



Charles Sturt
University

UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA 

14 August 2024

The Hon. Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education
Suite 7 Level 1, 400 Chapel Road
Bankstown, NSW, 2200

Dear Minister Clare

As the Vice-Chancellors of two universities with a high proportion of equity and non-traditional students, we write to you jointly to request that the Australian Government consider extending the existing arrangements for Undergraduate Certificates in the Australian Qualification Framework for six months, from 1 July 2025 to 1 January 2026.

We appreciate the government's consultative approach to the future of Undergraduate Certificates and recognise the importance of carefully shaping the future of these foundational qualifications. At both Charles Sturt University and the University of Tasmania, these certificates play a crucial role in our equity strategies. Undergraduate Certificates attract a high proportion of enrolments from non-traditional backgrounds by providing students with an effective, low-risk qualification that can enable them to meet the entry requirements for their chosen courses.

In 2023, equity and first-in-family students made up ████ per cent of the Undergraduate Certificate commencing enrolments at Charles Sturt University. At the University of Tasmania, students from diversity groups made up 43 per cent of the Undergraduate Certificate commencing cohort, while 48 per cent were first-in-family.

The forthcoming changes requiring universities to cease awarding Undergraduate Certificates from 1 July 2025 are impeding our ability to fully deliver on our respective equity strategies. As a result, it also reduces the contributions our institutions can make towards the nation's broader agenda for increasing participation in higher education and enhancing graduate outcomes.

The uncertainty surrounding these certificates and the impending July deadline necessitates that we stop new admissions into these courses for all of 2025, due to unlikely completion. Many of our Undergraduate Certificates are designed to be studied part-time, requiring at least one full year for students to complete them. In light of this, if Undergraduate Certificates are not going to be considered an award under the AQF in the longer term, we urge you to consider granting a six-month short-term extension to the existing arrangements as soon as practical. This would allow our institutions to provide students with the opportunity to enrol in an Undergraduate Certificate in 2025 and make offers to students this year. Providing this extension as soon as practical will ensure that our institutions are well-prepared to offer these certificates and that students have clarity about their studies in 2025.

Enabling our institutions to offer Undergraduate Certificates in 2025 offers significant benefits beyond the provision of equitable pathways to a foundational course. Data for both of our institutions shows positive student outcomes from Undergraduate Certificates.



At Charles Sturt University, data from the Faculty of Science and Health shows that many of our Undergraduate Certificate students go on to study courses they may not have qualified for otherwise. Almost half of the students who undertake an Undergraduate Certificate have been able to use this to enter their course of choice, either through completing required subjects or through gaining a required GPA. When comparing the Faculty's commencing cohorts in the Undergraduate Certificates to the commencing cohorts in the award courses students are transferring to, there are clear indications that the Undergraduate Certificates are providing an equity pathway and widening participation for these groups. Higher proportions were demonstrated for First Nations students (3.9% vs 3.3%), First-in-Family (52.3% vs 47.0%), and low SES students (23.4% vs 21.9%).

Data from the University of Tasmania also shows that Undergraduate Certificates are providing equitable pathways, compared to traditional undergraduate offerings, with a higher proportion of students with non-English speaking backgrounds (13.6% vs 8.5%), first-in-family students (47.7% vs 44.0%) and students with a disability (13.1% vs 12.1%) commencing in 2023. Both of our institutions have also observed that these certificates are widening participation among non-school leavers. Within the 2023 Undergraduate Certificate commencing cohort at the University of Tasmania, only 8 per cent were school leavers compared to 33 per cent in traditional undergraduate offerings. At Charles Sturt University, most students in the Faculty of Science and Health gained entry to Undergraduate Certificates through TAFE qualifications (65%). Only six students entered an Undergraduate Certificate using ATAR, and 23 per cent via early offer.

Charles Sturt University has also observed that Undergraduate Certificates have contributed to widening participation through inclusive offerings for people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. For example, the Undergraduate Certificates in Theology and Islamic Studies (including Arabic Language and Grammar) appeal to a broader range of people in the university's communities, performing a necessary function in providing access to longer-form study and fostering a sense of pride and confidence.

While we are most concerned about the disadvantages that ceasing the awarding of Undergraduate Certificates from 1 July 2025 will have on current and prospective students from non-traditional and equity backgrounds, we would like to take this opportunity to emphasise the broader benefits of the Undergraduate Certificate beyond these student cohorts.

The qualification allows us to offer a product that meets demands for shorter-form learning, where the curriculum can be co-designed with our partners to meet emergent needs. The Undergraduate Certificate has accelerated government and business interest in accredited short courses delivered by universities, strengthening university, government and business relations.

The University of Tasmania has seen that Undergraduate Certificates attract this 'new' type of student – those who are interested in shorter-form learning, often using the Undergraduate Certificate as a stand-alone qualification that meets a specific and/or emerging educational or workforce need. For example, of the 2022 commencing cohort, 49 per cent have completed, whilst 19.5 per cent have articulated to further study, with the *Undergraduate in Applied Technology* and *Undergraduate Certificate in Community Support* having the highest completion and articulation rates.

The short-form nature of the Undergraduate Certificates also has a role to play in supporting the micro-credentialing future of the sector. The nominal length and AQF position of Undergraduate Certificates make them an attractive 'container' for exploring emerging fields and new offerings or packaging up a suite of core skills in an area for the purpose of retraining, career change or upskilling. This flexibility is attractive to people who are looking to be more agile in moving around with their learning – an approach that is currently being trailed by the University of Tasmania through the *Micro-credentials in Higher Education* funded pilot project.



**Charles Sturt
University**

**UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA** 

Thank you for considering our concerns and request for a six-month extension on the awarding of Undergraduate Certificates.

We both welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further and look forward to continuing to consult with the government on the future of Undergraduate Certificates.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renée Leon".

Professor Renée Leon PSM
Vice-Chancellor and President
Charles Sturt University

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rufus Black".

Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor and President
University of Tasmania

6 February 2024

Hon Clare O'Neil MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Minister for Cyber Security
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600
Email: Clare.ONeil.MP@aph.gov.au
Cc: jason.clare.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister,

We, the leaders of 16 universities across Australia, are writing to express our concern regarding the negative impacts of the Australian Government's Migration Strategy on international student visa approval timeframes.

While we acknowledge that a key objective of the Migration Strategy was to reduce the number of non-genuine students entering Australia through high-risk provider institutions (as defined in the strategy as 'private providers in the Vocational Education and Training sector'), several universities are inadvertently facing significant repercussions as a result of the de-prioritisation of visa caseload processing for institutions holding an Evidence Level risk rating of 2 or above.

Since the prioritisation of Level 1 institutes, visa processing times at several institutions year-to-date have been significantly delayed compared to those experienced in 2023. This poses significant concern to our institutions and also for the wider sector, with affected universities facing considerable financial impacts due to a significant decrease in student enrolments for 2024. Given the ongoing recovery from the impacts of COVID-19, this situation is particularly alarming. In fact, the 16 institutions endorsing this letter estimate a collective revenue downturn of **over \$350 million** in 2024 alone, akin to the impact of the pandemic.

There is also a legitimate concern that the extended wait times for a visa decision may lead students to choose a university based on 'the path of least resistance' rather than the best fit for them as a student. Instances are already emerging of students seeking refunds, and then instead applying to a 'priority university.' This not only diminishes the student study experience but also tarnishes the reputation of Australia's largest service export.

The consequences outlined have far-reaching implications, potentially jeopardising Australia's brand as a preferred study destination and presenting significant financial threats to affected universities, especially as they continue to recover from the impacts of the past several years.

Collectively, we urgently seek your attention to these matters, adjusting the prioritisation of visa processing timelines to ensure all universities are serviced promptly. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to engage in a more comprehensive discussion about these issues, including offering potential solutions.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Scott Bowman AO
Charles Darwin University

Professor Renee Leon PSM
Charles Sturt University

Professor Nick Klomp
CQUniversity Australia

Professor Duncan Bentley
Federation University

Professor Carolyn Evans
Griffith University

Professor Simon Biggs
James Cook University

Professor Andrew Deeks
Murdoch University

Professor Tyrone Carlin
Southern Cross University

Professor Alex Zelinsky AO
University of Newcastle

Professor Chris Moran
University of New England

Professor David Llyod
University of South Australia

Professor Geraldine Mackenzie
University of Southern Queensland



Professor Rufus Black
University of Tasmania

Professor Patricia Davidson
University of Wollongong

Professor Adam Shoemaker
Victoria University

Professor Barney Glover AO
Western Sydney University

8 February 2024

Hon Clare O'Neil MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Minister for Cyber Security
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600
Email: Clare.ONeil.MP@aph.gov.au
Cc: jason.clare.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister,

We, the leaders of 16 universities across Australia, are writing to express our concern regarding the negative impacts of the Australian Government's Migration Strategy on international student visa approval timeframes.

We support the objective of the Migration Strategy to reduce the number of non-genuine students entering Australia through high-risk provider institutions (noting these are defined in the strategy as 'private providers in the Vocational Education and Training sector'). However, the way in which the strategy is being implemented through the de-prioritisation of visa processing means that multiple universities are facing significant financial repercussions.

Since the prioritisation of Level 1 institutes, visa processing times at many institutions year-to-date have been significantly delayed compared to those experienced in 2023. This poses significant concern to our institutions and also for the wider sector, with affected universities facing considerable financial impacts due to a significant decrease in student enrolments for 2024. Given the ongoing recovery from the impacts of COVID-19, this situation is particularly alarming. In fact, the 16 institutions endorsing this letter conservatively estimate a collective revenue downturn of approximately \$310 million in 2024 alone, akin to the impact of the pandemic.

There is also a legitimate concern that the extended wait times for a visa decision may lead students to choose a university based on 'the path of least resistance' rather than the best fit for them as a student. Instances are already emerging of students seeking refunds, and then instead applying to a 'priority university.' This not only diminishes the student study experience but also tarnishes the reputation of Australia's largest service export.

The consequences outlined have far-reaching implications, potentially jeopardising Australia's brand as a preferred study destination and presenting significant financial threats to affected universities, especially as they continue to recover from the impacts of the past several years.

Collectively, we urgently seek your attention to these matters, adjusting the prioritisation of visa processing timelines to ensure all universities are serviced promptly and fairly. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to engage in a more comprehensive discussion about these issues, including offering potential solutions.

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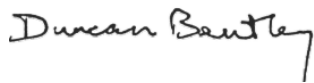
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Professor Geraldine Mackenzie
University of Southern Queensland



Professor Rufus Black
University of Tasmania



Professor Patricia Davidson
University of Wollongong



Professor Adam Shoemaker
Victoria University



Professor Deborah Sweeney
Western Sydney University

Delete | Reply | Reply All | Forward | Quick Steps | Move | Rules | Actions | Mark Unread | Categorize | Follow Up | Find | ...

Tue 30/04/2024 1:40 PM


○ Ella Haddad <Ella.Haddad@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Accepted: Shadow Minister Haddad | Nicholas Farrelly

To  Nicholas Farrelly

When Wednesday, 8 May 2024 1:00 PM-2:00 PM (UTC+10:00) Hobart.

Location Electorate Office 184 Collins Street, Hobart

 We couldn't find this meeting in the calendar. It may have been moved or deleted.
Ella Haddad has accepted this meeting.



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Fri 24/05/2024 12:52 PM

👤 Josh Willie <Josh.Willie@parliament.tas.gov.au>

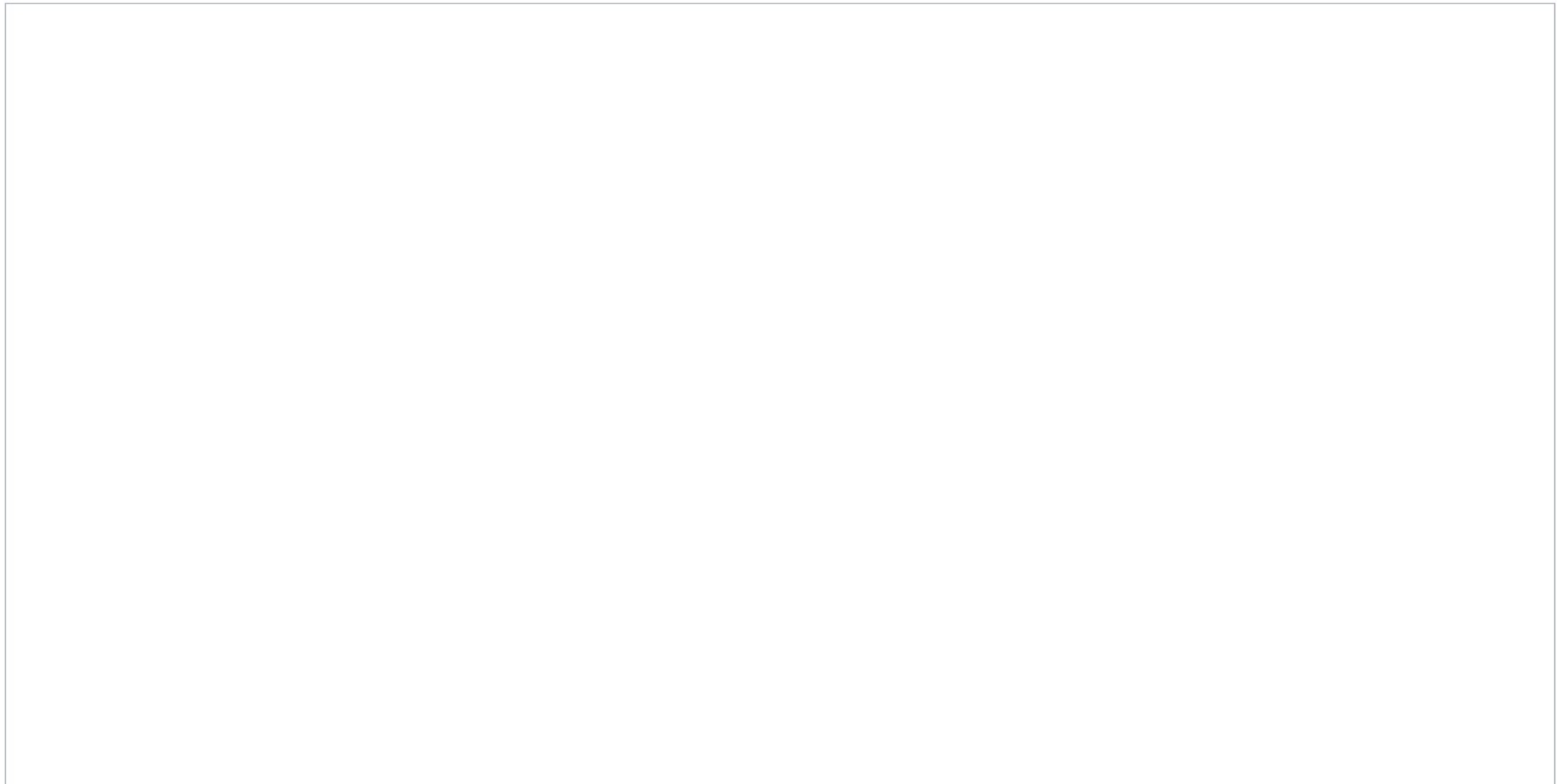
Accepted: Josh Willie MP | Nicholas Farrelly Pro Vice-Chancellor UTAS

To ● Nicholas Farrelly

When Thursday, 27 June 2024 9:30 AM-10:30 AM (UTC+10:00) Hobart.

Location TBA

ⓘ We couldn't find this meeting in the calendar. It may have been moved or deleted.
Josh Willie has accepted this meeting.



Accord and Tasmanian Education slides - May 2024

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Fri 3/05/2024 2:12 PM

To Janie Finlay <janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au>

 2 attachments (888 KB)

Accord and Tasmania - May 24 Presentation.pdf; Senior leadership appointments in the Academic Division;

Hi Janie

Great to see you yesterday – here's the data pack that Rufus was referring to yesterday. He presented it this morning to a group of Launceston stakeholders this morning and we also shared it with Minister Jason Clare and Senator Helen Polley yesterday too so feel free to share with your colleagues as you wish.

Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications

University of Tasmania

Admin Building | Private Bag 51

Hobart TAS 7001

0432 389 793



We acknowledge the Aboriginal people of Tasmania as Traditional Owners of the land on which this university is located.

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.



Australian Universities Accord and the Tasmanian Context

Professor Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor

May 2024



The Universities Accord will guide Higher Education Policy reforms over the coming years, with a strong direction on how higher education needs to evolve.

From the late 1980s, Higher Education Policy in Australia has driven a shift from an elite system to the mass higher education system we have today.

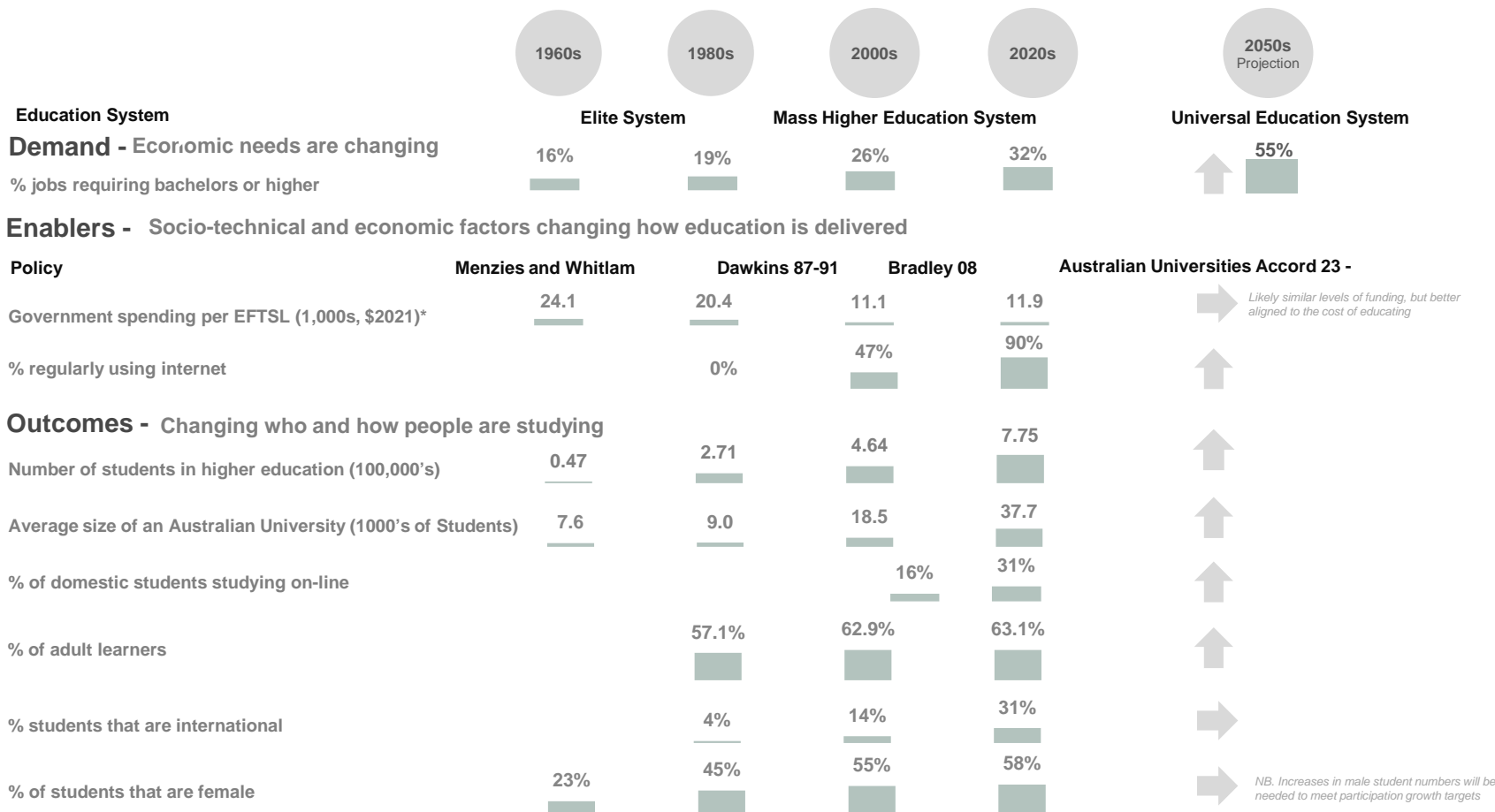
This shift has helped shape the University of Tasmania we see today: a high quality, high performing university with a larger and more diverse student population.

To create an equitable and economically prosperous future, the Australian Universities Accord sets a shift from a mass to a universal education system, accessible to more people.

This is important for Tasmania, due to serious inequalities in the state, requiring reform at all levels of education to meet the Accord's objectives.

