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### **Northern Vocational School (North West)**

The Tasmanian Skills Institute will take over the management of the industrial estate-based Burnie campus of the Northern Vocational School (NVS) from next year (2011).

The Minister for Education and Skills, Lin Thorp said today that vocational education and training on the North-West coast will benefit from the continued use of this excellent facility.

“It will provide a sustainable long term future for the facility,” Ms Thorp said.

Ms Thorp said that over the past three months, the Department of Education has explored options that might enable the Burnie campus to be a sustainable and effective vocational school catering for Year 11 and 12 students and incorporating vocational programs for secondary students.

“The interim Northern Vocational School Association endorsed the plan for the future operation of the North-West vocational school campus.

“The Tasmanian Skills Institute (TSI) was very keen to take over the facility to ensure its continued operation and it fits into the Tasmanian Skills strategy.”

The CEO of the Tasmanian Skills Institute, Malcolm White welcomed the announcement saying that the site would be a focal point in the linkage between industry and education and training.

“There will now be a real sense of ownership and a focus on the workplace and school-based apprenticeship students will be able to complete their studies with the Institute,” Mr White said.

The Chairman of the Fairbrother Group, Royce Fairbrother has also endorsed the transfer saying that the move to the TSI was a significantly better outcome which directly addresses local need and was critical in improving employment prospects for students in the north-west of the State.

“The training will now be more industry focussed under the Tasmanian Skills Institute,” Mr White said.

Ms Thorp said that current Year 11 enrolments will be transitioned to the Polytechnic in 2011.

“A decision on the future of both the Inveresk and Burnie campuses of the Northern Vocational School needed to be made by the end of August to allow parents, students and employers to plan their commitments for 2011,” Ms Thorp said.

“Ownership of the Inveresk campus will remain to be managed by the Department of Education which will incorporate the Tasmanian Polytechnic in 2011.

“This will ensure a focus on Years 11/12 leading to Certificate 111 qualifications as well as offering Years 9/10 provision.”

The interim Northern Vocational School Association which includes representation from TCCI, fully supports the future plans for both the North and North-West sites which take into account specific local needs.

Ms Thorp said that staff at the Burnie campus of the NVS were informed of the transfer yesterday and students and their parents will be receiving letters in the coming days assuring them that they will be able to continue their vocational training pathways in to Year 12 in 2011.

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