

## **Media Release**

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## Lyons design to facilitate research outcomes at LIMS

The new La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science (LIMS) at La Trobe University has been designed to help maximize significant research outcomes.

It's one of the first major new buildings at La Trobe University since the 1970s and will be a major gateway project to the science precinct at the Bundoora campus.

The new \$94million 6-story research centre is designed as a world-class facility for molecular science, biotechnology and nanotechnology research, teaching and learning. It will provide approximately 2700m² of learning space - both wet and dry labs - on the lower 3 levels, and 18 research labs on the upper floors.

Lyons Architects won the design competition for LIMS with a design that helps re-frame the University's contemporary educational and research environment while creating a true pathway for students in pursuit of scientific excellence.

Lyons Director Carey Lyon says the new building provided an opportunity to steer away from the more functional nature of the 1970s buildings on campus and create architecture that highlights the public engagement of the University.

"Our emphasis has been on creating a dynamic environment that defines a true pathway for students as they progress to becoming the next generation of Australian scientists.

"There's a focus on self-directed, project-based learning for students and collaborative environments for researchers spaces.

"The architecture includes environments that can create research outcomes that would not have been possible in traditional academic settings. Laboratories are open and flexible to maximize interaction and are integrated with a range of research spaces for team research", Mr Lyon said.

Researchers from different disciplines including biochemistry, chemistry, genetics, and molecular archaeology will have the opportunity to work together in well equipped, shared work spaces.

To be operational in 2013, the LIMS complex is La Trobe University's largest investment in research and academic infrastructure to date, representing a 30% increase in existing facilities.

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