The University is well placed to contribute to meeting these challenges, improving equity while maintaining excellence

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Higher Education Policy in Australia has driven a shift from an elite system to the mass higher education system we have today.



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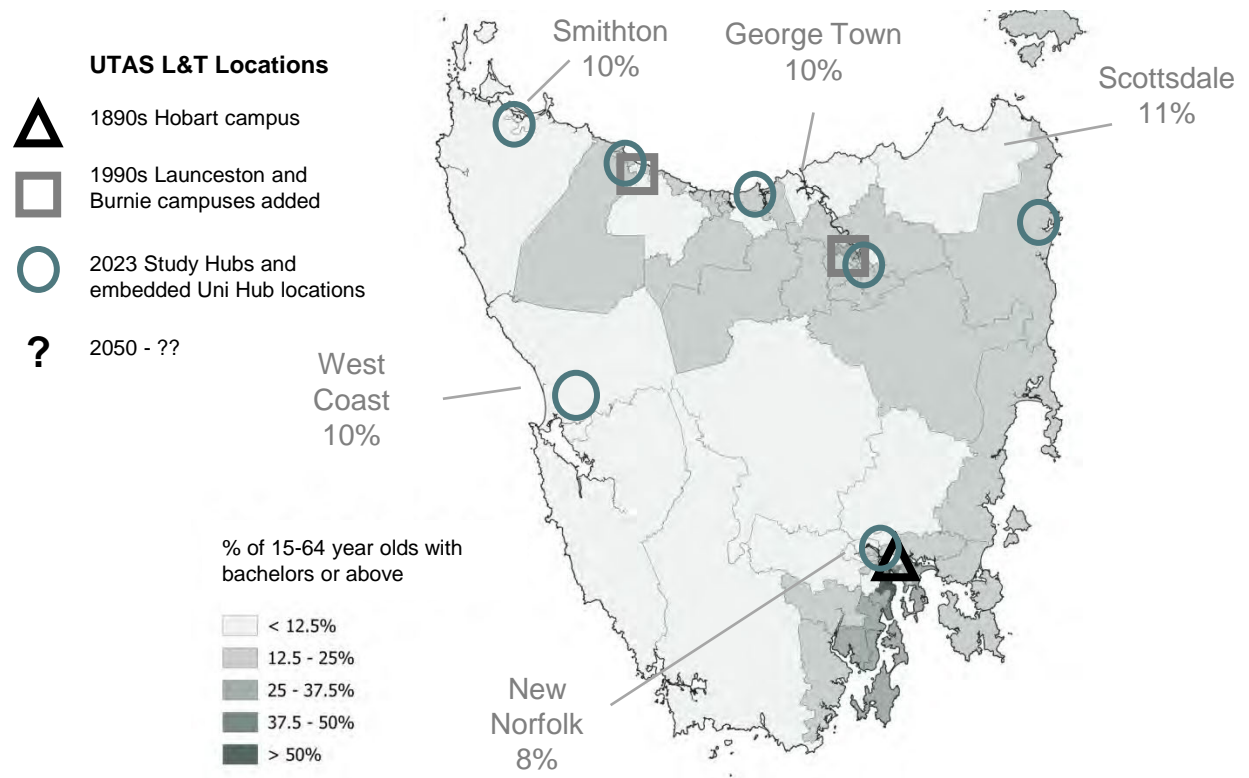
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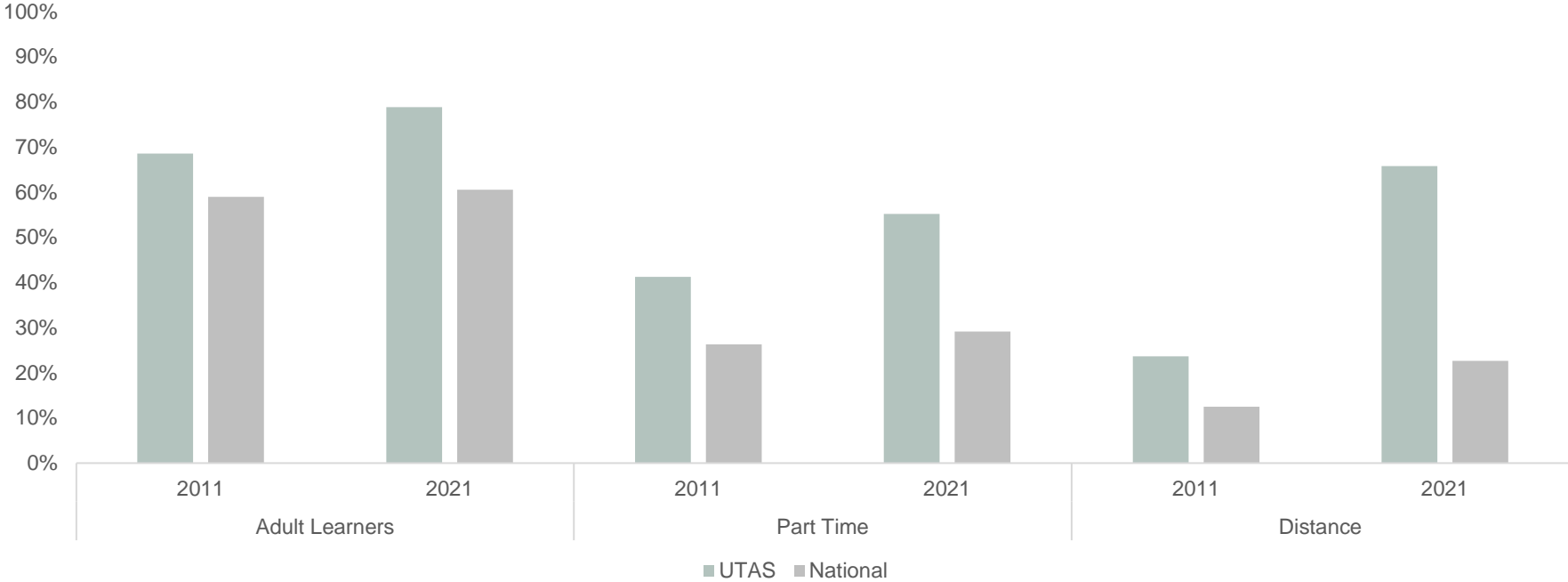
Increasing higher education participation has dramatically changed the footprint of universities like UTAS



Source: ABS Table Builder, Level of Educational Attainment (HEAP), 2021 census data. Data in chart by SA2 region level. Note 'King Island' and 'Flinders and Cape Barren Island' are 14% and 17% respectively.

We have seen a significant growth in adult, part-time, on-line learners as we meet participation and critical mass objectives

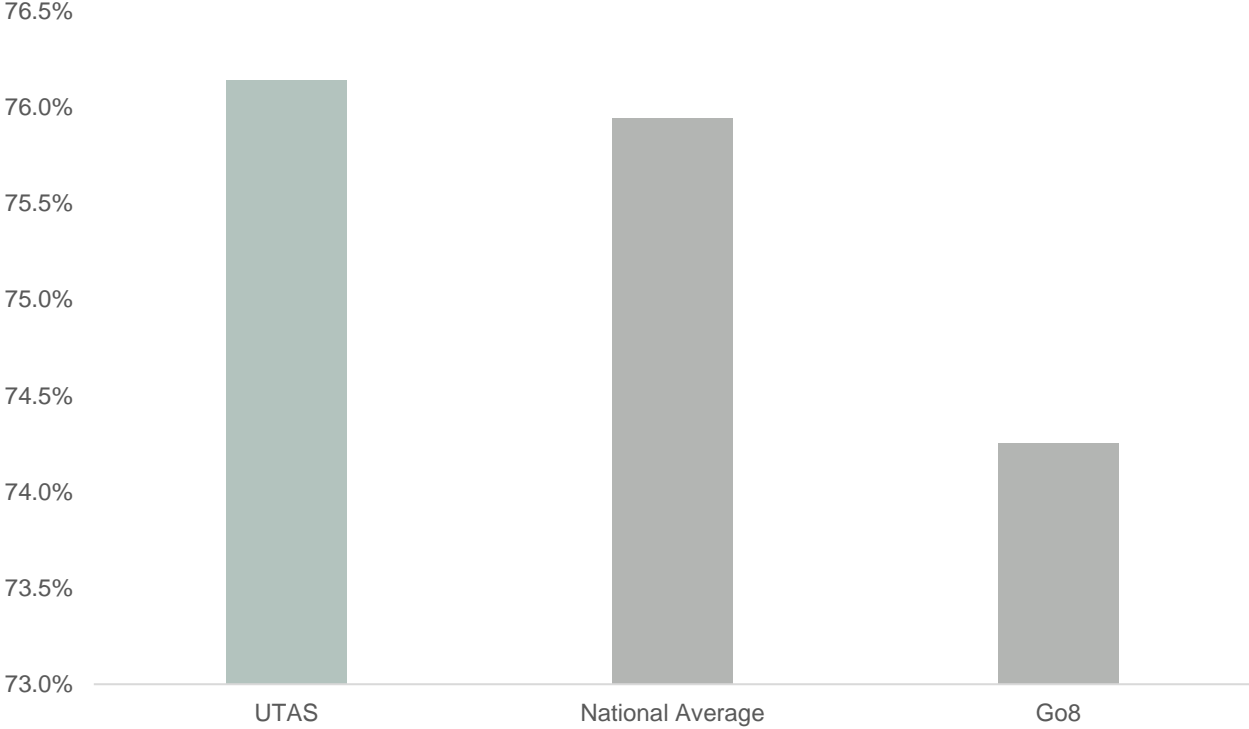
Percentage of enrolments, domestic on-line, part time and domestic adult learners, 2011 and 2021



Source: HEIMS Course Enrolments table, and Enterprise Data Warehouse Course Enrolments table, commencing students. An adult learner is a commencing student aged 20 and over.

We are doing well: Student experience

Student experience (% positive rating)

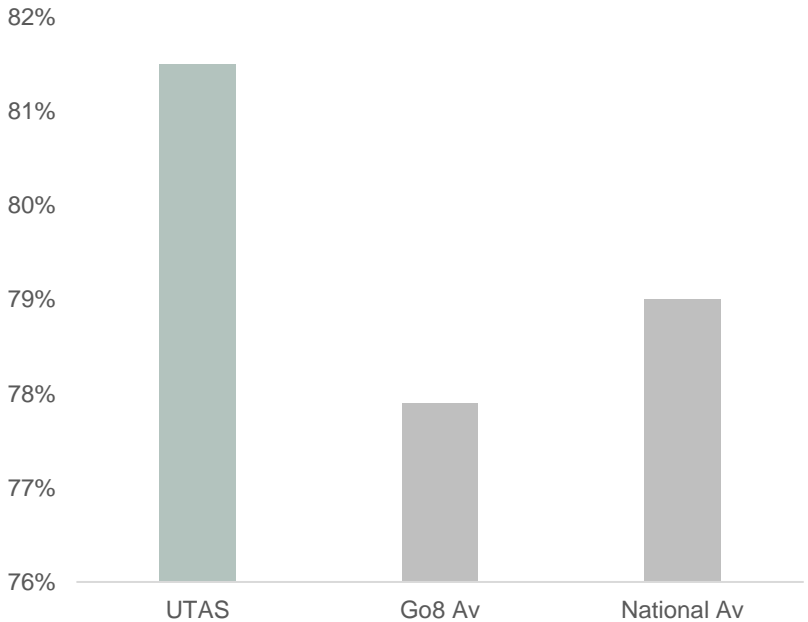


Source: 2022 Student Experience Survey, Domestic Students, QILT (Quality Indicators of Learning and Teaching)

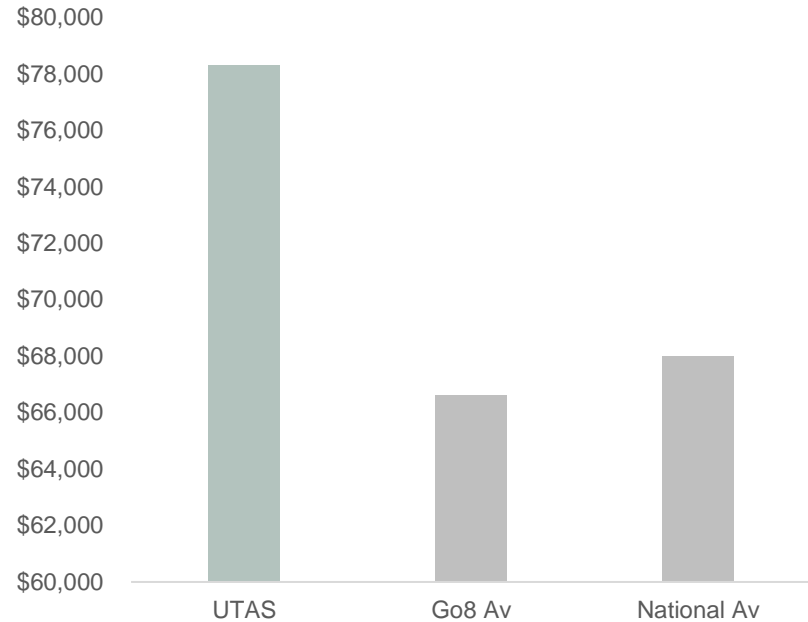
We are doing well: Graduate outcomes

Graduate Outcomes Survey Performance

Full-time employment rate



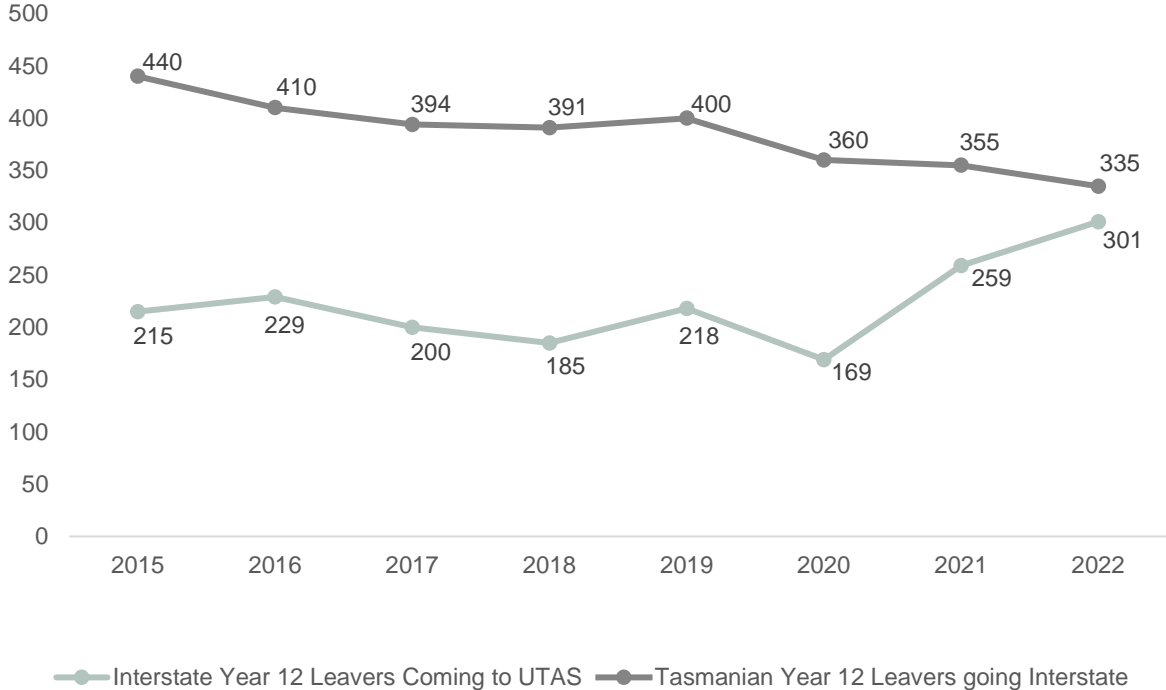
Full-time salary



Source: 2022 Graduate Outcomes Survey, Table 9, Labour Force Indicators, UG Domestic Students, February 2023, QILT

The number of school leavers studying interstate has been decreasing and the number coming to Tasmania increasing so we are almost in balance

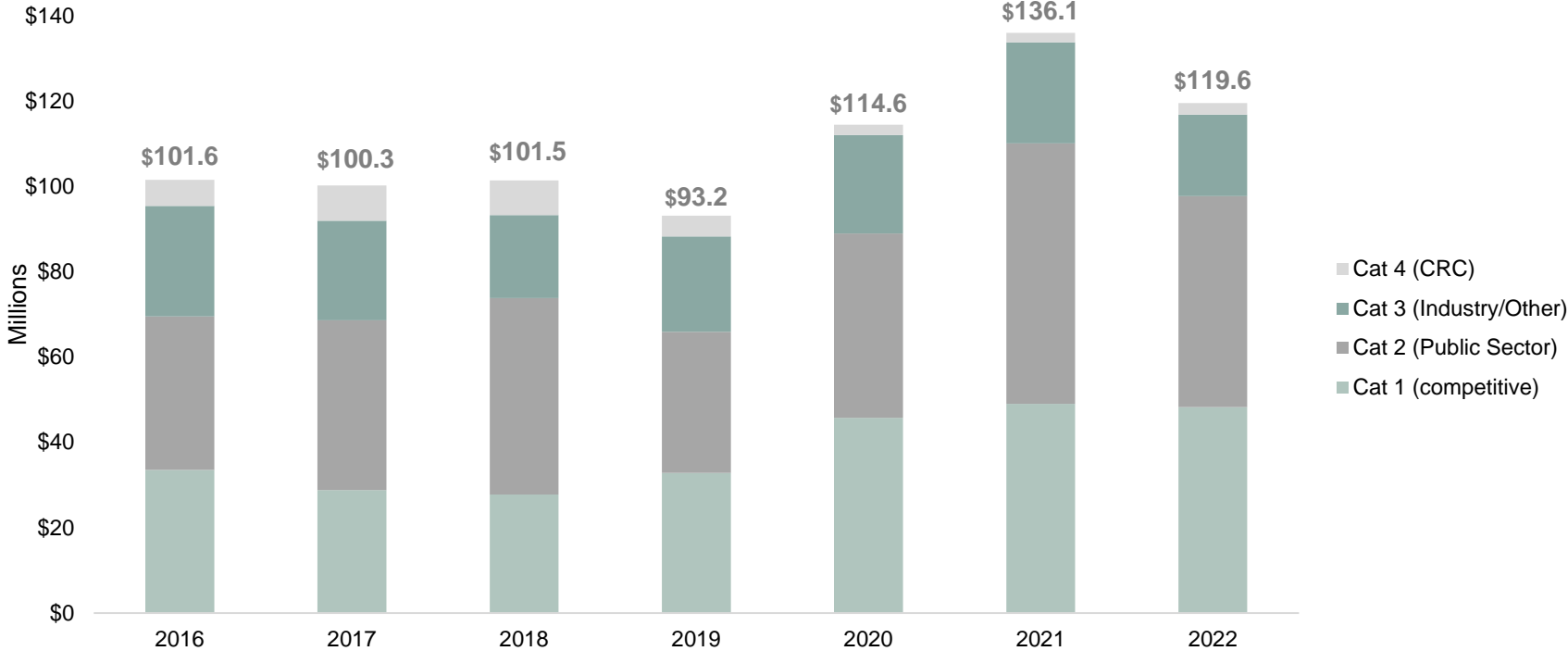
Interstate Year 12 leavers studying at UTAS, and Tasmanian Year 12 leavers studying interstate



Source: HEIMS national course enrolments data, Department of Education (2022). Year 12 leaver defined as a student who is under the age of 20 at commencement of course. Domestic students only, excludes study by Distance mode.

