

Media Release

2 February 2024

Professor Simon Biggs announced as new IRU Chair

The Innovative Research Universities (IRU) has announced Professor Simon Biggs, Vice-Chancellor and President of James Cook University, as the group's Chair for 2024-2025.

Professor Biggs takes over from University of Canberra Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Paddy Nixon.

"I'm honoured to be named as the Chair of the IRU, with its commitment to equity and innovation," he said. "Last year the IRU celebrated its 20th anniversary with a celebration of our impact and achievements that show our shared values and priorities are as strong and important as ever.

"I'd like to thank Paddy for his leadership in 2023 and I'm looking forward to continuing the IRU's values-based work in our communities, around Australia, and the wider Indo-Pacific."

IRU Executive Director Paul Harris welcomed Professor Biggs to the role.

"This is an important moment for Australian universities and for higher education policy, as we await the final report of the Universities Accord panel," he said.

"I look forward to working with Professor Biggs over the next two years as the IRU continues to engage constructively with government on evidence-based policy reform that will maximise the contribution of our universities to the Australian economy and society."

About the IRU

The IRU is a network of seven comprehensive universities across Australia committed to inclusive education and innovative research that advances our communities. Its members are Flinders University, Griffith University, James Cook University, La Trobe University, Murdoch University, University of Canberra, and Western Sydney University.

Attachments:

Photo of Professor Simon Biggs

Interviews available:

Phone: Thursday 3pm – 4pm AEST (4pm – 5pm AEDT)

In-person: Friday 9am AEST

IRU contact

Bethany Keats, Marketing and Media Advisor

M 0481 092 635 **E** bethany.keats@iru.edu.au

iru.edu.au