



**WESTERN SYDNEY**  
UNIVERSITY

## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

### New joint education taskforce to drive economic recovery for Western Sydney

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12 August 2020

Four of Australia's leading universities and TAFE NSW today announced the formation of a joint taskforce to drive an education led economic recovery for Western Sydney.

The jobs focused taskforce will see UNSW Sydney, the University of Newcastle and the University of Wollongong – acting together as the 'NUW Alliance' – join with TAFE NSW and Western Sydney University to develop rapid training and re-skilling programs.

The new taskforce draws on longstanding collaborations between the four universities and TAFE NSW. Those collaborations have already produced a preliminary model of integrated education, research, and training. With a dedicated taskforce in place, that important work can now be accelerated.

The joint programs that the taskforce develops will be targeted for roll-out across the Western Parkland City. The Western Parkland City is the focus of the 2018 Western Sydney City Deal. Under the Deal, three levels of Government have committed to creating 200,000 knowledge jobs by 2038. The taskforce will be pivotal in realising that objective for a region among the hardest hit by the jobs and economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The TAFE NSW - university taskforce will prioritise training in high-demand science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related trades and professions. Its first major project is a pilot program targeting employability for the next generation of engineers. The newly announced TAFE NSW Western Sydney Construction Hub at Kingswood will be critical in bringing to life the practical elements of the new program, as will the internationally recognised engineering research and teaching depth of the four universities.

The taskforce will intensify its already significant consultation with industry in finalising the engineering pilot, and future programs. Connecting with local startups, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and blue chips – including international firms – will be critical in creating learning experiences that extend beyond theory to incorporate applied skills in real workplace environments.

The taskforce and the joint programs it develops will create a framework for the transition to a 'Multiversity', a further commitment under the Western Sydney City Deal to establish a world-class



STEM multiversity, integrated with advanced vocational education and training to ‘anchor’ the Western Sydney Aerotropolis.

The universities and TAFE NSW are focused on delivering flexible and responsive programs to provide the skills required by the workforce during the period of economic recovery, while also realising swift education, training and employment outcomes within the Commonwealth and NSW Governments’ existing regulatory settings.

The joint taskforce and the Multiversity represent a step change in industry, education, research and training collaboration. These world-first initiatives will unquestionably deliver job-ready graduates for Western Sydney.

**Professor Paul Wellings CBE, Chair, NUW Alliance** said, *“The NUW Alliance looks forward to working with TAFE NSW and Western Sydney University for the jobs of the future as we develop a new model for the Multiversity within the Western Sydney Aerotropolis.”*

**Professor Barney Glover AO, Vice-Chancellor, Western Sydney University** said, *“The City Deal, Aerotropolis and Multiversity, combined, are an opportunity for generational change in the way we deliver the highest quality education and research for Western Sydney. TAFE NSW are essential in achieving that outcome, alongside the NUW Alliance and Western Sydney University.”*

**Mr Steffen Faurby, Managing Director, TAFE NSW** said, *“Skills training will play an important role in our economic recovery, and we need to be prepared to meet that demand. The joint taskforce will complement our work in responding to emerging industry needs, and we look forward to closely collaborating with our university partners.”*

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**About the Western Sydney Aerotropolis Multiversity:**

Key to the success of the Western Sydney Aerotropolis will be to ensure that local education systems have the capability to provide the skilled workers the future workforce will require, responding effectively to industry needs and continuous technological change.

Under one banner the University of Newcastle, UNSW Sydney, the University of Wollongong and Western Sydney University are planning to establish a new higher education and research presence in the Western Sydney Aerotropolis.

Together, we envisage a unique collaborative education model that will deliver world-class, industry-engaged teaching and research across the breadth of STEM-specialist disciplines. This will involve:

- a joint funding arrangement between government and the four universities;
- bringing together higher education, vocational education and training, research and industry with an educational model that allows multiple entry and exit points to facilitate lifelong learning; and
- industry as a key participant in curriculum development.

**About the NUW Alliance:**

The NUW Alliance comprises three of Australia's leading research-intensive universities – the University of Newcastle, UNSW Sydney and the University of Wollongong.

The mission of the NUW Alliance is to seek out the big collaborations that make a difference, collaborations that unlock new value, impact and benefit for our communities across NSW.

the University of Newcastle, UNSW Sydney and the University of Wollongong, acting together as the NUW Alliance, continue to build on their local and global reputations as leaders in research and student experience. Our Universities have a proud history of achievement that has led to strong outcomes in international university rankings. Together and individually, we are among the world's best.



### **About TAFE NSW:**

TAFE NSW is the largest skills and training provider in Australia, and one of the largest in the world.

We aim to provide high quality, personalised vocational education and training to build prosperity, sustainability and innovation throughout New South Wales. We believe in helping students and businesses to unlock their potential and helping them achieve long term success throughout their career.

TAFE NSW partners with industry to deliver relevant, high quality, practical training to equip the workforce with vital skills needed to help grow the NSW economy. We collaborate closely with industry to adapt our courses and facilities to suit local community and industry needs.

Our state-of-the-art facilities and modern campuses means we can offer you some of the best vocational education available to get you job-ready. Additionally, our team of experienced teachers have active industry networks which ensures that all our students get the highest level of practical training. Our award-winning training is recognised through the growth of our strong and valued industry partnerships, the high rate of employment of our graduates and the recognition of our alumni within the community.

### **About the Western Sydney University:**

As the largest and most established educational provider in Western Sydney, Western Sydney University has a 30-year track-record of collaboratively supporting its region's development, generating in excess of \$1.4 billion in economic uplift per year, across 11 major campuses.

The University has been an agent of transformation: delivering profound and considered research, education, training and infrastructure interventions to make positive, material changes across its region.

Western Sydney University is ranked in the top 500 in the world in the Academic Ranking of World Universities, Times Higher Education World University and top 2% in the QS World University Rankings, and top 25 universities in Australia in the QS National rankings.