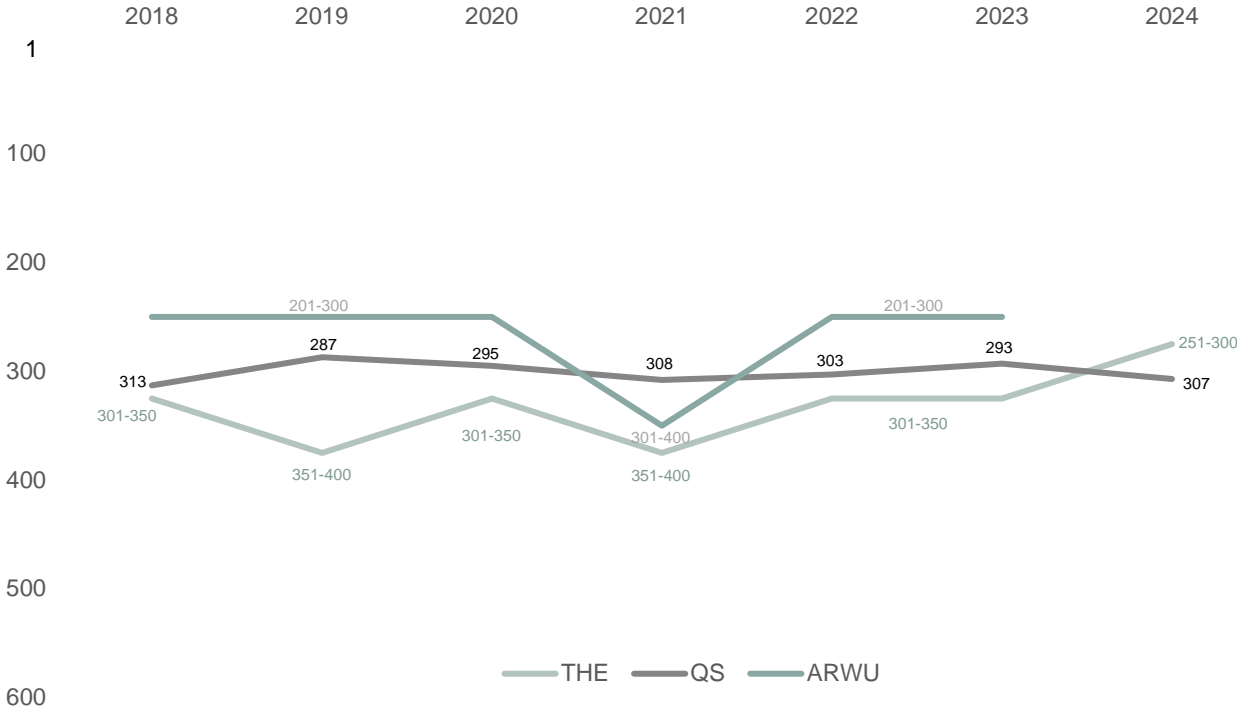
We are doing well: Research income

Research income by category, 2016-2022



We are doing well: Global Rankings

Ranking performance on major global University rankings, 2018-2024



Source: Times Higher Education World University Rankings, QS World University Rankings, ShanghaiRanking Academic Ranking of World Universities

The Universities Accord will guide Higher Education Policy reforms over the coming years, with a strong direction on how higher education needs to evolve.

From the late 1980s, Higher Education Policy in Australia has driven a shift from an elite system to the mass higher education system we have today.

This shift has helped shape the University of Tasmania we see today: a high quality, high performing university with a larger and more diverse student population.

To create an equitable and economically prosperous future, the Australian Universities Accord sets a shift from a mass to a universal education system, accessible to more people.

This is important for Tasmania, due to serious inequalities in the state, requiring reform at all levels of education to meet the Accord's objectives.

The University is well placed to contribute to meeting these challenges, improving equity while maintaining excellence

The Australian Universities Accord sets the direction for higher education reforms to 2050.

- The Accord review considered how we can improve the **quality, accessibility and affordability of higher education** for the benefit of all Australians.
- The Final Report articulates a bold goal to create a **high quality universal higher education system** for Australia and a **more impact-focused research system**.
- The **Government is currently considering the Report's recommendations**, including how these could be funded.



The Accord sets bold targets for increasing tertiary attainment to enable equity, economic prosperity, and sustainability.

By 2050, 80% of all jobs will require a tertiary qualification (Higher Education or VET)

To meet this need, 90% of young people finishing school need to go to TAFE or University

The Accord report sets a target of 55% of Australians aged 25-34 to have a university qualification by 2050 to meet these workforce needs

To deliver those goals, the Accord proposes a high-quality universal education system for Australia by 2050.



Enabling access and lifting quality via pathways programs

- Funded preparation programs to enable underprepared students to meet university entry standards



Removing equity barriers

- Needs-based funding (First Nations, low SES, disability)
- Placement payments
- Student job matching
- Welfare reform



Strengthening regional education

- Regional loading
- Capital for infrastructure
- Support for growth of international education in regions
- Increased regional medical student places



A well-integrated HE/VET system

- Including modular, stackable micro-credentials and more seamless navigation between higher ed and VET courses

The Accord report also proposes changes to university research, to result in a strengthened, more impact focused research system.



Increased focus on Australian university research having impact with additional dedicated funding



Significant increase in ARC funding of basic research, as impact is built on discovery research



PhD programs that prepare people for broad careers, with improved stipends to attract and retain research students

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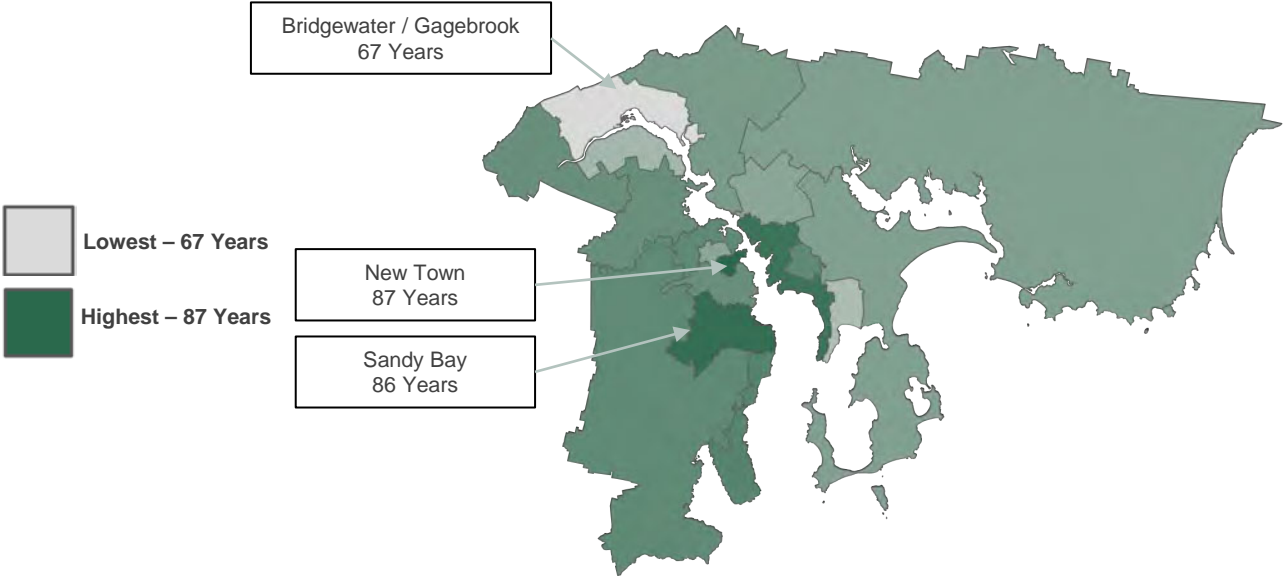
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Life expectancy is a way of summing up inequality. In Hobart and surrounds, the inequality is extraordinary

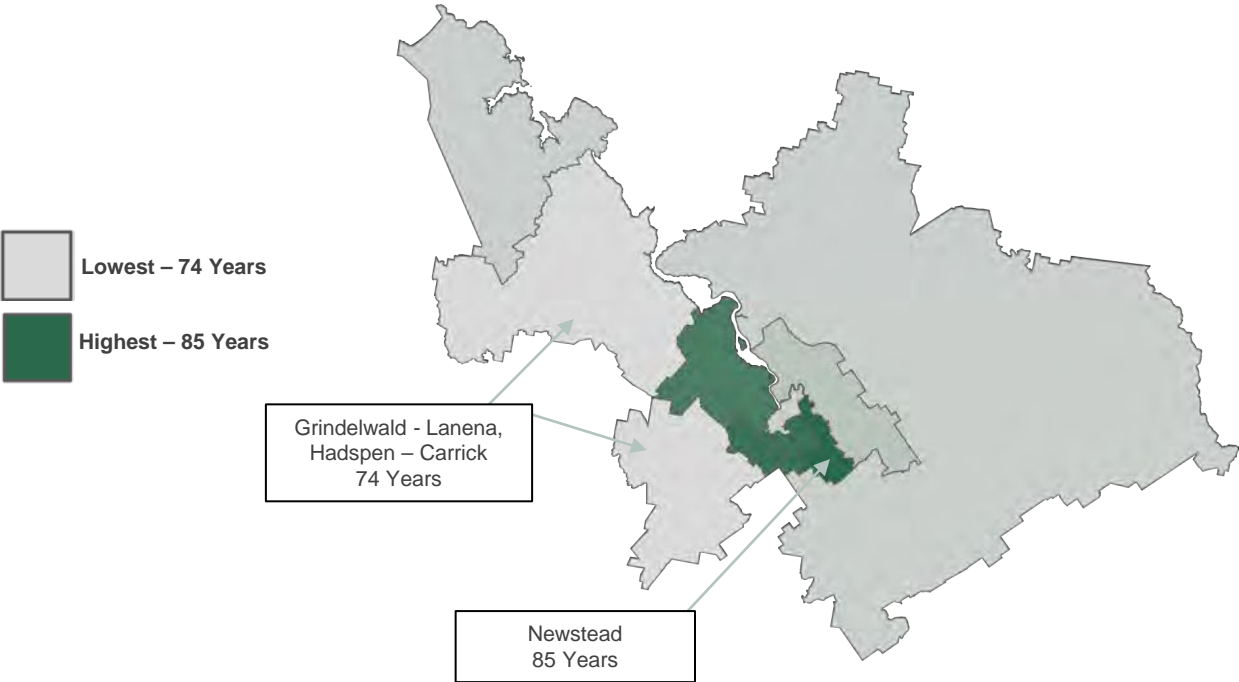
Life Expectancy in Greater Hobart, by Public Health Area, 2017 - 2021



- The difference between Bridgewater and New Town or Sandy Bay is stark.
- For every kilometre you travel north away from Sandy Bay you effectively lose a year of life expectancy.
- It is like comparing one of the richest places in the world (Hong Kong - 85 years) with one of the poorest (Eritrea - 67 years).

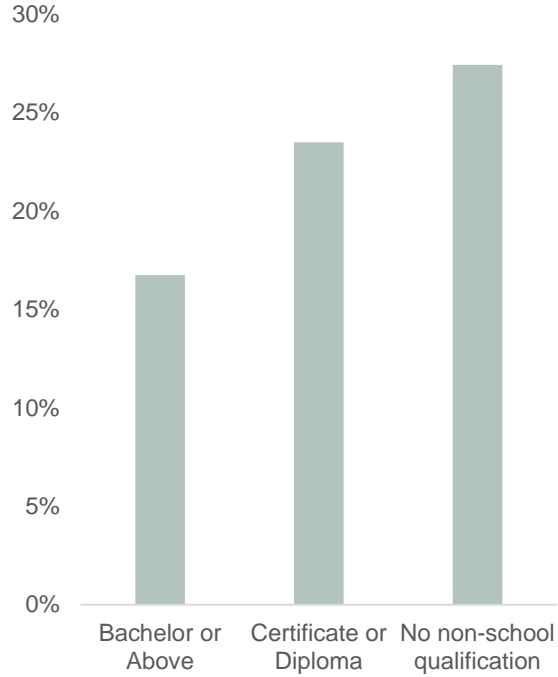
This inequality is experienced across the state, with similar disparity in Launceston and surrounds.

Life Expectancy in Greater Launceston, by Public Health Area, 2017 - 2021



This is underpinned by education inequalities: poorer health, income and life expectancy are all correlated with lower levels of educational attainment.

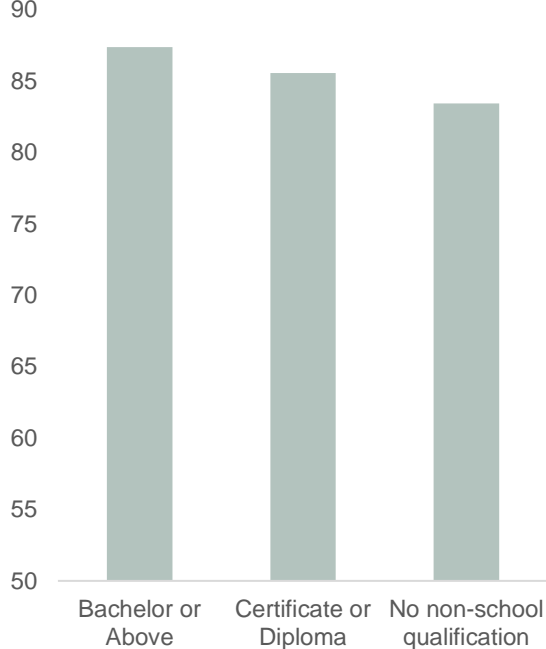
Rate of Selected Comorbidities*, National Health Survey 2011 - 12



Median Weekly Earnings** by Level of Education, 2023



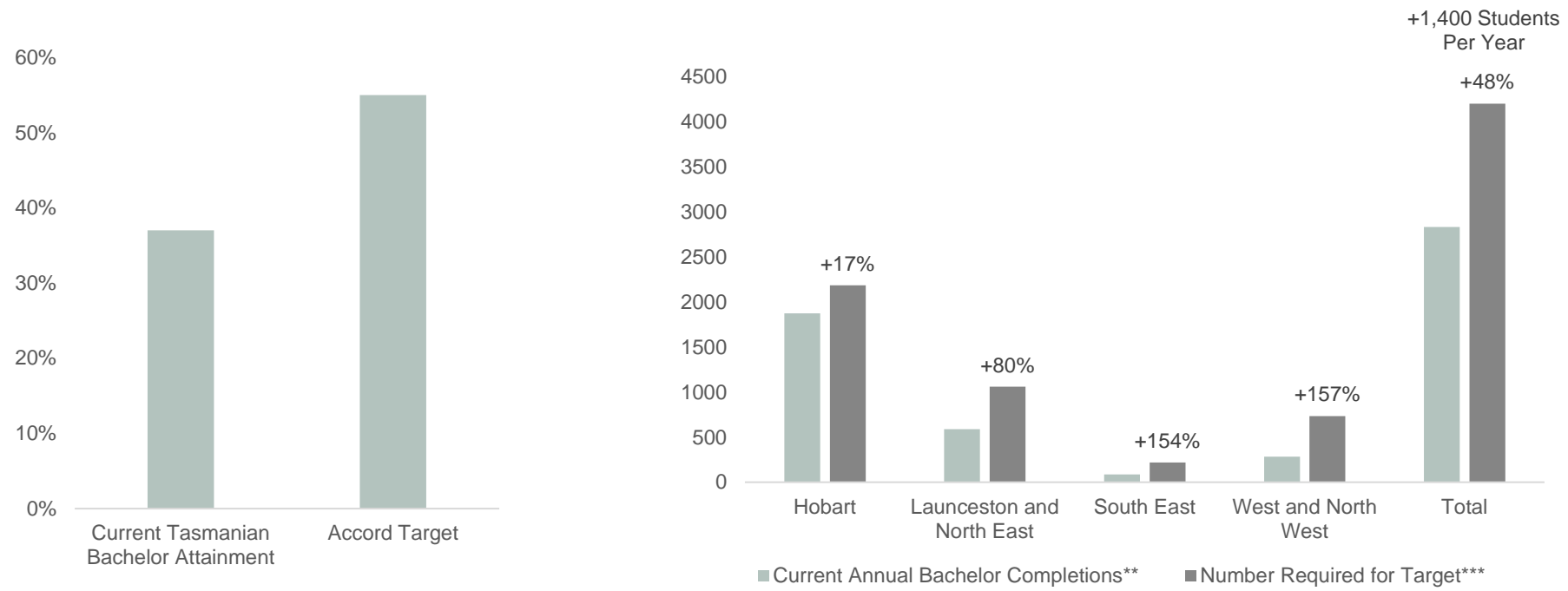
Australian Life Expectancy*** by Level of Education, 2016



* Comorbidity Rate is the rate at which surveyed individuals reported having Diabetes, Kidney Disease or Cardiovascular Diseases. Tablebuilder, National Health Survey 2011 – 12.
 ** Low/High End is the smallest/largest value in category across education levels (e.g. High End in Bachelor is Postgraduate, whereas Low End is Bachelors only). [ABS Employee Earnings 2023](#).
 ***Values calculated by averaging across Men and Women and assuming a 50/50 Gender split, [Absolute and relative differences by education level in life expectancy at ages 25, 45, 65 and 85 years for Australian men and women, 2016](#)

Tasmania will need a very strong focus on education at all levels to tackle this inequality and reach the Accord targets given our starting point

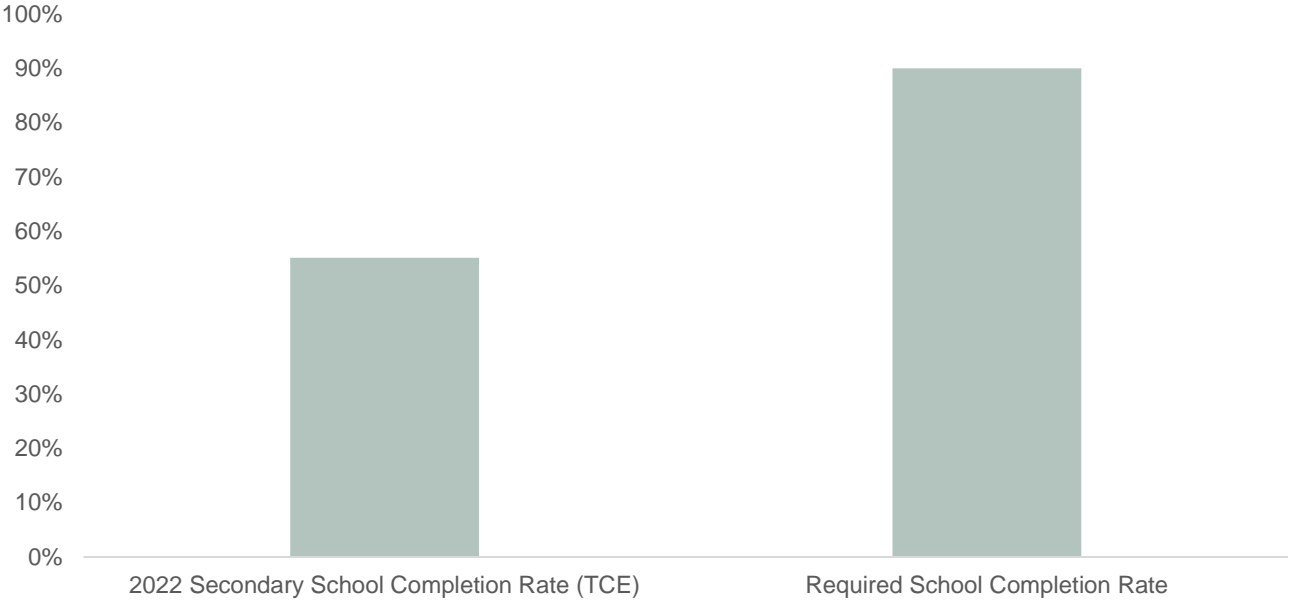
Estimated increase in Tasmanian bachelors attainment required to reach 55% by 2050 (by SA4 region)



Source: Estimated from bachelor attainment data from ABS TableBuilder, Census 2021 Level of Educational Attainment (HEAP), 2021 census. Includes non-University of Tasmania graduates in Tasmania
 * Estimate of annual bachelors completions indicative only based on 2021 census 25-34 Bachelor and above attainment population divided by number of years in cohort
 ** Estimates based on population size from 2021 census for 24-34 year olds and bachelor completion rates for the current 25-34 year old cohort. Does not include 9.3% estimated decline in population of 25-34 year olds between 2022 and 2050 as per ABS medium population projections for Tasmania

To achieve this uplift we will need to see 90% of school students coming to either university or TAFE and a significant increase in school completion rates

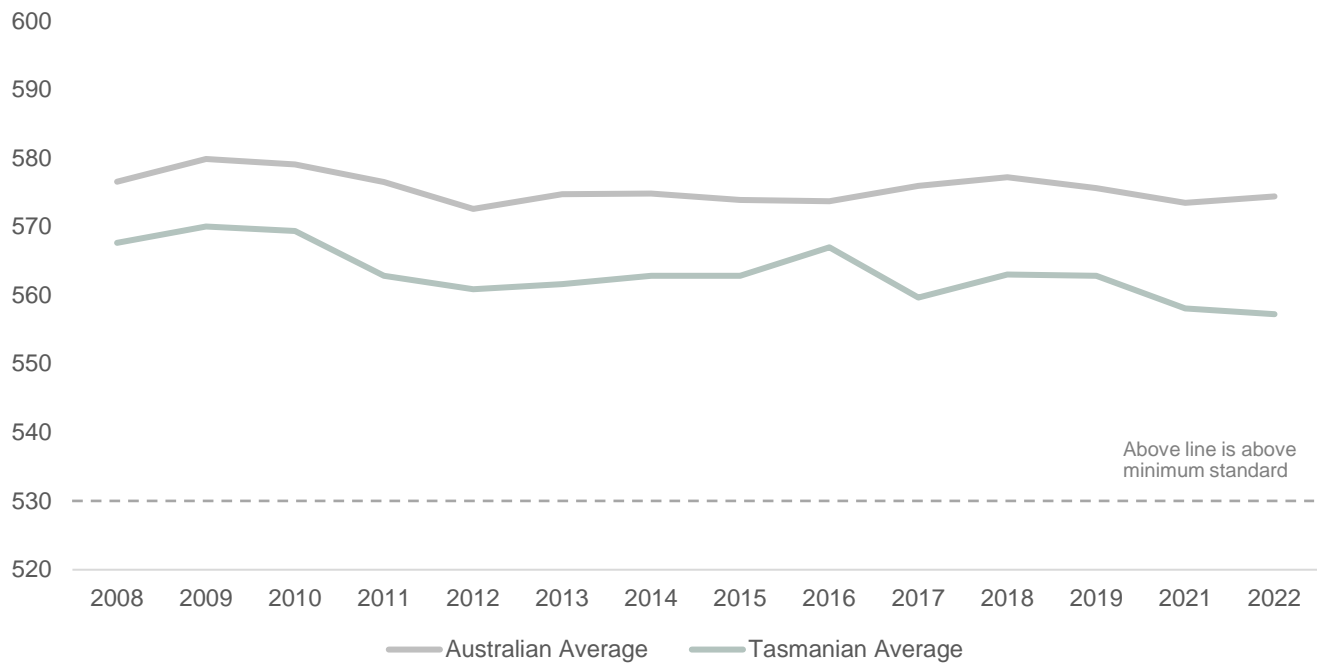
Current and Required School Completions



TASC Annual Report 2022/23. Note: The potential Year 12 population is based on an age-weighted value using Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates for the number of persons aged 15-19 years in Tasmania in the given year..

