

Crash kills woman, 58

A 58-YEAR-old woman is the second person to die on a Tasmanian road this year after a serious crash on Tuesday.

The woman, who was driving a silver Hyundai sedan, crashed into a power pole on the Tasman Highway, near St Helens, shortly before 5pm.

She was flown to hospital in a critical condition but did not survive.

Two others were taken to the Royal Hobart Hospital with minor injuries.

Authorities are still investigating the cause of the crash and a report will be prepared for the coroner.

The road toll for 2022 is at two, compared to three at the same time last year.

Alleged shop thief in court

A CLARENDON Vale man charged over a Salamanca jewellery heist and a string of other burglaries has made a brief appearance in court.

Luke Basil Latham, 39, appeared in the Hobart Magistrates Court on Wednesday.

Mr Latham, who is being held in custody, has not entered a plea. The matter was adjourned until February 2.

Mr Latham was arrested on December 29 after he allegedly stole \$1000 worth of tobacco products from Coles Sandy Bay.

Police allege he also burgled the FIND Contemporary Jewellery Collective and Rani Baker Jewellery in two separate heists in December.

NYE FIRE CONTAINED

TASMANIA Parks and Wildlife says the fire at Bonnet Bay, near Strathgordon, has been contained after about 110ha of mainly buttongrass moorland was affected.

"The fire has not burnt any fire-sensitive vegetation. On-ground suppression operations, cooler weather and light rain helped extinguish remaining hot spots that had the potential to escape containment," Incident Controller Richard Dakin said.

The fire was likely to have been started by a lightning strike on New Year's Eve.

The PWS will continue to monitor the fire over the next few weeks until a large amount of rain falls on the fire ground.

PROJECT BILL RISES BY \$45M TO \$131M



Artist impressions of the Hobart CBD development.

'Astronomical' cost blowout for UTAS

BLAIR RICHARDS

DESIGN changes and the increased cost of materials have caused a University of Tasmania development in the Hobart CBD to blow out by \$45m.

Construction recently began on the \$131m renovation of the former Forestry Tasmania building in Melville St.

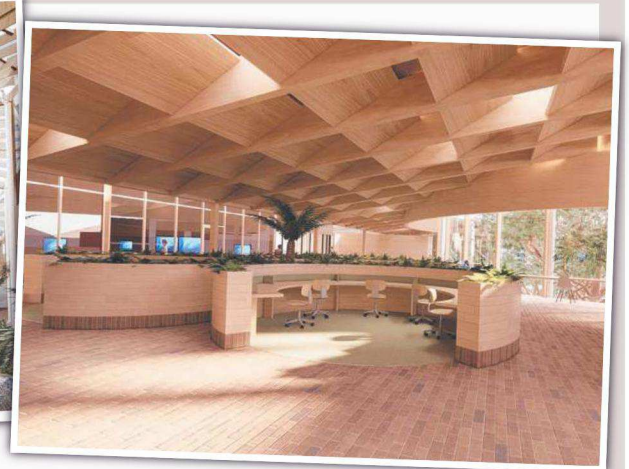
When complete in 2025, the building will become home to the College of Business and Economics, the Law School and administrative offices.

The project will restore the living forest to the heritage-listed dome, creating a new public thoroughfare between Melville and Brisbane streets.

In March last year the project budget was estimated at \$86m.

But the budget has since grown to \$131m.

Executive director campus transformation Phil Leersen said the cost of the Forestry building renovation had increased as the project had moved from the high-level design phase to the construction phase.



"This is due to a number of factors including the addition of a new pedestrian bridge to improve accessibility, the complexity of the civil and ground works as well as the important heritage aspects of the project, and the increases in supply and trade costs across the construction sector," Mr Leersen said. "The project value incorporates fit out items such as furniture, IT and audiovisual equipment."

"This is a significant project for our students, our staff and for Hobart and we are committed to doing it right - we're proud to be making this investment in the city."

The university says the site, which incorporates the former Freedom Furniture building on Brisbane St, will house 300 staff and support the studies of 3000 students.

UTAS bought the property in 2018 for \$15m. Save UTAS campus chair Pam Sharpe said the cost blowout was significant.

"It's an astronomical cost to me

for refitting a building that isn't really fit for being a university building," she said.

"We thought it was astronomical at the old cost but I can see how it has increased."

Professor Sharpe said a more suitable new or refitted building could have likely been built at the Sandy Bay campus for less.

"Access would have been far easier and they could have done a state of the art building for law and business," she said.



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