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MEDIA RELEASE

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CLEAN ENERGY RESEARCH FACILITY APPROVED AT UNI OF NSW

Approval has been given for a \$125 million sustainable and clean energy technologies research centre at the University of NSW (UNSW).

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, was on hand today for start of construction on the Tyree Energy Technologies Building with Member for Coogee, Paul Pearce.

“This building will bring together under one roof the university’s internationally recognised research and teaching in key energy areas including photovoltaics, carbon capture and storage, oil and gas reserves, nanomaterials, energy policy and market analysis,” Mr Kelly said.

“This facility will position the university as a leader in knowledge, innovation, research and development of clean energies and keep NSW at the forefront of innovative energy research.

“It will attract and retain leading researchers and lecturers in cutting-edge energy technological, ensuring NSW continues to provide leadership on the mitigation of climate change.

“Formal learning space will be provided for 700 engineering students when the project is finished in 2012.”

The project is supported by \$75 million in Commonwealth funding from the Education Investment Fund and a pledge of \$11 million from Sir William Tyree OBE, a UNSW alumnus and a major philanthropic supporter of Australian engineering and educational research.

Member for Coogee, Paul Pearce, welcomed the announcement.

“While the academic and research benefits are obvious, the facility will create around 300 construction jobs and 100 full time equivalent operational positions,” Mr Pearce said.

Mr Kelly said the building will be a leading example of sustainable construction, with a six-Star Green Star building rating, a gas-fired tri-generation plant for power, heating and cooling and a roof-mounted solar panel array utilising UNSW solar cell technology.

“The project is consistent with the Government’s Metropolitan Strategy planning objectives for the Randwick-Kensington area to create an education and health specialised precinct,” Mr Kelly said.

“However, it was important to ensure the development underwent a thorough environmental assessment and, following public exhibition and submissions from Randwick City Council, RTA, Sydney Regional Development Advisory Committee, Sydney Water and NSW Transport and Infrastructure, the Department of Planning placed 68 conditions on the development.”

These include:

- Undertaking footpath works along the frontage of the building, University Mall and to the re-located bus stop to the north;
- Providing developer contributions of \$81,937 to Randwick City Council for provision of local services and infrastructure to support the increased number of staff on the site; and
- Preparing a traffic management plan and minimising the impact on public transport, cyclists and pedestrians on Anzac Parade during construction.