This needs to start in our schools where Tasmanian students are less prepared, with NAPLAN results consistently below the Australian average

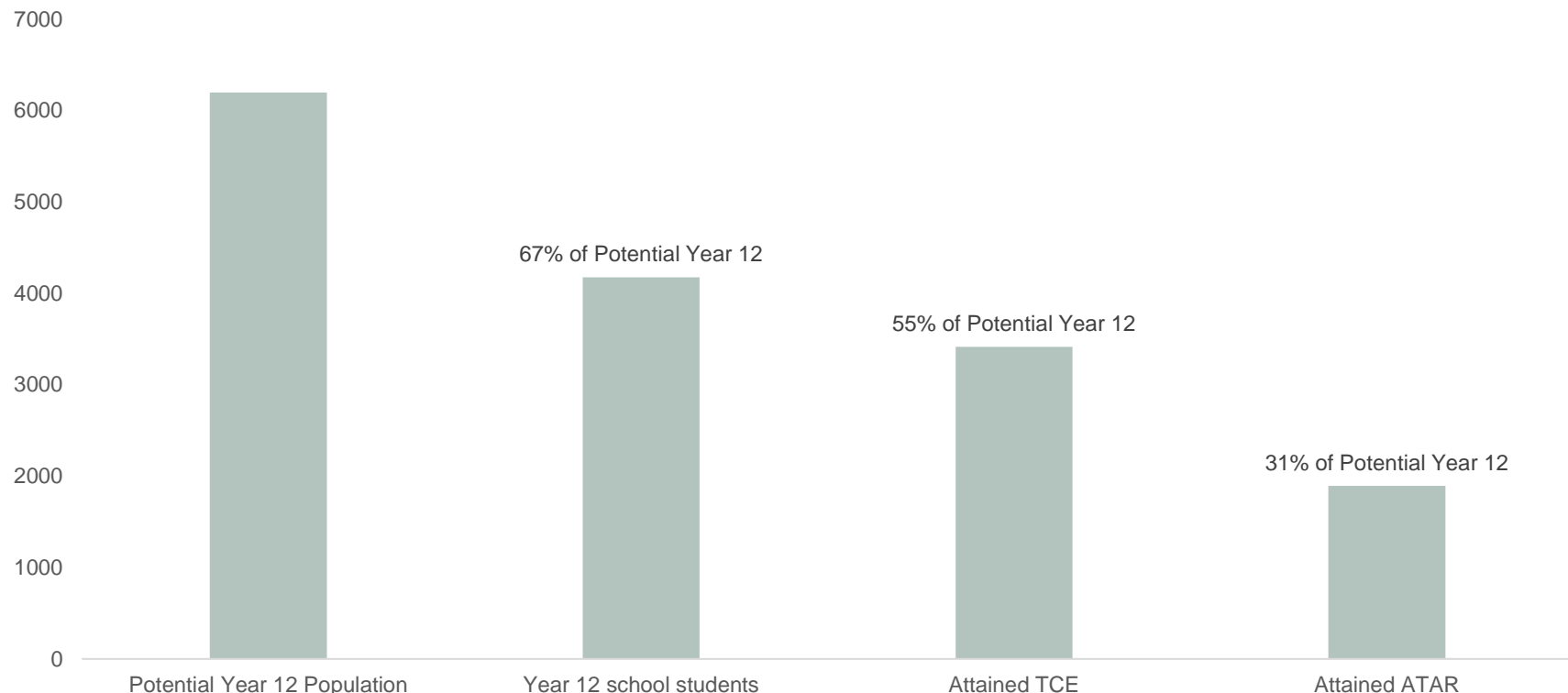
Tasmanian vs Australian Average NAPLAN result Average, Year 9 Students, 2008 - 2022



- In 2022, the gap between the Tasmanian and Australian average result increased to 17 points.
- Between Year 7 and Year 9, the national minimum standard increases by 52 points NAPLAN points
- Based on this, the current difference between Tasmanians and Australia represents being approximately half a year behind the rest of Australia

<https://www.acara.edu.au/reporting/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia/naplan-national-results>. NAPLAN results averaged over the five competency areas

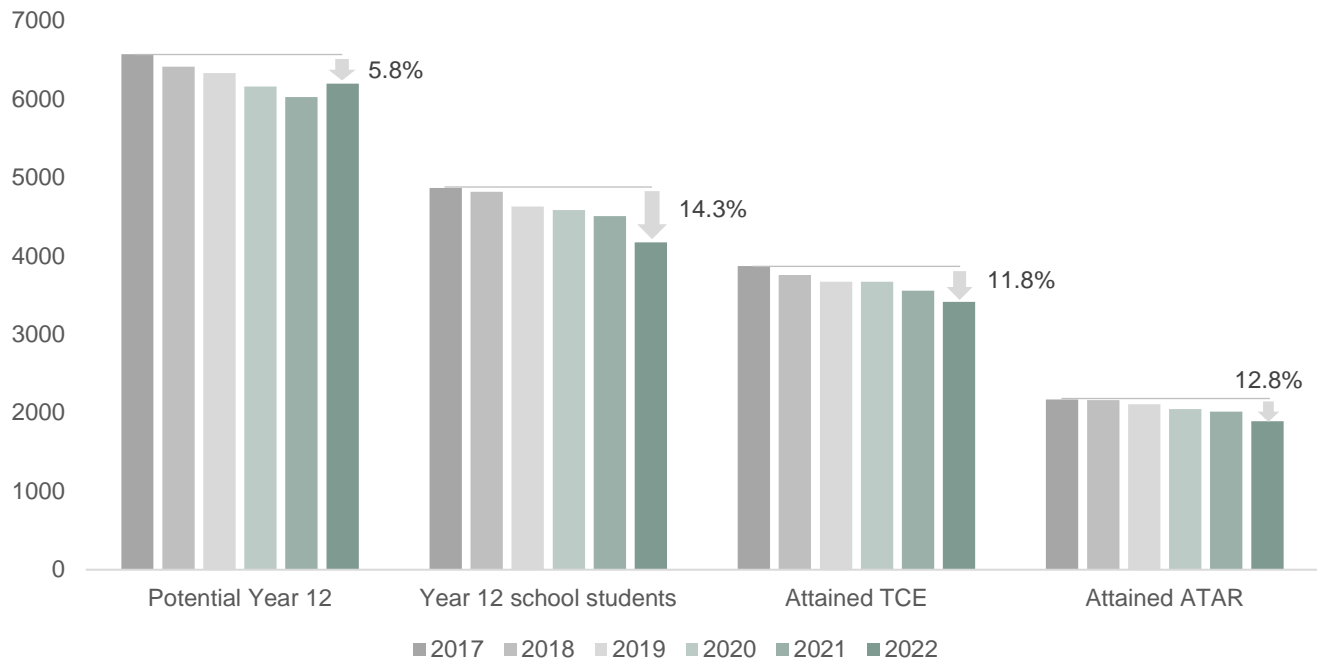
In 2022, of the potential Tasmanian year 12 population, only 55% finished and only 31% gained an ATAR



TASC Annual Report 2022/23. Note: The potential Year 12 population is based on an age-weighted value using Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates for the number of persons aged 15-19 years in Tasmania in the given year.

What is more concerning is that these completion rates have been in decline

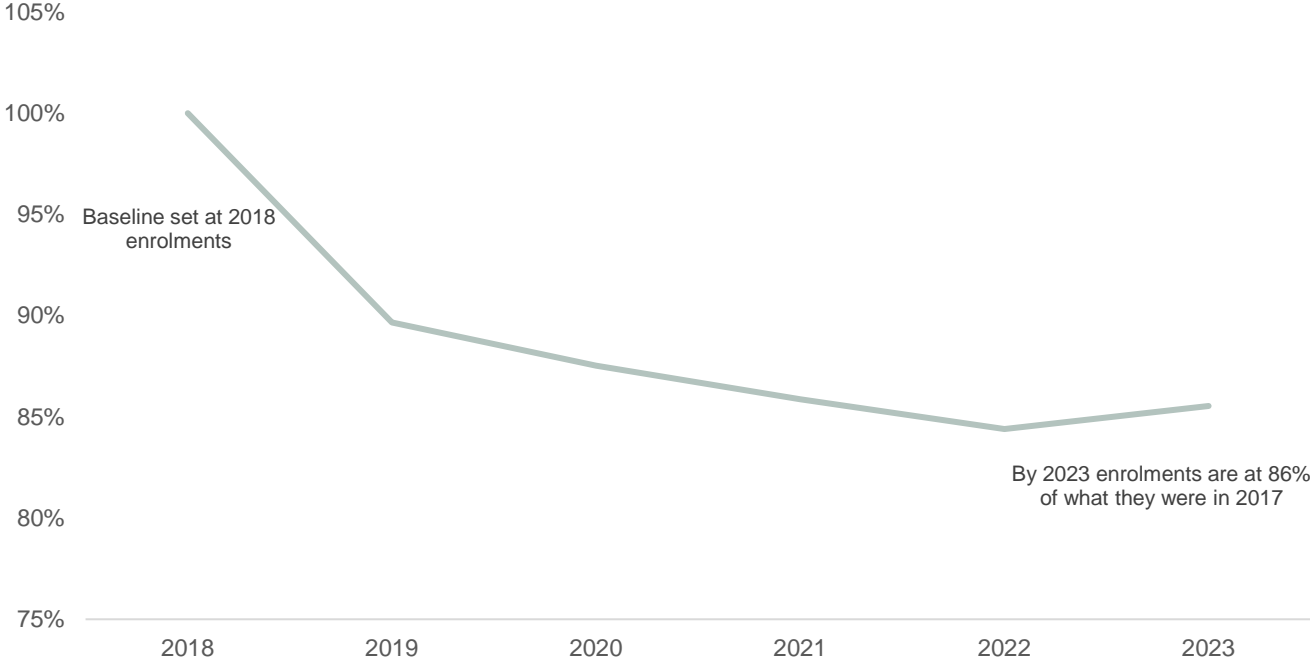
Number of Tasmanian Year 12 Students, 2017 - 2022



TASC Annual Report 2022/23. Note: The potential Year 12 population is based on an age-weighted value using Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates for the number of persons aged 15-19 years in Tasmania in the given year.

Even those completing year 12 are studying fewer of the subjects needed for university admission. Since just 2018 this has fallen 14 percentage points.

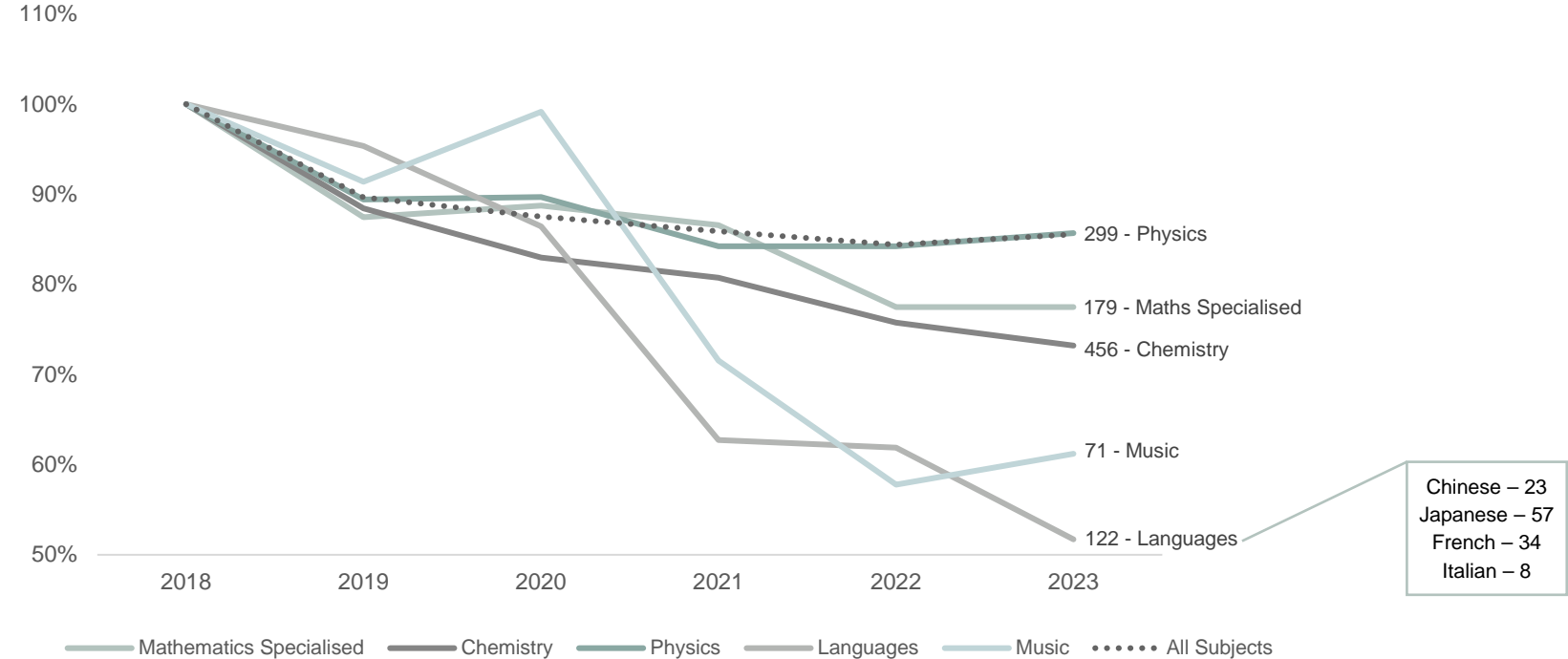
Percent change in enrolments in all pre-tertiary classes (2018 as baseline) Tasmania, 2018 - 2023



TASC Course Scaling Data, 2018 – 2023, Figures are indexed to 2018 levels.
Note that this chart relates to enrolments in classes, not absolute student numbers (with each student enrolling in one or more class)

We are also seeing substantial drops in enrolments in some of the key school subjects required to study STEM, languages, and music at a tertiary level.

Percent change in enrolments in key pre-tertiary subjects (2018 as baseline) Tasmania, 2018 - 2023



The Universities Accord will guide Higher Education Policy reforms over the coming years, with a strong direction on how higher education needs to evolve.

From the late 1980s, Higher Education Policy in Australia has driven a shift from an elite system to the mass higher education system we have today.

This shift has helped shape the University of Tasmania we see today: a high quality, high performing university with a larger and more diverse student population.

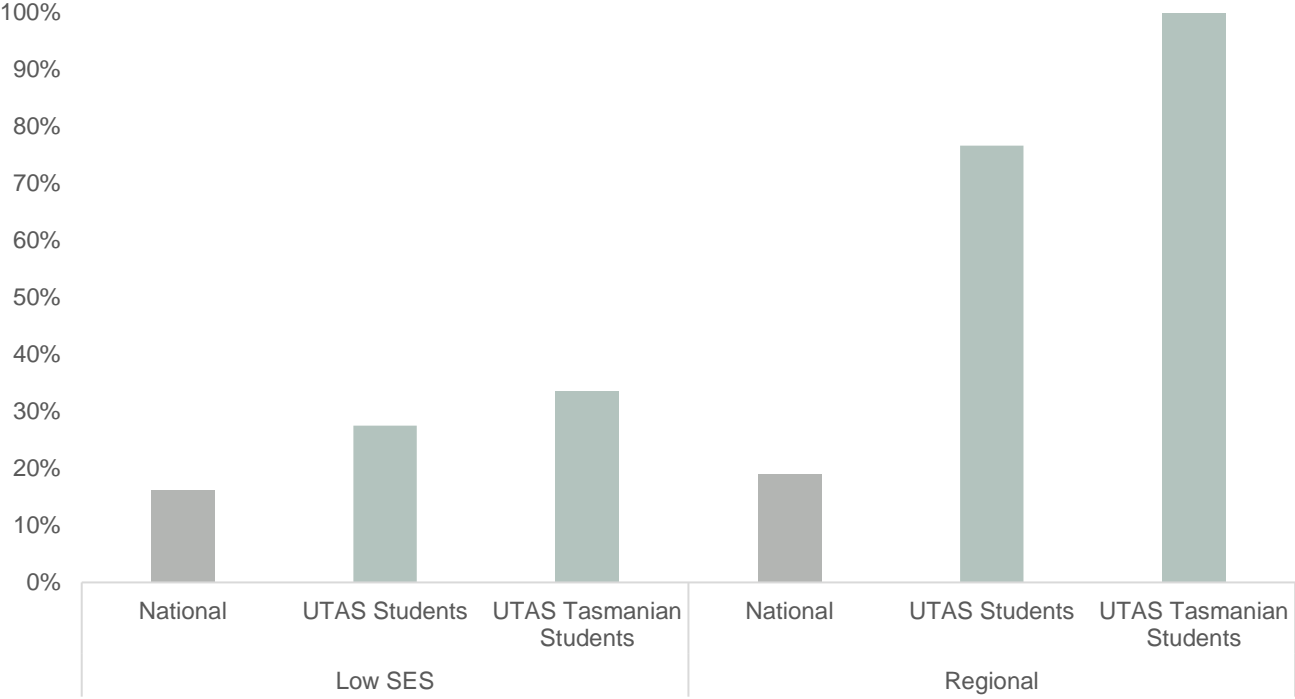
To create an equitable and economically prosperous future, the Australian Universities Accord sets a shift from a mass to a universal education system, accessible to more people.

This is important for Tasmania, due to serious inequalities in the state, requiring reform at all levels of education to meet the Accord's objectives.

The University is well placed to contribute to meeting these challenges, improving equity while maintaining excellence

We educate a higher rate of low SES and regional students relative to the sector, so we are well placed to deliver on equity targets

Percentage of lower socio-economic and regional commencing domestic bachelor enrolments, 2022



Source: HEIMS and Enterprise Data Warehouse Course Enrolments table, Domestic Commencing Bachelor students, excluding students where Address is unknown.

