

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## University brings more than \$23 million in ocean research to Tasmania

The University of Tasmania has consolidated its position as a global leader in ocean research securing \$23.88 million in Commonwealth funding.

The University will be home to the Marine Biodiversity Hub, led by Professor Nic Bax, which will research Australian oceans and marine environments, including temperate coastal water quality and marine species.

Announced today by the Minister for the Environment, the Honourable Greg Hunt, the funding is part of the National Environmental Science Programme (NESP) and will flow over six years.

University of Tasmania Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Mike Calford congratulated the research team and all those staff who contributed to the successful application.

“The University of Tasmania has an international reputation for excellence in applied science in areas ranging from agriculture and mining to Antarctica and oceans,” Professor Calford said.

“This latest success will ensure that, when it comes to marine science, Tasmania is known around the world as amongst the very best places to study, teach and research.”

Professor Calford said the Marine Biodiversity Hub, one of six research hubs funded through the \$142.5 million NESP, has a broad scope.

“These hubs are funded by the Commonwealth to ensure decisions about environmental and biodiversity management are made based on the best available information,” he said.

“It is a credit to our institution and our people that the country turns to the University of Tasmania to carry out this vital research.”

The Marine Biodiversity Hub will build national capacity for monitoring and reporting on coastal marine species and ecosystems, support national approaches to marine

planning including research to support evidence-based decision making, and map and define the impact of sewerage outfalls on Australia's marine environment.

The research will build on work carried out by the University's current Marine Biodiversity Hub, which was funded for five years from 2011 by the predecessor of NESP, the National Environmental Research Programme.

Professor Nic Bax, from the University's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, is a highly respected scholar who has published more than 100 research papers, reports, book chapters and papers in his chosen field.

As Director of the Hub, Professor Bax will lead a team of researchers from universities, museums and scientific organisations from around the country.

**Information released by:**

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