

# JOINT MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

## Alliance of four universities to deliver game changer in education

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Tuesday, 24 November 2020

The University of Newcastle, UNSW Sydney and the University of Wollongong – acting together as the ‘NUW Alliance’ – last night announced Western Sydney University would be joining the Alliance as a joint venture partner to together lead a new approach to collaborative education and research.

NUW Alliance CEO Matt Gijselman welcomed the announcement.

“The capabilities and expertise represented in this Alliance have not been brought together in this way in Australia before. The size and scale of this joint venture has not been seen before in Australia – 194,000 students plus 14,500 staff, working across 37 locations including 15 innovation hubs and driving \$850 million in research funding. Today is a game changer in higher education. Together, and as individuals, we are among the world’s best,” said Mr. Gijselman.

The new arrangement draws on the extensive collaboration between the four universities that has already produced a New Education and Training Model (NETM) incorporating TAFE NSW and industry partnered education, research, and training. The formalisation of the joint venture arrangement underscores the long-term commitment to delivering the model.

The Alliance is focused on collaborative projects that will have real impact, including the delivery of the Multiversity – a single entity that brings together four of Australia’s leading higher education institutions to deliver 22<sup>nd</sup> century education, training, and research in 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 Multiversity has a pivotal role in realising that objective for a region among the hardest hit by the jobs and economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Multiversity will specialise in industry-experienced graduates and researchers in high-demand STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields and will be part of the Aerotropolis precinct at Badgerys Creek. By leveraging the expertise of the four institutions, students, employees, and the wider community will have unparalleled access to innovative teaching and research.

The Alliance represents a step change in industry, education, research and training collaboration. These world-first initiatives will unquestionably deliver job-ready graduates for the future.

*Professor Paul Wellings CBE, Chair, NUW Alliance said, “The NUW Alliance looks forward to working with 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 Western Sydney 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. As four universities, acting together, we can expand and accelerate these opportunities and other priorities in the interests of our shared communities.”*

*Professor Alex Zelinsky AO, Vice-Chancellor, University of Newcastle said, “The addition of Western Sydney University is a welcome expansion of the Alliance. Working together, our four institutions will be able to combine our research expertise and our networks with industry to help grow and transform our state.”*

*Professor Ian Jacobs, President and Vice-Chancellor, UNSW Sydney said, “Many challenges lie ahead of us as a state and a nation. Together these four universities represent a rich resource from which governments, business, industry and the wider community can draw upon as a partner to take on these challenges and prepare for our future.”*

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**About the NUW Alliance:**

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

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, University of Wollongong and Western Sydney University, acting together as the NUW Alliance, have built 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 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 2 per cent of universities worldwide according to the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings and ranked 3rd overall globally in the THE Impact Rankings, for social, ecological, and economic impact.

#### **About the University of Newcastle**

At the University of Newcastle we are guided by our [Looking Ahead Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#) which stands the University up on four core values: excellence, equity, engagement and sustainability. They underpin everything we do; they drive every student interaction, enrolment, and experience. At the University of Newcastle, we have more than 37,000 students from 112 nations studying with us each year and we're committed to helping every one of them have an outstanding experience during this time. Our vibrant campuses across Newcastle City, Callaghan, Ourimbah, Sydney and Singapore provide spaces to learn, socialise and collaborate. Regardless of their course, every student is encouraged to take up the opportunity to work with industry as part of their study – we call it work-integrated learning. It means our graduates are ready for the jobs and innovations of the future.

#### **About UNSW Sydney:**

UNSW Sydney is a powerhouse of cutting-edge research, teaching and innovation. A founding member of the Group of Eight and the prestigious Universitas 21 international network, we are one of the top 100 universities in the world, with more than 62,000 students and a 7,000-strong research community.

Located in Sydney, Australia, the University was established in 1949 with a specific focus on the scientific, technological and professional disciplines. UNSW is committed to making a difference through pioneering research and preparing the next generation of talented global citizens for career success. For more information, visit [www.unsw.edu.au](http://www.unsw.edu.au) or @UNSW.

#### **About the University of Wollongong:**

UOW is a leading global university powered by its people, partnerships, and communities.

As the source of a skilled workforce with new and innovative ideas, we enable positive change throughout our communities via strategic opportunities, collaboration, and innovation.

Through the creation of new jobs and industries and pursuing breakthroughs that improve the productivity of existing industries, UOW helps to drive both social and economic transformation.

Throughout our global network, UOW works together with industry, research partners, governments, communities, and other universities to address society's critical economic, environmental, social and medical challenges. Together with our partners we are committed to making a better world.