While continuing to be a world class research institution through our specialist research institutes and areas of international distinctiveness



Institute for Marine & Antarctic Studies (IMAS)

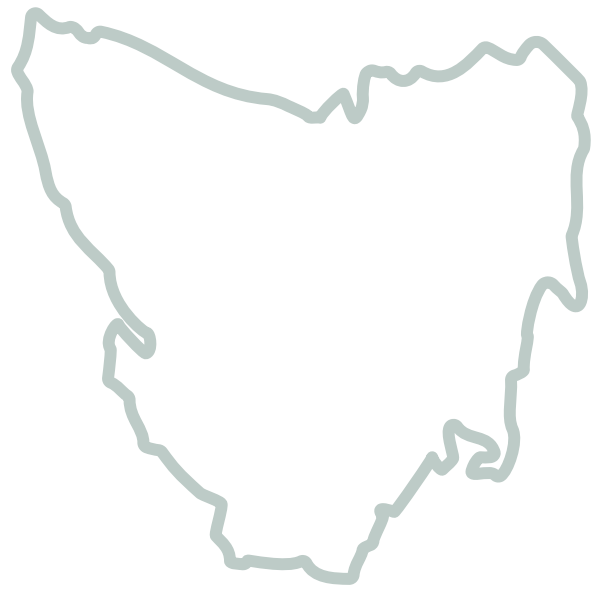


Menzies Institute for Medical Research



Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA)

We are making a difference for Tasmania and helping the world with the massive transitions that need to be made by 2050 for us to have a sustainable planet

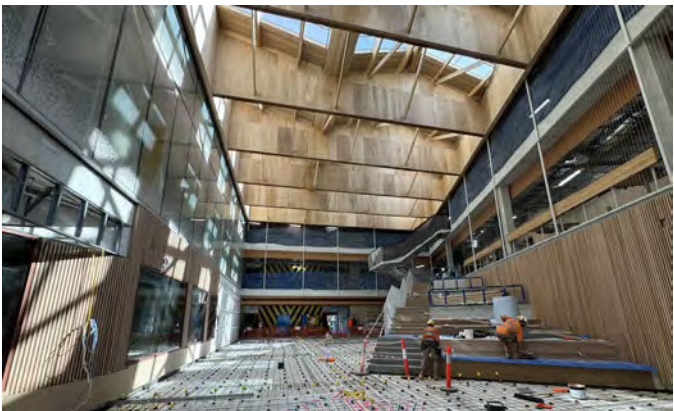
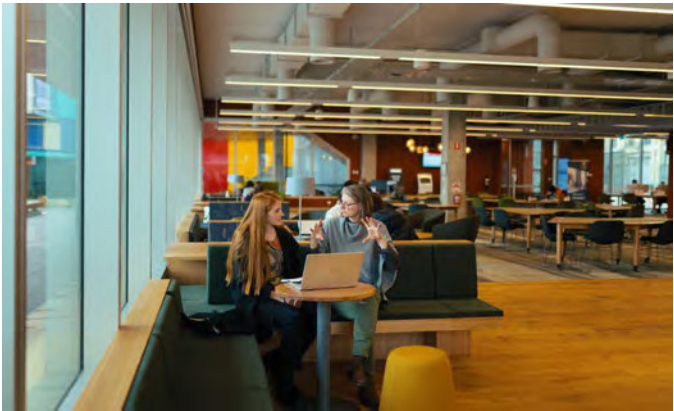


#1 in Climate Action globally

#5 in the world overall

Times Higher Education Impact Rankings
#1 Climate Action 2022 and 2023 rankings; #5 overall 2023 rankings

We have invested in our campuses, enabling access to a broader offering of courses in the North and the Northwest



Inveresk Campus Library and The Shed (nearing completion)

West Park Campus nursing facilities and external view

The University is deeply committed to Northern Tasmania and with the Inveresk campus nearing completion, the focus moves to how we deliver ongoing benefit to the region

Professor Natalie Brown will commence as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Launceston) & Executive Dean (Regional Education) in July 2024:

- Leading the development and implementation of our regional education plan
- Continuing to foster a supportive campus culture in Launceston for positive student and staff experience
- Engaging with local industry and community to shape a sustainable future for the region



Students during O Week at the Inveresk Campus

With the education challenges we are facing in Tasmania our whole community - including schools, TAFE and university - will need to work together to build an integrated high quality universal education system.

This will transform lives and the future for our State.



From: Professor Ian Anderson AO <listserv@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Thursday, 2 May 2024 2:30 PM
To: Kate Huntington
Subject: Senior leadership appointments in the Academic Division

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it in your browser](#)



Senior leadership appointments in the Academic Division

Dear colleagues,

I am delighted to announce two recent appointments to senior leadership positions in the Academic Division.

Professor Natalie Brown has accepted the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor, Launceston and Executive Dean, Regional Education. Natalie has a profound connection to Northern Tasmania where she grew up and brings a deep commitment to advancing the University's mission across all regions.

A University of Tasmania graduate, Natalie started out as a schoolteacher at Circular Head before completing her PhD in plant science and moving into higher education where she brought her classroom experience to leadership positions in learning and teaching at the University, culminating in the role of Director, Academic Quality. In recent years Natalie has served with distinction in other senior roles, including Director of the Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment, Senior Academic in the Office of the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, and Chair of Academic Senate. She has sat on Council since 2019.

Natalie's outstanding leadership has been recognised by the Australian Council of Education Leaders, and her commitment to improving education in Tasmania extends to several external roles, including Chair of the Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification (TASC) Board, and a place on the Ministerial roundtable focusing on More Teachers, Quality Teaching.

In her new role Natalie will lead the development of the University's regional education plan, which will aim to expand participation and student success in our regions. Based in Launceston, she will oversee campus management and campus culture at Inveresk and Newnham, and, drawing on her extensive networks, facilitate the development of a collaborative innovation hub in the North through the establishment of the Launceston Institute.

Our second appointment is Amanda Castray, who will be returning to the University later in the year in the role of Executive Director, Residential Communities, Sport and Recreation.

Since 2018 Amanda has been at Ulster University where she is Director of Campus Life, a leadership role with responsibility for student accommodation, sports services, catering, conferencing and events across four campuses in Northern Ireland. Under her leadership, the University's student experience has rated No. 1 in Northern Ireland (Guardian University Guide, 2023) and services have won multiple UK higher-education and sector accommodation awards.

Amanda's career has spanned the public and private sectors, developing policy, delivering projects, programs and services, and leading people across the energy, services and higher-education sectors in Australia and the UK. She has held senior public-sector roles as Director of Enterprise Development in the Tasmanian Government and as Deputy State

Manager of the Australian Government's AusIndustry Research & Development programs.

Amanda holds a Master of Science (MSc) in Executive Leadership from Ulster University and a Bachelor of Commerce Degree with First Class Honours from the University of Tasmania. She is Chair of the Ireland Regional Commercial and University Business Officers (CUBO) group, is a Director on the Belfast Chamber of Commerce and Trade and is a mentor to female managers.

As Executive Director, Amanda will lead the development of a Student Residential Communities Strategy and ensure effective management and provision of pastoral support and services to deliver safe and vibrant communities.

In leading the Sport and Recreation team, she will apply an equity perspective to build social capital through increased student participation, deepen connections between staff, students and community and deliver opportunity for talented athletes.

Please join me in congratulating Natalie and Amanda on their appointments. Natalie will commence in her new role in early July, while Amanda will return to Tasmania and join the University in October.

Kind regards,

Ian

Professor Ian Anderson

Deputy Vice-Chancellor - Academic
Academic Division
University of Tasmania
Administration Building
Private Bag 3, Hobart, TAS, 7001
CRICOS 00586B



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Accord and Tasmanian Education slides - May 2024

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Fri 3/05/2024 2:51 PM

To nick.cronin@aph.gov.au <nick.cronin@aph.gov.au>

Cc Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>

 2 attachments (888 KB)

Accord and Tasmania - May 24 Presentation.pdf; Senior leadership appointments in the Academic Division;

Hi Nick

Great to meet you yesterday and see you again this morning. Please find attached the data pack that Rufus provided to the Minister and Senator Polley yesterday. Also attached is an announcement made yesterday about our new Pro Vice-Chancellor (Launceston), Professor Natalie Brown, who we will be keen to introduce to Senator Polley when she starts in July.

I'm pleased to introduce you to Bonnie French (who I've copied here) who leads stakeholder engagement in my team and is also based at the Inveresk Campus and is happy to assist with anything Senator Polley needs – she will also facilitate the introduction to Professor Brown.

You mentioned that Senator Polley is keen for some facts and figures on The Shed – we have some information here: [Launceston campuses | University of Tasmania \(utas.edu.au\)](#) but very happy to provide more. Can you please expand on the types of things she's keen to know so Bonnie can put it together for you?

Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications

University of Tasmania

Admin Building | Private Bag 51

Hobart TAS 7001

0432 389 793

UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA 


#1 in climate
action globally
THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS 2023

We acknowledge the Aboriginal people of Tasmania as Traditional Owners of the land on which this university is located.

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.

AFR article re NT & Tas caps from last night FYI

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Date Thu 22/08/2024 2:49 PM
To Josh Willie <Josh.Willie@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Cc Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

 1 attachment (692 KB)

Overseas caps could lead to more risky students.pdf;

Noting that the NT election is this weekend of course...

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications
University of Tasmania
Admin Building | Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
0432 389 793



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Overseas caps could lead to more risky students

Julie Hare *Education editor*



Aug 21, 2024 - 6.32pm



Listen to this article
4 min

Australia could end up with more overseas students considered risky by immigration officials as a perverse consequence of the federal government's [plan to cap their numbers](https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/i-m-not-trying-to-crash-a-50bn-industry-jason-clare-tells-unis-20240820-p5k3of) [https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/i-m-not-trying-to-crash-a-50bn-industry-jason-clare-tells-unis-20240820-p5k3of].

Experts say the replacement of a ministerial directive that requires the Immigration Department to prioritise student visa applications from countries considered at a very low risk of overstaying could lead to more students considered high-risk such as those from certain parts of India, Nepal and some African nations.



The move to impose caps could result in fewer low-risk Chinese students. **Oscar Colman**

Education Minister Jason Clare told The Australian Financial Review Higher Education Summit on Tuesday that ministerial directive 107 would be replaced by student caps.

That means universities and colleges would still be given a risk profile depending on the likelihood of their enrolling risky students, but the removal of the directive would no longer prioritise Chinese students – who are considered the lowest risk.

If those students had to wait longer, or could not find a place due to caps, they were likely to enrol in overseas universities, said Vicki Thomson, chief executive of the Group of Eight.

“So the perverse outcome could be that by the removal of [ministerial directive] 107, where there is risk analysis across students, you could end up with more high-risk students coming in, which lowers the whole quality of the sector,” Ms Thomson said.

Northern Territory deal

It comes as Northern Territory Chief Minister Eva Lawler has gone public with her success in getting a carve-out for Charles Darwin University and other education providers from caps.

Ms Lawler said instead of cuts to overseas students going to the NT, she got agreement from Mr Clare that growth “would be supported”.

About 4200 international students are in the NT.

Scott Bowman, vice-chancellor of Charles Darwin University, has previously told *The Australian Financial Review* [<https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/visa-crackdown-halves-students-from-india-nepal-philippines-20240702-p5jqf2>] that “caps don’t work for us, and they don’t work for the Northern Territory, which is desperate for people”.

However, since the introduction of various policy changes over the past year, applications were down 73 per cent.

“We need these international students to be our teachers, our nurses, everything. They all get jobs,” Professor Bowman said.

However, on Tuesday, Professor Bowman said he still expected a “limit” to be placed on his university.

“I’m not sure if we have been told a number, but if it walks like a cap and quacks like a cap, then I guess it’s a cap whatever you call it.”

Sector insiders say a similar deal for Tasmania is likely, although the University of Tasmania did not respond to questions by deadline.

University of Tasmania vice chancellor Rufus Black has publicly supported caps, arguing it would force a redistribution of students away from the major cities to regional areas.

Coalition response unclear

Coalition education spokeswoman Sarah Henderson has yet to reveal her hand despite Opposition Leader Peter Dutton’s promise to cut net overseas migration to just 160,000 people a year, which would devastate the international student sector.

Nationals MP Michael McCormack told parliament earlier this month the Coalition would not oppose changes to legislation allowed the government to place caps on foreign students, but wanted a carve-out for regional universities.

Alec Webb, executive director of the Regional Universities Network, a peak group for non-metropolitan universities, said it did not agree with caps.

“Our position is the international student market best works when it is a free market, knowing that 80 per cent of the international students return home post graduation,” Mr Webb said.

“The establishment of a simple cap, it will be interesting to see whether it actually funnels international students to study at a range of Australian institutions, or whether they decide to choose other countries.”



RELATED

Labor’s ‘populist’ student caps will break funding model: unis

<https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/i-m-not-trying-to-crash-a-50bn-industry-jason-clare-tells-unis-20240820-p5k3of>



RELATED

Immigration target on track without foreign student caps: Treasury

<https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/immigration-target-on-track-without-foreign-student-caps-treasury-20240816-p5k2w0>

Julie Hare is the Education editor. She has more than 20 years’ experience as a writer, journalist and editor. *Connect with Julie on [Twitter](#). Email Julie at julie.hare@afr.com*

Victoria Geason

From: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2024 10:22 AM
To: Kate Sullivan; Hossein Enshaei; Dean Cook; Gregory Truloff; Robert Palmer; Stephen Hurd; Peggy Chen; John Whittington
Cc: Malcolm Wise; Nikki Radford
Subject: Alison Byrnes MP

25/07:

Hi Everyone,
Below is the proposed running order for next Tuesday:

09:00 – Welcome and AMC and Blue Economy presentations/discussion

10:00 – Morning Tea

10:30 – Tour

- Tow tank – 20 – 10:35
- Simulation Centre – 20 – 10:55
- Model Test Basin – 20 – 11:15
- UCRF 20 – 11:35

12:00 – Meet with students and staff

12:30 – Lunch (*please let me know if there are any dietary requirements*)

22/07:

Hi Everyone,
Just making sure I didn't cancel for everyone.
Kind Regards,
Kate

11/07:

Hi Everyone,

A place hold for the moment RE: the Hon Alison Byrnes MP visit on the 30th, more details to follow.

Kind Regards,

If using assistive software, message ends here. Email signature below.

Kate Sullivan (*She/Her*)

Executive Officer to the Principal and AMC Board

Australian Maritime College

University of Tasmania

T: +61 3 6226 7170

Locked Bag 1398, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250



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Victoria Geason

From: Malcolm Wise <malcolm.wise@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 October 2024 11:49 AM
To: senator.polley@aph.gov.au
Cc: Kate Sullivan
Subject: AMC and Opening of Facilities

Dear Senator Polley,

It was lovely to meet you with Mike at Definium last week.

As we discussed at the time through the Defence Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct (DMIDP) funded through DSTG, we have developed an Underwater Collision Research Facility (UCRF) which we were keen to have formally opened if an appropriate minister was available. Photo Below. We can do most dates up to 3 Nov and then After 26 Nov. The only other key date for us to avoid is 23 Oct as we have the Tas Premier and Navantia here signing an agreement.

Any potential assistance is greatly appreciated.

Can I also extend an invitation for you and any of your team to visit AMC at a time that suites. As I think you know, we have a number of sovereign capabilities at AMC including our Naval Architecture Degree (Ship Designers), Submarine related research, and Seafarer training. With developments in Offshore Wind, AUKUS, Continuous Ship Building, the Strategic fleet, Autonomy and Decarbonisation of Maritime Fuels, there is as great a need as ever for some of our national capabilities. I would appreciate the opportunity to highlight our capabilities as they are today, should you have the time over the next few months.

Very respectfully,

Mal



Mal Wise

Malcolm (Mal) Wise AM

Principal

[Australian Maritime College](#)

University of Tasmania

Locked Bag 1398

Launceston Tasmania 7250

Australia

+61 (0) 3 6324 9700 | +61 (0) 409 358 988 | malcolm.wise@utas.edu.au

[Home - Australian Maritime College | University of Tasmania \(amc.edu.au\)](#)

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA



Australian Maritime College

Andrew Leigh research

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Date Thu 11/07/2024 5:06 PM
To Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

 1 attachment (440 KB)

Andrew Leigh research finds university education leads to higher earnings.pdf;

As discussed yesterday.

Kate Huntington
Executive Director, Strategic Communications
University of Tasmania
Admin Building | Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
0432 389 793



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Higher education key to bigger pay, Labor MP argues

Julie Hare *Education editor*



Jun 14, 2024 - 4.54pm



Listen to this article
4 min

Labor MP and economist Andrew Leigh has sought to counter research suggesting the economic boost from earning a university degree is declining, publishing an analytical paper that argues tertiary education drives higher earning capacity.

The economic return on earnings from a bachelor's degree is about three times as large as the returns from a diploma, Dr Leigh's paper says. A degree was associated with a 41 per cent increase in annual earnings over someone who has year 12 as their highest qualification.



PhD student Dan McDougall decided public relations was not for him. **Martin Ollman**

The higher the degree, the higher the earnings, according to the analysis by Labor MP and economist Andrew Leigh.

“Those with master’s degrees and doctorates earn hourly wages that are 47 per cent higher and annual earnings that are 68 per cent higher,” says Dr Leigh’s paper, published in the Economic Society of Australia journal *Economic Papers*.

“This confirms that investing in education is one of the very best investments you can make,” he said. “We talk about property and stocks and putting money in the bank. But investing in your own human capital pays massive dividends in Australia.”

A study last year by Tom Karmel for the Mackenzie Research Institute found that the income boost from a university degree [<https://www.afr.com/work-and-careers/education/income-benefit-from-university-degrees-on-the-slide-20231119-p5e12g>] is declining and greater for those with higher qualifications, such as master’s and PhDs.

Higher education policy expert Andrew Norton said an oversight of Dr Leigh’s analysis was that it does not consider what happens when people do not benefit from their education.

A 2018 paper for the Grattan Institute by Professor Norton found that almost a quarter of people who start a university degree do not complete it [<https://www.afr.com/work-and-careers/education/university-degree-dropouts-reach-record-20240104-p5ev3u>].

The Albanese government has made doubling the number of young people with a university degree a key goal of its overhaul of tertiary education under Education Minister Jason Clare’s so-called university accord.

Dr Leigh’s paper says someone who has a vocational certificate such as for a trade qualification earns no more than someone who completes school, but their likelihood of being employed is much greater.

“There is a big labour market participation effect. It makes the difference between people getting a job and not getting a job. So you could argue that’s super important in terms of well-being. But once you’re in the workplace it is really school and university that come into their own,” he said.

However, returns tend to decline from age 60 for people with school and vocational qualifications and earlier at 55 for those with a university degree.

“I imagine the waning is due to credentials steadily becoming outdated as the decades go by,” Dr Leigh said.

Sporting hopeful to PhD candidate

Dan McDougall dropped out of his first degree in public relations but returned to university to complete an honours degree in psychology. He is now simultaneously undertaking his master’s and a PhD at the University of Canberra looking at the relationship between mental health and positive fathering.

Born and raised in Dubbo, in NSW, Mr McDougall is not only the first person in his family to go to university but the first to finish school.

He moved to Canberra at 14 with his mother to be part of NRL team the Canberra Raiders’ development squad. But he opted out of chasing a career as a professional athlete after a heart condition put him in hospital during year 12.

“Sport was a means to an end to getting out of Dubbo,” Mr McDougall said.

Instead, he took an internship with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, which required him to do a degree in either public relations or museum studies. He opted for the former.

“So I did it for two years. Having my degree paid for was definitely driven by financial factors. We were never a super well-off family. There was always a scarcity mindset,” Mr McDougall said.

“But two years into it, I realised that money dictates your behaviours, but I didn’t feel the satisfaction of doing something that I wanted to do. So I quit.”

After a couple of years working as an Indigenous education assistant and disability worker, he realised he had wanted to do psychology all along and enrolled online at Swinburne University.

Does he ever think about the big earnings he could have made as a professional athlete?

“Occasionally. But I realised in my 20s there are so many ways to make money. And there’s a lot better people off in the world than Australian athletes, especially in the NRL.”



RELATED

Only rich kids prosper from their education. That has to change

<https://www.afr.com/work-and-careers/education/only-rich-kids-prosper-from-their-education-that-has-to-change-20231205-p5ep5a>



RELATED

Female graduates beat males on all fronts – except salary

<https://www.afr.com/work-and-careers/education/female-graduates-beat-males-on-all-fronts-except-salary-20240527-p5jh0q>

Higher Education Summit - Early bird registration

Join the Financial Review's Higher Education Summit to gain insights into policy changes, innovative ideas, and ambitious strategies aimed at preparing the sector to meet the economy's demands for years ahead.

