



LORD MAYOR'S OFFICE  
TOWN HALL  
MACQUARIE STREET  
HOBART  
TASMANIA

The Honourable Malcolm Turnbull MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

I write to you to respectfully request your commitment to progressing, as a priority, a City Deal for Tasmania's capital city, with the University of Tasmania's STEM proposal as its centrepiece.

As a City, we have identified an area where we firmly believe the opportunity is the greatest. Where there will be extensive opportunities for business, increased jobs and increased opportunities to access education.

Tasmania faces a number of economic challenges, including our relatively low rates of education attainment, lowest wage rates and lowest population growth rates in the country.

Our year 12 retention rates are approximately 10 per cent below the national average and completion rates are 22 per cent lower. We have a significantly lower portion of our population with a university degree compared to mainland states, and conversely, a higher amount of 15 to 74 year olds with no education post year-10.

Research tells us that there is a strong correlation between educational attainment and economic outcomes, with each additional year of schooling amongst the adult population boosting economic growth.

Addressing the economic and educational challenges that Tasmania is facing, provides a nucleus for a City Deal.

Given the powerful benefits to Hobart and Tasmania, the Hobart City Council has recently resolved that the University of Tasmania's STEM Precinct is the priority project for Hobart and should be the centerpiece of a City Deal for Hobart.

The UTAS STEM Precinct proposal is for 40,000m<sup>2</sup> of teaching and research facilities and space for more than 3,000 students and 700 staff in the heart of the city of Hobart.

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It will aid in addressing key challenges for the city and state and give critical mass to help solve the issues we face such as creating jobs, affordable housing and sustainable transport.

The tangible benefits include job creation in construction, teaching and research, as well as opportunities for local retailers, accommodation providers and hospitality businesses.

The STEM precinct will have transformative effects in the city including creating vibrancy in underutilised areas, providing graduates with opportunities to stay in Hobart and boosting tourism to Tasmania. It is little wonder that the STEM Project is the only education project on the Infrastructure Australia priority list.

As Lord Mayor, I spend time thinking about how we would like others to see our city, our island and our people.

Often we hear visitors refer to our pristine nature, our beauty, our relative isolation, the warmth of our community and our rich culture.

If the STEM project is realised, I see great potential for us to be known as the clever or smart state, a city for the future, with knowledge and learning at the heart of our community.

I see a future in which Hobart, and other cities around the island, are national and international models for how regional centres might look in the years ahead.

That is a vision we must pursue so I implore you to favourably consider the Australian Government giving priority to a City Deal for Hobart that will not only rejuvenate a city and region but provide opportunities for all its residents and visitors.

Yours sincerely



Alderman Sue Hickey  
**LORD MAYOR**

Wednesday 9 August 2017