



Doug Parkinson, MLC

Leader for the Government in the
Legislative Council

Thursday, 6 November 2008

Launch of CSIRO Tasmanian ICT Centre

The Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Doug Parkinson, representing the Premier, today officially launched the CSIRO Tasmanian ICT Centre.

The Centre is funded through a \$30 million Intelligent Island partnership with the CSIRO. The Intelligent Island program is funded through the Australian Government and managed by the State Government, with the aim of contributing to the development of an internationally competitive ICT sector in Tasmania.

“The CSIRO Tasmanian ICT Centre is a reminder that history waits for no one – and we either move with it, or we get left behind,” Mr Parkinson said.

“Where the next few decades can take us technologically, we really cannot know.

“But we must make sure that Tasmania – through centres like this – sits at the cutting edge of the changes that do come.

“This Centre encompasses the kind of expertise that will help us build the Tasmania of the next decade and beyond.

“It’s symbolic of the clever, kind and connected vision for the future that the Premier has laid out.

“We need to focus on building economic strength through clever industries - moving with the future rather than fighting against it.

“ICT will be a cornerstone of Tasmania’s economy, and the global economy, in the years ahead.

“In the 20th century, the poles, dams and wires of the Hydro built Tasmania’s wealth and employment. Effective telecommunications infrastructure will be the dams, poles and wires of the 21st Century.

“The CSIRO Tasmanian ICT Centre is a vital link in that chain of innovation.”

Mr Parkinson said that Intelligent Island’s \$18 million Market Access Partnership grants program (MAPP) has already funded 32 projects for Tasmania since its inception in 2006, and in the last financial year generated \$7.1 million of additional revenue to the state and created 105 full and part-time jobs.

“This CSIRO Tasmanian ICT Centre has already attracted some world-class research brains.

“It has employed 30 highly qualified research staff and three PhD students under the joint scholarship program with the University of Tasmania.”

The Centre is focussing on a range of research projects, on topics including water resources, marine environments, energy use, aquaculture, and health management.

It is working collaboratively with Tasmanian ICT companies to address these important national issues and commercialise the outcomes of their research.

“The State Government is assisting through programs that support the commercialisation of innovation in Tasmania.

“This Centre is building many of these collaborative partnerships, and we look forward to seeing many more in the years ahead,” Mr Parkinson said.

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