Register

Julie Hare is the Education editor. She has more than 20 years' experience as a writer, journalist and editor. *Connect with Julie on [Twitter](#). Email Julie at julie.hare@afrc.com*

Antarctic dot points - UTAS

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Thu 13/06/2024 10:01 AM

To Janie Finlay <janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Hi Janie

Here are some suggestions – adapted from our submission to the Senate inquiry which you can find here: [Sub05_UTAS_\(1\).pdf](#)

- The University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, is globally recognised as a world leader in Antarctic and Southern Ocean research and teaching and is at the centre of Australia's research hub in Hobart with its AAD and CSIRO partners.
- In their submission to the recent Senate inquiry, the University of Tasmania reported that there are already significant problems undertaking Antarctic fieldwork both on the continent and at sea, and that any further challenges will not only exacerbate this but may make certain research areas untenable.
- Regularly, expeditions have not been scheduled, or are delayed and/or cancelled at short notice and further delays in developing the required infrastructure would add to these challenges. .
- The University undertakes critical research such as the maintaining the 30 year Continuous Plankton Recorder (CPR) dataset and the Krill and Krill Ecosystems (KAKE) program designed to monitor the critical status of krill populations in those regions where serious discussions are underway about expanding the fishery and the East Antarctic Monitoring Program (EAMP) which seeks to provide critical data on sea ice dynamics.
- Staff from the AAD and the University invest significant amounts of time to plan voyages, source appropriate scientific equipment, build collaborations, recruit junior staff and students who would participate amongst a range of activities required for research programs so thousands of hours of staff time is invested.
- If these voyages can't go ahead, the opportunity cost of this loss for the scientists is significant, including career impacts. Our Hobart based scientists urgently need a more certain environment for workforce and researcher development.
- Researchers engaged at IMAS report that there are a range of early career researchers with careers delayed or projects never even started or imagined due to funding uncertainty, and others that have never experience the opportunity that field research provides. This represents a severe threat to the capability build required for future Antarctic research and therefore to our status as the Antarctic Gateway .

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications

University of Tasmania

Admin Building | Private Bag 51

Hobart TAS 7001

0432 389 793

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.



Senate Inquiry into the Current Management of the Funding of the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD)

University of Tasmania Submission

1 September 2023

UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA 

1300 363 864 | Vice.Chancellor@utas.edu.au

Acknowledgment of Country

The University of Tasmania pays its respects to elders past, present and emerging to the many Aboriginal people that did not make elder status and to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community that continues to care for Country. We acknowledge the profound effect of climate change on this Country and seek to work alongside Tasmanian Aboriginal communities, with their deep wisdom and knowledge, to address climate change and its impacts.

The Palawa people belong to one of the world's oldest living cultures, continually resident on this Country for over 40,000 years. They have survived and adapted to significant changes in climate over this time, such as sea-level rise and extreme rainfall variability, and as such embody thousands of generations of intimate place-based knowledge. We acknowledge with deep respect that this knowledge represents a range of cultural practices, wisdom, traditions, and ways of knowing the world.

The University of Tasmania recognises a history based on truth that acknowledges the impacts of invasion and colonisation upon Aboriginal people, resulting in forcible removal from their lands.

Our island is deeply unique, with cities and towns surrounded by spectacular landscapes of bushland, waterways, mountain ranges, and coasts.

The University of Tasmania stands for a future that profoundly respects and acknowledges Aboriginal perspectives, culture, language, and history, and a continued effort to fight for Aboriginal justice and rights paving the way for a strong future.

Appropriate funding of Antarctic research is critical to ensuring Australia meets its international commitments and obligations

Science, along with peaceful use and environmental protection, are key norms and principles of the Antarctic Treaty System. Under this system, Antarctica is designated as “a natural reserve devoted to peace and science” (Madrid Protocol Article 2). Science is also acknowledged as the currency of national credibility (i.e. influence) in the Antarctic Treaty System. It is one of the foundations of the Antarctic Treaty. This Treaty’s Preamble states, *inter alia*,

“Recognising that it is in the interest of all mankind that Antarctica shall continue for ever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and shall not become the scene or object of international discord; Acknowledging the substantial contributions to scientific knowledge resulting from international cooperation in scientific investigation in Antarctica;”

Article II of the Antarctic Treaty notes “Freedom of scientific investigation in Antarctica and cooperation toward that end, as applied during the International Geophysical Year, shall continue, subject to the provisions of the present Treaty.”

Australia, as an original signatory to the Antarctic Treaty, the depository state for the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and a prime country in influencing the development of the Environmental Protocol, has longstanding Antarctic policy interests. These interests include:

- maintaining Antarctica’s freedom from strategic and/or political confrontation;
- preserving our sovereignty over the Australian Antarctic Territory, including our sovereign rights over adjacent offshore areas;
- supporting a strong and effective Antarctic Treaty system;
- conducting world-class scientific research consistent with national priorities;
- protecting the Antarctic environment, having regard to its special qualities and effects on our region;
- remaining informed about and able to influence developments in a region geographically proximate to Australia; and
- fostering economic opportunities arising from Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, consistent with our Antarctic Treaty system obligations, including the ban on mining and oil drilling (Update Australia’s Antarctic Strategy 2022).

The Australian Government notes that Australia’s Antarctic interests will be advanced through:

- leadership and influence in Antarctica;
- leadership and excellence in Antarctic science;
- leadership in environmental stewardship in Antarctica; and
- development of economic, educational and collaborative opportunities (Update Australia’s Antarctic Strategy 2022).

Our geopolitical and strategic international interests will be impacted by diminished Antarctic funding

The Australian Government’s ability to maintain sovereignty over the last 40 years has been built on both our scientific leadership and capacity to use science to underpin the Antarctic treaty system. Our research has provided the basis for our broad presence in the Antarctic that remains critical for sovereignty in the long term. A reduction in this capability potentially diminishes our achievement of these objectives as other nations dramatically increase their scientific endeavours. Our strategic interests also include understanding (and showing we are taking seriously) future climate impacts on regional neighbours, such as the Pacific Island nations.

The Australian Antarctic Science Program Governance Review (the Clarke review¹) noted in 2017 that continued uncertainty of funding on the science program risks institutionalised long-term collaboration at the international level (as well as discipline and agency level). Maintaining and

¹ Clarke, D. (2017) Australian Antarctic Science Program Governance Review, Commonwealth of Australia

growing the funding allocation for science and research is critically important for our ability to enter into international partnerships, which will be constrained when there is uncertainty in fieldwork over the planning horizon of 3-5-10 years. The ongoing funding uncertainty is significantly impacting the standing of AAD in the world's scientific community and has already resulted in a loss of reputation due to undelivered commitments. In the East Antarctic sector, India, Japan and China now regularly conduct scientific cruises without Australia's involvement, some including repeat transects that have led or contributed significantly to our ability to monitor the Southern Ocean. Already large-scale fieldwork that many would have expected Australia to lead given proximity to our stations is being undertaken by Japan or China and other nations. Other nations, including developing ones, are now moving ahead of us and, in some cases, will decide to go it alone or partner in new relationships at the expense of Australian researchers and our geopolitical and strategic interests. This group of "other" nations have historically looked to Australia to take our commitment to Antarctic research seriously especially within Australian Antarctic Territory, something which is becoming harder to guarantee.

The impact of the Antarctic funding challenges on both Southern Ocean infrastructure (through the Southern Ocean Observing System - SOOS) and observation activity provides a good example of the risk to geopolitical and international interests currently on the horizon. The SOOS International Project Office (SOOS IPO) has been hosted in Hobart since August 2011 and funded as a collaboration with the Tasmanian Government, CSIRO, AAD and the University of Tasmania. In the years since its establishment, the SOOS has grown from a locally focused concept into a globally acclaimed program, highlighting the importance placed on sustained observations from the Southern Ocean and international demand for access to data that supports solving key societal issues such as sea level rise, heat, freshwater and nutrient transport, and ecosystem responses to changes in the system. However, the 2023 SOOS Conference closing statement noted that:

"the chronic lack of observations for the Southern Ocean challenges our ability to detect and assess the consequences of change. As such, it is more pressing than ever to have a sustained and coordinated Southern Ocean observing system to provide an understanding of current conditions, inform predictions of future states, and support policies and regulations for the benefit of society. The Southern Ocean is a critical component of the global climate system." (<https://soosymposium2023.au/>).

It concluded *"it is more pressing than ever to have a sustained and coordinated Southern Ocean observing system to provide an understanding of current conditions, inform predictions of future states, and support policies and regulations for the benefit of society."* At the expiration of the recent hosting agreement in January this year, the University approached several agencies including AAD, CSIRO and DFAT for funding and while this was ultimately secured for 2024, Australia continues to be at risk of losing this key asset to other nations for want of a coherent funding approach over the long term. This risks both reputational loss, as a globally renowned leader in the region, and creates potentially significant challenges around data management and curation should we not secure long term funding.

Failing to maintain or improve the AAD and Antarctic Program funding allocation will have a direct and indirect impact on the conduct of research and the ability of researchers to build their careers

University of Tasmania researchers report that there are already significant problems undertaking Antarctic fieldwork both on the continent and at sea, and that any further budget challenges will not only exacerbate this but may make certain research areas untenable. They anticipate this latest AAD funding challenge will disproportionately fall on science expeditions and have significant, yet sometimes less visible impacts on researchers. When scientists (both at AAD and universities) are approved for field work, large amounts of time are committed to prepare for expeditions and as a result, they give up opportunities to apply for, or participate in, other research activities, including funding, other field trips and the production of other outputs. Regularly, expeditions have not been scheduled, or are delayed and/or cancelled at short notice. This represents significant losses in time and opportunities, and research outcomes which are largely not directly costed.

The challenges around Antarctic funding are also impacting existing critical research projects. The 30 year Continuous Plankton Recorder (CPR) dataset has been significantly compromised by multiple delays and voyage cancellations. This represents the longest biological time series for the Southern Ocean, is easy to deploy and collects extremely valuable data showing changes in the biology of the

Southern Ocean and Antarctica. The Krill and Krill Ecosystems (KAKE) program has been wound back before it began; this was designed to monitor the critical status of krill populations in those regions where serious discussions are underway about expanding the fishery. The East Antarctic Monitoring Program (EAMP) seeks to provide critical data on sea ice dynamics but will take longer to establish if the funding is not available, and with the sudden decrease in sea ice this year, this delay may mean it is too little, too late.

The cancellation of the Marginal Ice Zone (MIZ) voyage to study sea ice processes, the first scheduled science voyage on the RSV *Nuyina*, provides an example of the indirect impacts of these funding cuts. Staff from the AAD and many universities (including ours) invested significant amounts of time to plan the voyage, source appropriate scientific equipment, build collaborations, recruit junior staff and students who would participate amongst a range of activities required for research programs. Ten months prior to its scheduled departure, the voyage was cancelled with no plan to reschedule in the future. For such a large, important voyage, thousands of hours of staff time had already been invested, staff and student recruiting completed, and decisions around what other funding to apply for (or not) had been made. At the very minimum, the cancellation has impacted two PhD programs and other student projects, as well as milestones that feed into the Australian Antarctic Program Partnership (AAPP) for the next 3-4 years. We also understand the rescheduling of the voyage may not be earlier than 2026, which is beyond the 2025 end of funding for the Australian Centre for Excellence in Antarctic Science (ACEAS).

A major contributor to these challenges has been the one ship model, which brings research and supply logistics into tension with each other. Australia needs to resupply four stations within the summer period, the period for which most field science must occur. This effectively splinters the 60 days of potential science on *Nuyina* each year, noting that this period also includes up to 20 days transit time. The current model creates a dependency that is already compromising the science, as station resupplies and operational logistics needs take priority. This was very evident when the *Nuyina* voyage was cancelled, with replacement ships sourced to meet supply and logistics needs but no plan for how the science program could continue. Some essential data collection is almost impossible to schedule with a one-ship model, a gap that will be filled by other nations. Even if research funding were to be increased, the one ship model will continue to see science sacrificed to meet pressing logistics needs. Australia urgently needs to lease or build a dedicated, ice capable, supply vessel to overcome this.

The opportunity cost of this loss for the scientists involved has been significant, including career impacts, and will continue to be significant if funding levels cannot be assured. This scenario has repeatedly played out at a variety of scales of expeditions. A revised model which provides a more certain environment for workforce and researcher development is urgently needed. Researchers engaged in IMAS, ACEAS and AAPP report that there are a range of early career researchers with careers delayed or projects never even started or imagined due to ongoing funding uncertainty, and others that have never experience the opportunity that field research provides. This represents a severe threat to the capability build required for future Antarctic research.

Failing to maintain or improve Antarctic funding will impact on the full delivery of the Australian Antarctic Science Strategic Plan, the Australian Antarctic Strategy and the 20-year Action Plan and the Antarctic funding package

The Australian Antarctic Science Strategic Plan, the Australian Antarctic Strategy and the twenty-year action plan seek to deliver world class Antarctic and Southern Ocean science and research whilst ensuring Australia's leadership in the environmental stewardship of this area. These plans are critically relevant to ensuring that we conduct the science that helps understand the dynamics of Antarctica under a changing climate, using the region as an essential system for translating climate change with relevance for the rest of the world. Our nation's capacity to successfully deliver this world class Antarctic science and research and achieve the strategy and planning objectives remain at serious risk while it relies on disconnected and disjointed funding and governance models, and particularly short-term funding cycles.

ACEAS provides an excellent example of the risks associated with current short term funding allocation. Funded as one of two programs under the Special Research Initiative in Excellence (SRI) in Antarctic Science, it received \$6.67m per year for three years, and whilst supposed to end in 2022, smoothing out its funding over a longer timeframe will enable its work to continue until 2025. ACEAS is now facing a funding cliff, meaning staff can only play a limited role in field planning beyond 2025,

with planning underway to end of the decade. This will inhibit good planning in priority areas of science such as sea ice and sea level. With alignment to the top three provisional decadal plan priority areas, failure to address the funding challenge will substantially reduce our nation's capability to address these priorities.

The ACEAS situation highlights the deficiencies of the current funding environment and the urgent need for funding that can drive climate research that delivers a real time national and global warning system when changes occur in the Antarctic like we are seeing this winter. Recent sea ice changes in Antarctica have been well reported. During the last two summers, the sea ice around Antarctica has retreated farther than ever before and climate scientists are sounding the alarm. There is a need to understand whether we are crossing the threshold into a period of rapid change that could result in the sort of sea level rises or climate extremes that will require major adaptation. This is entirely dependent on new, detailed understanding of the complex and little-observed interactions between ice, ocean, and atmosphere, and their inclusion in complex climate models. Without a significant increase in our knowledge and predictive capability we will continue to be caught by surprises from the Antarctic. We need the science to enable sufficient warning time to make any adaptation, and yet funding for some of this key work is not guaranteed.

In 2017, the Clarke review noted that while the current state "*has strengths in the support of collaborative science from multiple government agencies and universities and in the education of future Antarctic scientists*" (Clarke, 2017: 3), it also demonstrated administrative inefficiencies and suffered from uncertainty over future funding arrangements. Clarke proposed a National Antarctic Research Institute be created to overcome these deficiencies, integrating governance, funding and research, but this recommendation remains to be implemented. The more recent Independent Expert Review of Australian Antarctic Division Science Branch (the 2021 O'Kane review²) proposed revisiting unimplemented recommendations of the Clarke review related to strengthening the funding for Antarctic science collaboration and its institutional model.

The current implementation framework for our Antarctic plans constrains mitigation of the strategic risks over the longer term. Existing settings, particularly funding uncertainty, a multi-actor governance framework and a dual-purpose science and logistics scope for the AAD, all work against a cohesive response to the level of geopolitical and scientific risk now in front of us. Our strategic framework for the Antarctic needs a longer-term view, one that draws together all the complexities of the region and mitigates the risks, including the geopolitical and strategic competition challenges and the economic and environmental needs and opportunities. It needs certainty of funding and the ability to plan ahead over far longer time scales. While understanding this is a complex task, it is a necessary input into ensuring our strategic science capabilities are effectively executed and remain geopolitically influential. A national institute of the type recommended by Clarke could be charged with this role, with an early task to lead the change and transformation of the Antarctic funding, planning horizons and governance, and a refocusing to longer-term strategic delivery, whilst ensuring our strategic leadership is retained.

Aligning Antarctic funding to what Australia needs to maintain our strategic leadership and protect our capability in Antarctic research should be a priority. Once the strategic framework has been considered, the funding picture should be restructured over three timescales as follows:

1. Develop a fifty-year view of the region and state of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean, whilst simultaneously reporting on changes in the region that have global consequences. Underpinned by the rolling decadal planning, and based on foundational science that establishes long term data sets, this outlook model would provide the enduring and longer-term approach necessary to ensure Australia's needs are protected and served. Wrapping around the decadal plan, it would ensure ongoing foresight of risk and change in the region across environmental, economic and geopolitical dimensions and build national capability to respond;
2. Continue the decadal planning to articulate the strategic research priorities and fund agency and university partnerships that deliver national capabilities in some cases with international partners; and

² O'Kane, M., Clarke, D., Exel, M., Johannes, G., Kennicutt II, M., Marsh, H., Pitman, A., Poiner, I., Stauber, J. (2021) Leading Australian Antarctic Science, Review of Australian Antarctic Division Science Branch, Commonwealth of Australia

3. Maintain a discovery funding stream, via the Australian Research Council and other funding programs, to fund innovative and discovery research over a 2-5 year time horizon, serving the shorter term needs and opportunities that arise.

The tight coupling of government goals to the Australian Antarctic Division has resulted in challenges of structural misalignment and dual-purpose scope

A key challenge posed by the current state is the interconnection of science and logistics within the AAD, and with the capriciousness of current funding cycles and their inherent funding, uncertainty will continue. Along with the delivery of secure funding and a more coherent governance model, a separation of these two functions is required. The delivery of both the logistics and science research through the AAD has impacted strongly on its capability mix and now risks an imbalance between the two, exacerbated by having to balance the requirements and resource needs of researcher driven science against the larger strategic (or policy driven) science programs. This has significantly challenged the AAD's ability to successfully deliver both functions in a way that meets program needs.

Research must be delivered by the organisation best placed to deliver excellence and impact. Reconfiguring the delivery model under a new Antarctic institute would ensure this can occur. Research requirements and funding should be separated out from the AAD's operational and logistics capability and funding needs. The current capability of the AAD should be embedded into the institute but focused on providing supply or source logistics for all Antarctic research ventures. While responsibility for commissioned research and its funding would sit with the institute, it would purchase the larger strategic and nationally important research required, and work back into the organisation for the necessary logistics capability. This commissioned research would be aligned to a broader strategic framework and would fund agency-led partnerships with universities on both matters of national capability and collaborations with international partners. In other cases, research would be university-led, engaging agencies, national and international researchers. Within this framework, the institute would oversight and commission research delivery whilst providing or commissioning logistics, deciding how, when and where activities occur.

However, in the absence of such an institute, an appropriate solution requires a shift in policy and the split of funding for these dual purposes into discrete streams. Under this second model, the AAD would become the service (logistics) provider to the research (recognising and optimising its immense capabilities in this area) and remain responsible for climate and environmental monitoring and modelling activities that support Antarctic and Southern Ocean 'outlook' research programs. This would reconceptualise the AAD role to one of research purchaser, where research needed to deliver on strategic science and policy agendas would be commissioned from and delivered by relevant external research organisations.

While this model will not resolve the governance challenges, the funding structure could be improved by splitting it into streams as follows:

1. funding to deliver the logistics capability required for the delivery of an Antarctic and Southern Ocean program which protects Australia's interests in the region;
2. long term stable funding, programmatically planned, for climate and other environmental modelling, necessary for compliance and policy adherence in terms of our impacts on the area and aligned to the outlook strategy; and
3. funding driven by a rolling decadal plan that supports national objectives and the larger strategic research activity, and is enabled to draw in new ideas and responses at scale to the problems that the outlook and planning identify for focus.

This would see logistics needs and the science relating to modelling coordinated against the horizons of the longer-term outlook, the Decadal Plan and the Action Plan aligned to the Australian Antarctic Strategy and ensure a transparent funding split between logistics and research. This would mitigate the current mismatch of logistics support and research, enabling the alignment of the logistics to research needs and approvals, and introducing far greater forward planning capacity than currently exists.

Conclusion

The fundamental constraints that Antarctic science and research now face means there is an urgent need to move towards a set of arrangements that can secure longer-term research funding based on a structural foundation that plays to the strengths and capabilities of the different organisations and ensures a more streamlined governance model. Serious consideration should be given to a new national institute that manages research leadership and strategy in a coordinated way, with leadership in this space realigned towards an area of government more closely engaged with the strategic risks, challenges and opportunities that the region presents.

Australia has a longstanding history of both excellence in Antarctic research and public engagement with Antarctica and the AAD has made a long and significant contribution to this. However, without a clear public narrative, the perception of reduced funding for Antarctic science may be interpreted as a reduction in Australia's commitment to Antarctic affairs. This could have significant negative effects, including on Australia's international commitments and obligations and consequences for our country's geopolitical and strategic international interests. Support and facilitation of Antarctic research will allow Australia to continue showing leadership in the Antarctic arena.

From: [Malcolm Wise](#)
To: pat.conroy@dfat.gov.au
Cc: [Rufus Black](#)
Subject: Australian Maritime College (AMC - UTAS) at Air Sea Space - Pathways to Naval Architects for AUKUS
Date: Friday, 12 April 2024 4:25:59 AM
Attachments: [VC Letter to The Hon Richard Marles MP.pdf](#)
[Briefing - Maritime Engineering Pathways for AUKUS and Industry.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Dear Minister Conroy,

Thank-you for your time at the Team Defence Australia (TDA) Stand at Sea Air Space this week. As discussed, last year the Vice Chancellor of the University of Tasmania (UTAS) wrote to the Deputy Prime Minister about other ways, beyond the “Nuclear Pathways Program”, to generate engineers to support AUKUS and the broader national maritime enterprise. In short, this centred around a “2+2 Program” where Engineering Students from G8 (and other) universities completed their 3rd and 4th years of study at AMC to take advantage of our unique facilities and attain their degrees in Naval Architecture with dual Testamur. The key impediment we saw to this was accommodation costs for supporting Mum’s and Dads, which they do not have to pay if their children are studying at a university close to home. To address this, a modest scholarship (up to \$15K pa) was proposed to increase the availability of maritime engineers to the nation in a reduced timeframe (2 years vice 4). This would also expand availability to families with more limited financial resources. While numbers might be modest, it would greatly increase the availability of (required) Naval Architects and Maritime Engineers to AUKUS and shipbuilding. The attached letter and briefing note cover this proposal more comprehensively.

Since our discussions, I have also identified a potential pathway for graduating students from AMC/UTAS to enter directly into a Nuclear Engineering Masters program to generate non-uniformed Australian national Naval Architects with a Nuclear Engineering pedigree in a short period time, through programs like the Nuclear Engineering Masters program at Virginia Tech and University of Rhode Island. Given the (relative) simplicity of the model, graduating students from 2024 could enter the program in mid-2025 to graduate in mid-2027. I will continue to explore this with both universities to flesh out the detail of our understanding, given its potential to significantly enhance our nuclear engineering skills base.

Once again thank you for your time.

Yours Aye,

Mal

Mal Wise

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The Hon Richard Marles MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Defence

By email: Richard.Marles.MP@aph.gov.au
Copied: Prue.Myers@defence.gov.au

Dear Deputy Prime Minister

It is with great pleasure I invite you to visit the Newnham Campus of the University of Tasmania, to officially open our recently upgraded Underwater Collision Research Facility (UCRF) as part of the Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct (DMIDP).

In July 2020, the University signed a Defence Science Partnerships - Bilateral Collaborative Project Agreement with the Australian Government for the establishment of the DMIDP at the University's Australian Maritime College (AMC) in Launceston. The Agreement included Stage 1 funding of \$30 million provided through Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG) for agreed priorities focused on developing capability to establish a multi-disciplinary National Centre of Excellence in hydrodynamic research for Defence and the defence industry.

As part of the DMIDP Stage 1 funding, resources were allocated to expand the unique capabilities of the UCRF. The \$3.6 million UCRF upgrades are now complete, and the facility is fully operational.

In recognition of the agreement between the University and the Australian Government, and the long-standing relationship between the AMC and DSTG, we would be pleased to welcome you to our Newnham Campus to officially open the UCRF on a date of your convenience. We would also like to offer you a tour of the extensive research facilities housed at the AMC.

If you can attend, we would be delighted to further discuss with you:

- The status of the DMIDP and opportunities for the precinct in the future,
- Sovereign capabilities in Maritime Engineering (especially Naval Architecture),
- Progress towards 2+2 Engineering programs in support of AUKUS, and
- Pathways for Australian students into a Masters of Nuclear Engineering programs at Virginia Tech (US) and University of Rhode Island (US).

I have attached briefings and previous correspondence on these matters with this

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

letter.

There is some flexibility around the timing of the official opening of the UCRF and we can work with your office on confirming a date that is suitable for you.

I look forward to hearing from you on your availability for the official opening of the UCRF.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

7 June 2024

Enclosures:

- Attachment 1 – Previous correspondence (Oct 2023) and briefing notes on:
 - The Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct (DMIDP).
 - Maritime Engineering Pathways for AUKUS and Industry.
- Attachment 2 – Briefing: Pathways to a Masters of Nuclear Engineering in Support of AUKUS.

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

The Hon Richard Marles MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Defence

By email: Richard.Marles.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Deputy Prime Minister

I would like to thank you for taking the time to visit the University of Tasmania recently to discuss our Antarctic Scientific Research at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and our Engineering programs and Defence research capability at the Australian Maritime College (AMC).

As requested during our meeting, I have enclosed three briefs following up on our discussions, for your consideration. These briefs provide further detail on:

- A proposed model for national Antarctic governance and funding, written to support a whole of government discussion on the possible solution.
- The 2+2 engineering pathways initiative to support AUKUS capabilities in Maritime Engineering.
- An update on the status and opportunities at the Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct (DMIDP).

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to you and your parliamentary colleagues to visit the Australian Maritime College in early 2024. At the AMC in Launceston we have the most advanced collection of maritime research and education facilities in the Southern Hemisphere, and touring these facilities will provide a greater understanding of our capabilities and the opportunities we have presented in the attached briefs.

Again, thank you for your visit, it was wonderful to be able to showcase some of our world leading research capability to you.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

23 October 2023

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Enclosures:

Paper 1: A Whole of Government Response to Antarctic Science

Paper 2: Maritime Engineering Pathways for AUKUS and Industry

Paper 3: The Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct (DMIDP)

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Briefing: Maritime Engineering Pathways for AUKUS and Industry

From: Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania

October 2023

Purpose:

A new initiative led by the Australian Maritime College (AMC), *Access AMC* will develop a national undergraduate pathway to increase the number of Maritime Engineers nationally, with a focus on domestic students to support the needs of Defence. This program will utilise the existing world-class educational facilities (unique in the Southern Hemisphere), available at the Australian Maritime College.

This Briefing has been prepared to request that the Deputy Prime Minister:

- **Notes** the current programs to expand Maritime Engineers and Naval Architects do not facilitate the growth required to meet national demand.
- **Supports** the development and implementation of the *Access AMC* initiative with partner Universities around Australia.
- **Considers** subsidy models to support students in costs related to study outside their home cities/towns.

Background:

As a maritime nation, Australia must ensure we use our oceans to drive our security, prosperity, and trade. The government has rightly recognised Maritime Engineering as a crucial area of interest through the Defence Strategic Review and through other programs focused on building the skills and research needs for the AUKUS program and Decarbonisation.

The national institute producing Australia's maritime engineers, AMC, was established by the Federal Government in 1980 to fulfil the Australian maritime industry's training, educational and research needs. Demand for Maritime Engineers is increasing nationally (and globally), however challenges in STEM in Australian education have seen the number of graduates steadily decrease, posing a risk to Australia's sovereign capability, prosperity, security, and trade.

Proposal:

A new model, *Access AMC*, seeks to significantly increase the number of Maritime Engineers and Naval Architects to meet the needs of our defence sector and maritime industry. The model aims to establish 2+2 partnerships with the country's leading engineering education institutions, whereby students study for the first two years at a host university before transferring to AMC for the final two years of their degree to specialise in their chosen Maritime Engineering discipline.

This model sees students undertake twelve general engineering subjects and four maritime engineering subjects during their first two years, with support from AMC to deliver the maritime-focused subjects. At the end of these two years, the students would then transfer to AMC in Launceston to complete their degree with access to AMC's specialised training facilities throughout their final two years.

Access AMC offers several mutual benefits arising from the scheme for both government and participating universities:

- **For the government**, an increased volume of qualified Maritime Engineers and Naval Architects will be available to meet Defence demands such as AUKUS and contribute to increasing sovereign capability.
- **For students**, the opportunity to access a dual university-badged degree while spending only two years away from their home (or original) state or territory, and access to specialist training and research facilities that the AMC offers.
- **For partner universities**, the model enables them to support greater collaboration with a regional university and to increase access for regional students. These partnerships may also provide opportunity to develop a formal relationship with the AMC for collaborative research and development.
- **For the AMC**, the model will attract new cohorts of students and provide access to new teaching and research partnerships with other universities.

Recommendations:

For this project to realise to its full potential, and to maximise the contribution to national priorities, Australian Government support is essential. We propose a program whereby the government supports extending these 2+2 models alongside the existing funding programs of Commonwealth Supported Places and Pathways to NPS.

Support could take many forms, but the key areas for investment are:

- Funding for activities/campaigns to attract years 10 through 12 students and non-school leavers to enter the 2+2-degree program.
- Scholarship support to AMC and identified metropolitan universities to increase the number of maritime engineering students recruited into the first year.
- Expansion of funding for living allowance and relocation expenses beyond existing mechanisms to support student transfers at the end of year two.
- Funding for a campaign to drive students' articulation at the end of their second year towards completing their third and fourth years at AMC.

The scholarship support is the highest priority, and we recommend a package of \$15,000 per student for each year of their four-year degree. This would ensure that the *Access AMC* scheme is competitively positioned against other scholarship schemes in the market and make it attractive for students to transfer. Scholarship funding would cover the cost of relocation and living expenses and students would be eligible from the time of their enrolment with AMC. This would mean that those who choose to study at other universities for the first two years would only receive the scholarship once they transferred to AMC. Our capacity in the course is 150 students, and a support package that gives each commencing student the proposed scholarship for their full degree would cost \$9m over four years. As it is likely that it will take some time to establish market awareness and build student numbers, and that not all students will commence with AMC in their first year, full expenditure may extend beyond the initial four year period.

We would also like to work with Defence to ensure that during their studies, students with the right profile are exposed to the opportunities to work with the Department or Defence contractors engaged in AUKUS or defence maritime projects. Alongside this, we would support Defence to recruit directly from our Maritime Engineering program.

Footnote:

AMC has been working with Engineers Australia to develop a recognition pathway for Maritime Engineers to achieve Chartered Status with an announcement planned for INDO-PAC 2023 in Sydney. This will increase the attractiveness of Maritime Engineering to engineering students and provide a national mechanism to track throughput, employment, and aggregate numbers. This pathway announcement would further enhance the attractiveness of *Access AMC* to prospective students.

Briefing: The Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct (DMIDP)

From: Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania

October 2023

Purpose:

The Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct (DMIDP) will provide a national hub for industry, academic and government collaboration and excellence in maritime research and training that delivers capability essential to the high performance of naval vessels (including submarines) and their operators.

Stage One of the DMIDP is nearing completion and is delivering significant enhancements to national maritime research and training capability at the Australian Maritime College (AMC).

This Briefing has been prepared to request that the Deputy Prime Minister:

- **Encourages** the ongoing development of a national centre of excellence for maritime and defence research and training capability at AMC, a specialist national institute within the University of Tasmania (UTAS).
- **Provides** seed funding of \$17.3 million to enable continuation of work on the next stage of the DMIDP to meet AUKUS requirements.
- **Supports** continued funding of the DMIDP, to ensure full delivery of facilities to build a critical mass of maritime research capability in Australia, to deliver the intellectual and research outcomes required to support AUKUS outcomes and broader Australian Maritime demands into the future.

Background:

- In 2019, the Australian Government approved funding for the establishment of the DMIDP.
- The \$30M Defence Science Partnerships Bilateral Collaborative Project Agreement outlined a staged redevelopment of critical Defence-related research and education facilities at the AMC, a specialist national institute of UTAS.
- Stage 1 (2020-2023) of the DMIDP is nearing completion, delivering critical Defence and maritime capabilities listed in Table 1 overleaf. New equipment has been procured and facilities have been enhanced to support targeted test and evaluation, training, and experimentation activities that will underpin Defence Capability requirements.
- Importantly, Stage 1 prepares the ground for two large research facilities critical to delivering a critical mass of research capability for Australia in hydrodynamics, acoustics, and submarine propulsion design – a Hydrodynamic Propulsor Laboratory and a Hydrodynamic Hub. The initial design phase for these future facilities is now complete.

Current Situation:

- The delivery of the Defence Strategic Review (DSR) has precipitated challenges for Navy and Defence in the expedient recalibration of research priorities. This has led to some delays in the provision of Science and Technology (S&T) funding, as DSTG and the Australian Submarine Agency (ASA) establish their priorities and funding allocations. As such, further work on these

two major research facilities is now on hold, pending confirmation of funding to commence construction.

- Should funding be continued, the AMC will progress work with DSTG and other national partners to tailor the detailed design of both major facilities, with a priority on the Hydrodynamic Propulsor Laboratory.
- The delivery of these facilities will affirm AMC's role as a 'key technical enabler' of hydrodynamic research, develop test and evaluation expertise for DSTG and the nation, and greatly enhance our ability to provide a unique and sovereign capability as well as support the AUKUS and Five Eyes partnerships.
- As a critical piece of research infrastructure, the Hydrodynamic Propulsor Laboratory can make a significant Australian contribution to the AUKUS partnership, and our partners are providing strong feedback about, and showing great interest in, what it will offer to them.
- Cost estimates for the HPL and the HH have been submitted to DSTG for consideration, with **\$58.5m** required to deliver the HPL and **\$84.0m** required to deliver the HH.
- A phased funding model is proposed which will provision targeted amounts of investment that align with the project program and sequential investment in research development, site preparation, early building works and equipment acquisition.
- **Commencement seed funding of between \$15m-\$20m** will enable the continuation of the design development consultancies to ensure the timely commencement of construction and realisation of research capability. An amount of \$17.3m in seed funding would enable commencement of site preparations, substructure and services ground works prioritised against the Hydrodynamic Propulsor Laboratory to ensure the requirements of AUKUS and expected delivery timeframes of the facility are met.

Recommendations:

- That commencement or 'seed funding' of \$17.3m is provided in early 2024 to ensure facilities are available to support AUKUS requirements, prioritised against the hydrodynamic Propulsor Laboratory.
- That full implementation of the complete DMIDP project be funded to ensure AMC has the critical infrastructure to meet Australia's education and research needs for AUKUS, the maritime National Security agenda and the Maritime Industry more broadly.

Table 1 - DMIDP Stage 1 Progress to Date

Facility	Capability Delivered	Status	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Real-time Power Systems Simulator	Modelling power systems including power generation and storage, electrical devices and systems. Training for complex power system operation and maintenance.	Complete & operational		\$1.08M			
Autonomous Maritime Systems Laboratory	Research and training in larger sized surface autonomy and collaborative autonomy. Research into the measurement and quantification of noise levels generated by deployed systems.	Complete & operational		\$1.8M			
Beauty Point upgrades	Dedicated teaching, communications, command centre and wet laboratory for AUV/USV vehicle operations and training.	Complete & operational		\$0.65M			
Marine Infrastructure & Integrity Laboratory	Research and development into the resilience and survivability of naval vessels and supporting offshore and coastal infrastructure.	Nearing completion		\$1.3M			
Underwater Collision Research Facility	Investigation of the crashworthiness of underwater vehicles and sub-sea structures.	In build		\$3.5M			
Common User Facility	Establish a defence security compliant facility (incl. DPN and DSN) configured with high-powered computing and collaboration infrastructure.	In Contract				\$4.0M	
Cavitation Research Laboratory upgrades	Security upgrades to operational and storage requirements of the existing Cavitation Research Laboratory.	In Build				\$1M	
Hydrodynamics Propulsor Laboratory	Next generation instrumentation and measurements for propulsor development and evaluation. Support for DSTG computational fluid dynamics development and research.	Design Report Complete			\$5.0M <i>Stage 1</i>		\$58.5M <i>Stage 2</i>
Hydrodynamics Hub (Towing Tank)	Understand and improve hydrodynamics and acoustics of propulsors, AUVs and surface platforms in a secure and controlled environment.	Design Complete			\$3.5M <i>Stage 1</i>		\$84M <i>Stage 2</i>

BRIEFING: Pathways to a Masters of Nuclear Engineering in Support of AUKUS

From: Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania

June 2024

Purpose:

A new initiative led by the Australian Maritime College (AMC), *Pathways to Nuclear Engineering* is developing a supported postgraduate direct-entry pathway for AMC Maritime Engineering graduates into a Masters of Nuclear Engineering at USA institutions Virginia Tech (VTech) and the University of Rhode Island (URI). If resourced, this program could deliver the first cohort of Australian citizen, non-uniformed Naval Architecture Engineers with masters-level nuclear engineers by mid-2027.

Background:

In April 2024, initial discussions were held with representatives from VTech and those engaged with the US Nuclear Submarine Programs on a potential student-mobility partnership that facilitated direct entry into their Masters of Nuclear Engineering program. URI offers potential for a similar model.

Proposal:

Pathways to Nuclear Engineering (PNE) seeks to support a small cohort of AMC naval architecture graduates annually through a direct-entry pathway to VTech and URI Masters of Nuclear Engineering programs (initially two students per institution). The proposal seeks to commence in September 2025 (US fall semester), with students graduating in 2027.

Current Situation:

Initial engagement with VTech and URI has commenced. VTech have been provided with AMCs Bachelor of Maritime Engineering curriculum and VTech have determined that AMC graduates will be well-prepared for direct entry into the Masters of Nuclear Engineering program. Early indications from engagement with URI have also been positive.

Recommendations:

For the proposal to work, support is required from the Australian Government to:

- Assist with negotiating funding through the AUKUS program to support tuition and/or living costs for students whilst studying in the USA, or
- Assist with negotiating a fee-free environment between AMC and VTech/URI for students engaged in the *PNE* program. This approach was supported by those engaged in the US in March 2024.

AUKUS-supported funding arrangements could potentially be linked with employment pay-back periods for supported students.

Follow up from UTAS meeting

From Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>

Date Tue 2/07/2024 2:58 PM

To janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au <janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au>; anita.dow@parliament.tas.gov.au <anita.dow@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Cc Natalie Brown <natalie.brown@utas.edu.au>

 2 attachments (975 KB)

Stem Education in Tasmania - Hobart Breakfast Presentation.pdf; International Education Framework - UTAS summary overview - June 2024.pdf;

Hi Janie and Anita

Lovely to see you both at Inveresk this morning, thank you for making time to meet with Natalie and I. There is certainly a lot to follow up on and some conversations that we will continue with you both. I have included below a very long email with information on the things we discussed – feel free to let me know if you'd like additional detail or a follow up conversation on any of the below.

UTAS student profile and access to education

I have prepared some high level data on Tasmanian students currently enrolled at the University (so this is excluding mainland based students in the large courses Natalie mentioned, such as postgraduate nursing programs):

- We have around 12,000 Tasmanian students currently enrolled in courses at the University which includes approx. 3,200 from the North of the state and 1,800 from the North West. This isn't necessarily the location where they are currently studying – this is the location of their original home address.
- Our students do tend to select flexible study modes (eg online, or mixed mode which is a combination of on campus and online) where this is available, though our fully on-campus student numbers sit just under 3,000 for Launceston campuses and just over 400 for the Burnie Campus. In addition, we have approximately 1,500 students studying online/distance located in the North of the State and approx. 1,000 in the North West. As mentioned today, these students also have the option to utilise our campus spaces which we know quite a few of them do, and this is an important opportunity we have to continue to ensure all of our students are having access to, and benefiting from, these new facilities – this is where Sonya and Natalie play key roles in engaging with our student groups in the regions.
- For students studying on campus in Launceston, 33% are first in family to attend university, 28% are from a low SES background, 24% are women in a non-traditional field, 4% are indigenous and 11% with disability. For the students studying on campus in Burnie, 58% are first in family to attend university, 49% are from a low SES background, 13% are Indigenous and 17% with disability.

In the regional education work that Natalie is leading, we will continue to focus on how we can make education more accessible to those within our community that traditionally have not been able to access or participate in tertiary education.

We have also been sharing conversations with industry and community stakeholders specifically around STEM education, as we are very concerned about the STEM workforce shortages Tasmania is already experiencing, and the pipeline of students we have coming through schools and universities which is not enough to meet future workforce needs as we deliver major projects in Tasmania such as the Green Hydrogen Hub, Marinus, Agriculture \$10B by 2050 etc. I have attached

to this email a pack which Rufus presented recently about STEM education which may be of interest to you both.

International students and migration

In 2024, we have approx. 3,300 international students studying in Tasmania at the University (across Hobart, Launceston and Burnie campuses). In 2019, we had approximately 6,600 international students at our Tasmanian campuses. While Covid has played a role in this in terms of slowing new students coming in to the country, changes to Australia's Migration Policy and Visa processing settings for universities has been very problematic for us, and for many other universities – particularly regional ones. I mentioned the impact on our Semester 2 numbers this year, where we only have 25 international students commencing with us in July. Last year for Semester 2, we had 225 students commencing. We recently made a submission to the Australian Government's International Education Framework consultation, I've attached a summary of our submission and within the document is a link to our full submission if you are interested.

While not specifically related to International students, we are also starting some work on the Regional Migration Settings Discussion Paper released recently, and I'm happy to provide an update to you when we have a position shaped up.

Newnham and TIA relocation

We've recently published an [updated version of the Newnham Development Strategy](#) following consultation with community. Our focus for now in terms of UTAS presence at Newnham is relocating our Health Sciences, Nursing, Sciences, Allied Health students and staff to Inveresk when The Shed at Willis Street is complete later this year. We will then consolidate and expand some areas of Newnham, particularly for TIA and AMC.

For AMC we will be working on an approach with the Federal Government to funding Stage 2 of the DMIDP, and the TIA expansion is commencing with an Agricultural Research Centre at Newnham, which we already have a DA approved for and will be applying for some funding under the Federal Government's rPPP program. Happy to provide more information on those plans if this is useful and as they develop.

Events at Inveresk and The Shed

We are very pleased to support events, meetings etc at Inveresk for community groups and similar organisations. While we are still working out an easier process to enable this to happen, I can certainly provide assistance with the group you mentioned hosting at the Inveresk campus, Anita. If you can let me know when you have an idea of dates, the room size you would need etc, I can then work with you to find some options and ask our Venue Hire office to book this in. We can definitely include campus tours for those who haven't visited the campus before – depending on timing this may also include The Shed at Willis Street.

Very sorry we couldn't make it into The Shed today – we will be sure to let you know when we can get in there to show you around. In the meantime, I've attached a sneak peak photo from the inside of the building looking into the atrium. We are very excited to see this one completed.

Sorry for the long email – a lot to share! Looking forward to hearing from you and please let myself or Natalie know if there's anything else you would like us to follow up on.

Regards

Bonnie
0438 385 757

The Australian Government's **Draft International Education and Skills Strategic Framework** (May 2024), sets a pathway to an international education sector to achieve a sustainable migration level, while positioning Australia as a destination for high quality education. At the University of Tasmania, we support a managed approach to international education, which could have significant benefits for regional settings such as Tasmania if implemented successfully.

International students generate significant economic and social benefits for the nation; however, this benefit is currently not distributed equitably with high numbers of international students concentrated within our major metropolises.

International students studying in Australia are a significant source of export income, with university-level international education worth on average \$65,000 per student per year. While there is a direct benefit through the student fees paid to the teaching institution, benefits also flow to other parts of the economy through consumption by international students (accommodation, tourism and travel, retail), with the ACCI estimating that every \$1 in tuition fees produces \$2 in broader economic value¹.

The current state of Australia's international higher education market is a serious national policy issue and is negatively impacting on regional Australia.

Since the implementation of the Australian Government's new Migration Strategy, announced in December 2023, there has been an average 39% reduction in visa approvals across the sector, disproportionately impacting non-metropolitan and regional universities.

This current state of the international education market is resulting in a poor experience for international students, serious financial damage to the sector, reputational harm to our international education brand and radical resource asymmetries between Australian universities, which are undermining the higher education policy directions of the government.

We are pleased that the May 2024 draft Framework recognises the importance of international students to Australia's regional locations and proposes a managed market approach to achieve sustainable migration, including a more equal distribution of international students across the country.

Increasing the number of international students in our regions, paired with post-graduation migration mechanisms, can also contribute to addressing skill shortages, with evidence showing students who are trained in regional areas are more likely to remain and practice in those areas upon graduation.

Introducing an allocation approach to international student places would enable the economic and skill-related benefits from these students to be more equitably distributed across our cities and regions and, if effectively implemented, would bolster the strength of our regions. This proposed approach could have significant impact for regional settings such as Tasmania.

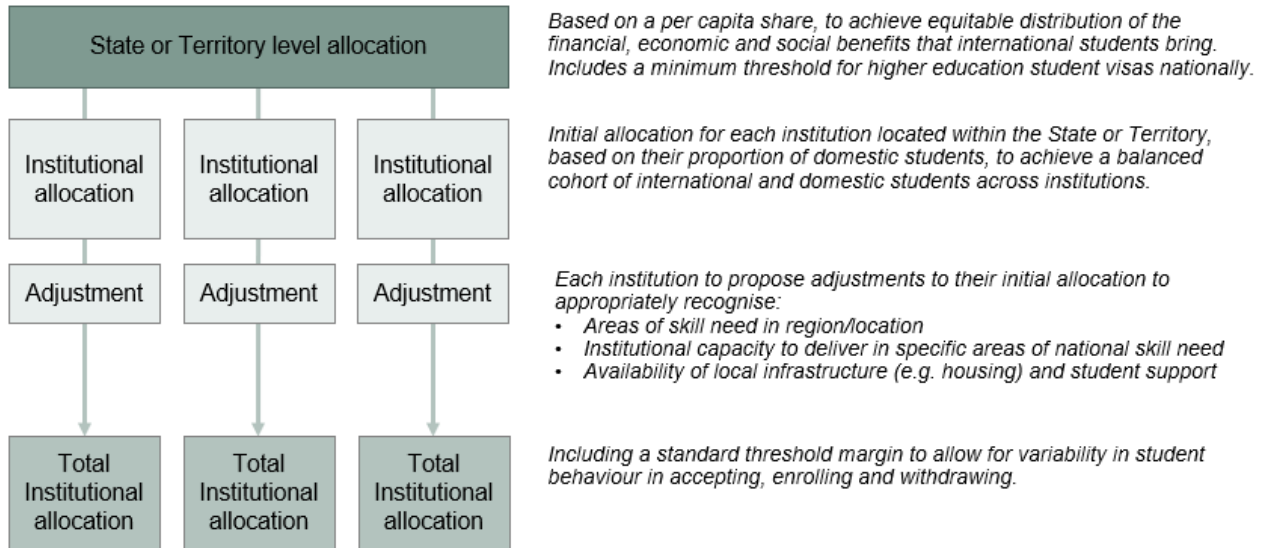
At the University of Tasmania, we support a managed approach and consider it has the potential to achieve the government's intention of lower migration, while delivering more equitable national distribution.

We have proposed an allocation methodology to calculate these limits that distributes international student numbers across the country equitably, to achieve managed migration which can meet the economic and skills needs of the nation, states, and regions.

¹ ACCI submission to the Inquiry into Australia's tourism and international education sectors, 2022.
<https://www.apf.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=c69aa829-1f38-4205-be7a-bd0083be59bf&subId=727829>

The methodology first assigns a global per capita allocation at State or Territory level, followed by allocations for individual institutions balancing international and domestic student numbers, local and national skills need, and infrastructure availability (e.g. student housing). This approach also considers the nature of student behaviour and recommends inclusion of a margin or threshold to allow for variability in student acceptance, enrolment, and withdrawal behaviour.

Figure One: University of Tasmania proposed allocation methodology.



Visa processing reforms should also be implemented to mitigate barriers in visa processing and ensure that individual institutions are able to attract the needed number of international students to meet their assigned allocation. The current visa processing model reduces appetite to diversify student cohorts and favours large, highly ranked institutions. An output model for visa processing should be introduced, which assigns ratings to countries and institutions based on applicant quality and genuine student rates and applies a sliding scale for institutions that are not meeting acceptable ratings.

Importantly, there is a minimum number of international students required for the viability of the Australian Higher Education system and to enable any redistribution to occur without serious disruption to domestic education.

Maintaining a base level of international student numbers and revenue is essential for the financial sustainability of universities across the sector. If the total number of international student visas were to be reduced to the extent that the average ratio of international to domestic students drops too low, the ongoing viability of many institutions is likely to be significantly challenged.

Initial modelling suggests that under a methodology that rebalances the ratio of international to domestic students across institutions, a minimum of around 120,000 higher education student visas is needed each year to enable each institution to achieve a baseline international student ratio of 20%.

We strongly recommend the implementation of a minimum level which is achievable through allocation of higher education student visas within the Government’s medium term Net Overseas Migration target of around 235,000.

The University of Tasmania’s full submission to the draft International Education Framework consultation is available [here](#).



STEM Education in Tasmania

Professor Rufus Black

June 2024



As we address the education challenges we are facing in Tasmania, we need a focus on STEM education.

STEM skills are vital for the economic development of Tasmania.

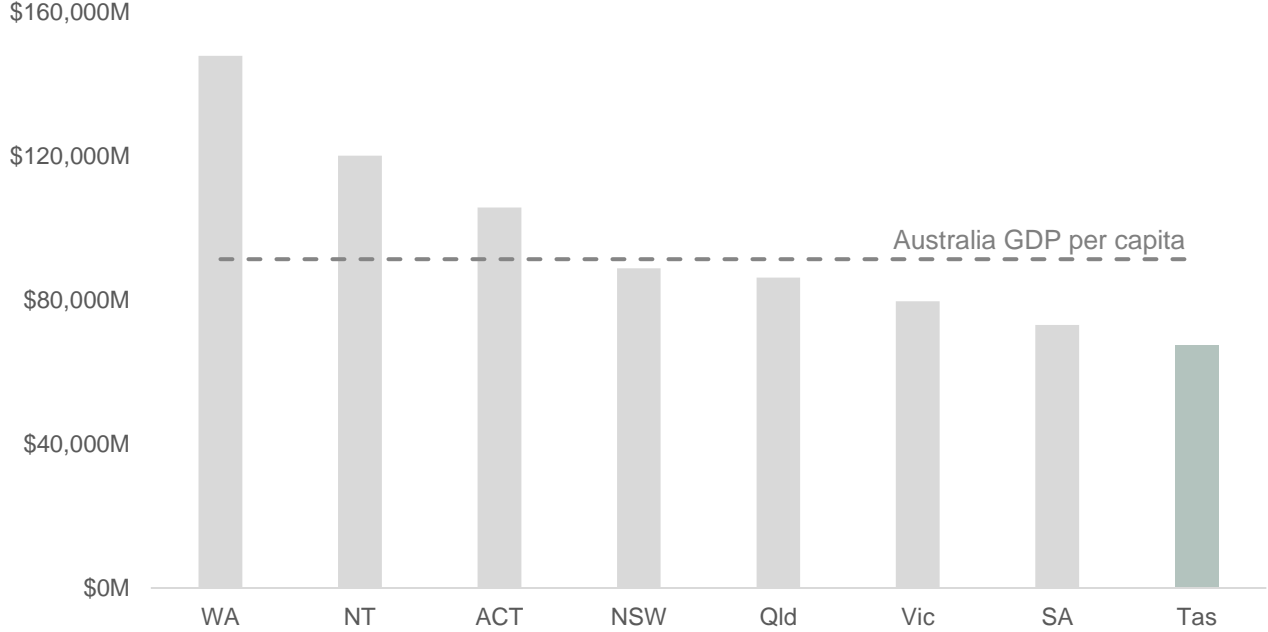
Tasmania already has a shortage of people with the required STEM education and skills.

The future pipeline of STEM students is at a crisis point.

We need strong leadership across Tasmania in industry, education and government sectors to improve STEM outcomes and make a real change for the future of our State.

Tasmania's productivity rate is 26% lower than the national average for Australia, and an increase in STEM skills would help lift output per person.

Gross state product per capita by state (Jun 2023)

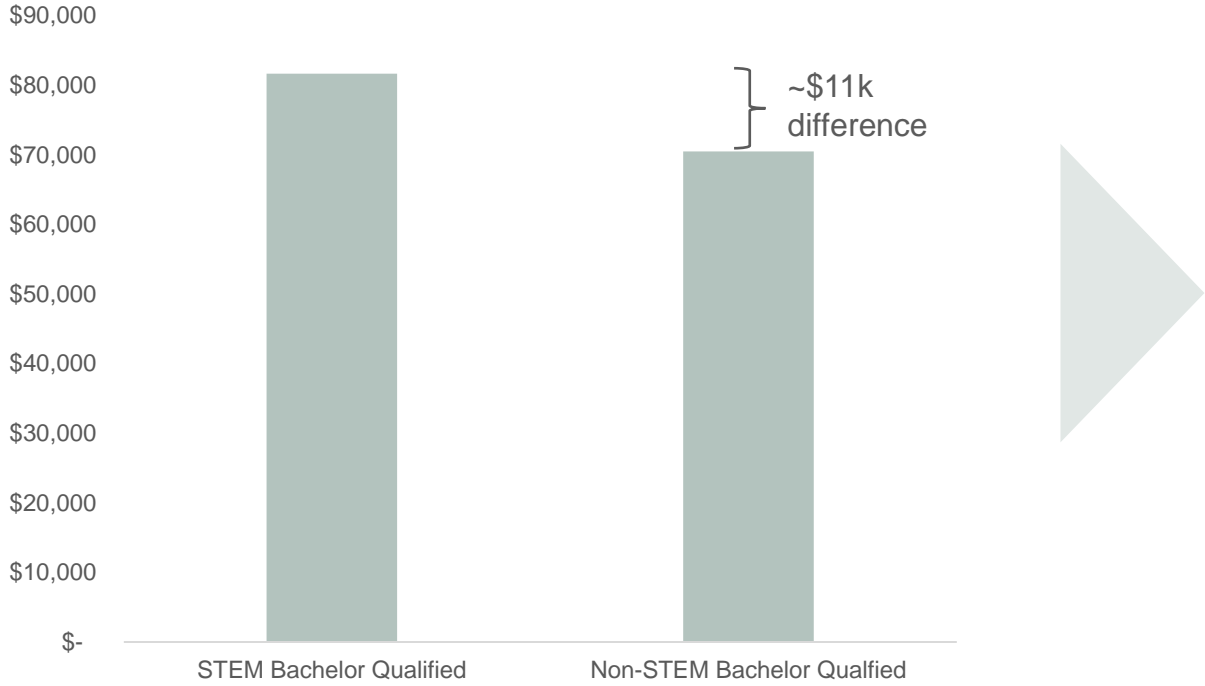


- Productivity growth is the key driver of real wage growth and rising living standards over the long term.
- Multiple studies highlight the correlation between STEM skills and productivity, with one European study showing that every 1 percentage point increase in the share of high-skilled STEM workers generates a productivity gain of around 2%.
- A stronger STEM workforce is also linked to higher GDP, GDP per capita, employment, and R&D expenditures.

Source: ABS Australian National Accounts: State Accounts. Chain volume measure indexed to 2021-2022.

Increased STEM skills are a powerful lever to increase economic growth

Median salary of STEM Bachelor qualified vs Non-Stem Bachelor Qualified

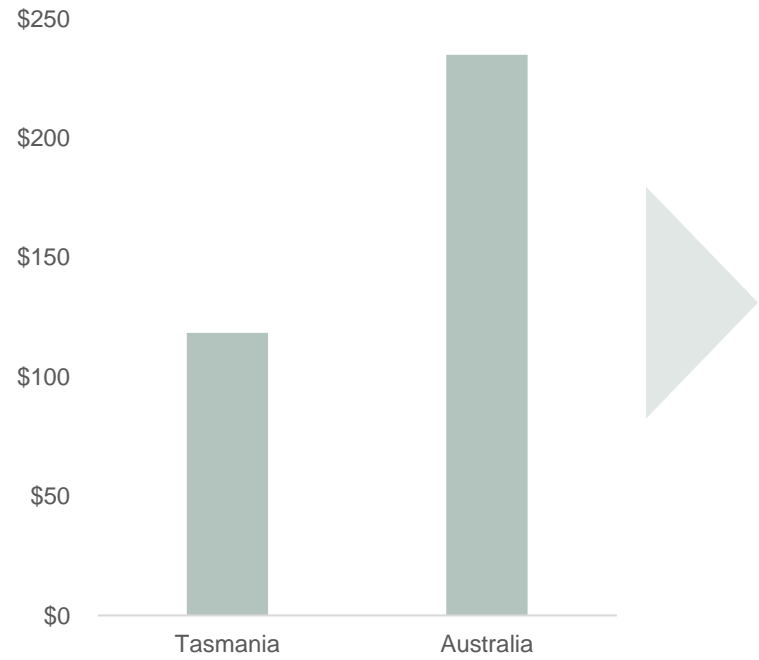


It is estimated that a 1% increase in the STEM workforce would generate a \$1.2B increase in Tasmanian GSP over the next 20 years.

Source: Median Salary estimated from ABS 2021 Census by approximating how far through a salary band the median person would be. Comparison groups were STEM Bachelor qualified compared to non-STEM qualified. Median is exclusive of "Income not Stated".

Start-ups are critical to economic growth and new job creation and a significant number of them are built on STEM skills.

Estimated venture capital funding per person in workforce



In 2023, sectors with strong STEM capability raised the greatest proportion of venture capital in Australia.

Increasing Tasmania's STEM capability and venture capital funding to the national average could realise venture capital growth of +\$35M per year.

This could result in a projected \$135M overall lift in annual economic activity for Tasmania.

Source: Venture capital estimates based on [State of Australian Startup Funding 2023](#). Workforce size from ABS Census 2021. Economic Uplift based on World Bank Final Consumption of 74.34% over 5-year average, for Australia, 2017 – 2021.

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Tasmania's strategic industry sectors will need more STEM educated workers to meet projected sector growth and deliver on major projects.



Renewable Energy

- Tasmania's *Green Hydrogen Hub* is projected to inject \$1.2B into the economy and generate 700+ jobs in engineering, project management and technical roles.
- *Project Marinus* and
- *Battery of the Nation* will also require growth in these skilled professions.

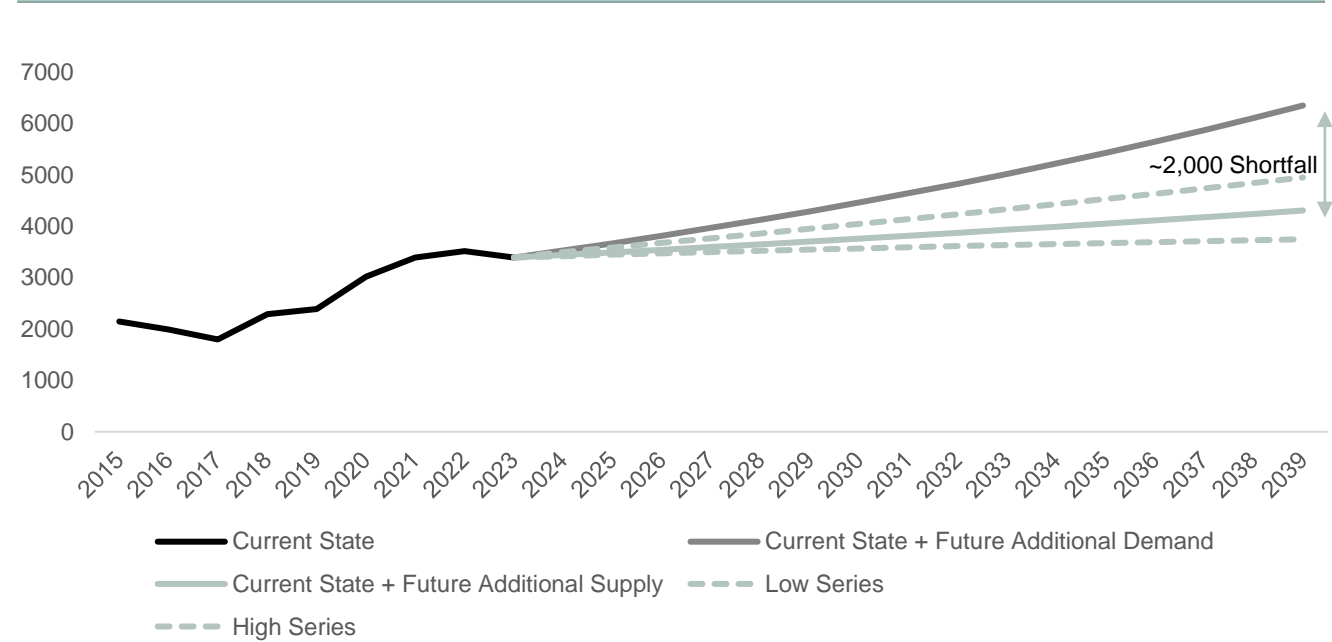


Agriculture

- The State Government's target to grow the farm-gate value of the Tasmanian *agriculture sector to \$10B by 2050* will require a skilled workforce with capabilities in STEM and new technologies - including automation, remote sensing and drones.

Based on growth projections for engineering needs in Tasmania, the supply of qualified workers is not expected to keep up with industry demand

Current and projected Tasmanian engineering workforce supply and demand



General methodology based on similar National modelling in "Engineering a Better Future" – The Insight Centre, 2023. Current State is based on Education and Work, 2023. Future additional demand based on an annual increase of 4% per year. Future additional supply based on domestic and international completions, