tasmanians and attracting students and staff to Launceston," said University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Rufus Black.

"The campus is designed for today's students and life-long learning, so we can work with the community to lift educational attainment and address disadvantage. Our research facilities will enable us to partner with industry to grow their businesses and to see start-ups create more new jobs for the region."

Professor Black said the Northern Transformation Program, a partnership between the University and local, State and Australian governments, is a cornerstone of the revitalisation of the region.

The Northern Transformation is attracting additional funding for University developments in Launceston with another \$84 million identified for further infrastructure.

Student accommodation on the campus and in the city will be funded in partnership with the private sector with an estimated investment of \$54 million. The Australian Government has also committed \$30 million for a Maritime and Defence Innovation and Design Precinct at Newnham.

From an original \$260 million, the Northern Transformation in Launceston is now a project worth \$344 million.

“We are building a distinctive and vibrant campus that will connect the City and Inveresk and enhance Inveresk as an important social, cultural, educational and sporting precinct for the whole community.”

Following community feedback, the appointment of internationally renowned John Wardle Architects as principal consultants, and the incorporation of student accommodation across the campus and in the city, the University has reconceived the precinct plan.

The University’s new developments will be carefully integrated within the site’s existing buildings, taking their design cues from the rich and much-loved industrial heritage of Inveresk and the City.

Key points of the plan include:

- A health, science and research building, which will be home to the Launceston Institute for Applied Science and Design, on Willis Street;
- A footbridge to link the Willis Street site to Inveresk and active recreation facilities to create life along the spine of the precinct;
- Clusters of small, townhouse-style student accommodation buildings to create a vibrant ‘street’ through the Willis Street site and further townhouse-style accommodation to help create the vibrancy and life needed for a truly attractive contemporary campus;
- A library and student experience building, and a learning and teaching building, next to the University’s existing creative arts and architecture buildings;
- The return of a significant portion of the large site next to University of Tasmania Stadium to the City of Launceston;
- New car parking at the Glebe Farm on the bank of the North Esk River.

A staged approach to construction will maximise the economic benefit to Tasmania and support local industry:

- Stage One: the library and student experience building. Construction is expected to start in the first half of next year, with the building ready for students by the end of 2021. This stage will also include the footbridge across the North Esk;
- Stage Two: the learning and teaching building, which is expected to be completed by early 2023;
- Stage Three: the health, science and research building, which is expected to be completed by early 2024;
- Additional works will see the renovation of existing University buildings and the development of landscaping, active recreation and community spaces in and around the precinct.

Professor Black said the designs for the library and student experience building were well advanced with a development application due to be submitted by the end of the month.

"This is a thoughtfully designed building that will nest within the existing buildings and rooflines of Inveresk," he said.

"It speaks to and respects the industrial heritage around it through its form and materials, but it is a thoroughly modern and exciting building that will serve the needs of today's students and those of tomorrow.

"As we promised, this is also a contemporary timber building. It uses engineered timbers for its three-story structure and throughout the internal fit out. It will be a living demonstration of how we can use timber to construct large buildings in Tasmania."

Like all buildings to follow, it is being designed in line with projected flood levels for 2090.

Community sessions will be held at Station Cottage, Inveresk, welcoming members of the public to chat with the project team about the future for the University and the precinct:

- Saturday, 29 June, 10am - 12pm;
- Tuesday, 2 July, 4pm - 6pm;
- Wednesday, 3 July, 11am - 1pm.

For more information, visit www.utas.edu.au/northern-transformation.

Media Alert

University of Tasmania Pro Vice-Chancellor (Launceston) Professor Dom Geraghty will be available for interview this afternoon;

When: 12.30pm, today, Friday 21 June 2019;

Where: In front of architecture at the University of Tasmania Inveresk campus;

Images of the precinct plan and the library and student services building are available for [download here](#).

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Information released by:

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