

Guy Barnett MP

Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing
Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Veterans Affairs
Liberal Member for Lyons



Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

Guy Barnett, Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing

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New UTAS Launceston professional services centre stage one complete

Up to 150 professional staff are now transitioning to their new headquarters at the University of Tasmania's Inveresk campus following the completion of stage one of the \$11 million refurbishment of the historic E.G. Stone Building.

Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing, Guy Barnett, said the completion of stage one of the Stone Building marked another milestone in the Inveresk relocation and transformation project.

"This project is delivering for Northern Tasmanians, providing a more vibrant space where staff and students can really flourish and driving significant economic and educational outcomes that will benefit the community for many generations to come," Mr Barnett said.

"More than just the precinct, over the previous 12 months, 274 individuals have worked on the Stone Stage 1 project through local company Fairbrother and their subcontractors, and 71 apprentices have gained the valuable training they need to succeed in the state's growing building industry.

"We are proud to have committed \$60 million to the UTAS relocation and transformation project as part of the Launceston City Deal. We look forward to seeing the full benefit of this investment as the remaining projects are rolled out.

"It seems fitting then that the Launceston City Deal partners gather to celebrate stage one of the refurbishment of the Stone Building exactly 100 years since it was opened to the Launceston community.

"It is truly wonderful to see this newly created space for staff and students in what can only be described as a modern, vibrant design that preserves and respects the important history of this landmark building for Launceston and of course the university."

The Stone Building is one of five buildings being refurbished or constructed as part of the UTAS Inveresk relocation and transformation project which is now worth \$304 million and is being

delivered by UTAS and all three levels of Government under the \$570 million Launceston City Deal.

Stage two of the Stone Building designs are well progressed and works are expected to be ready for occupation in 2025.

University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor, Professor Rufus Black, said the building had undergone a huge transformation to make it a modern, environmentally friendly workspace.

“From its high-carbon past as a massive concrete factory for coal fired steam trains, it has become a symbol of our work to create an inclusive knowledge and skills driven economy as part of the larger transformation to a sustainable Tasmania,” Professor Black said.

“These terrific new spaces for our professional staff are part of our commitment to a vibrant Inveresk Precinct, which all members of the university can call home and of our commitment to a substantial and strong professional team in the north of the state.

“The building speaks to its industrial history and through modern sustainable design, celebrates what can be done to refurbish spaces to bring people together for many years to come,” Professor Black said.

Further information on the UTAS Inveresk transformation project is available at www.launcestoncitydeal.com.au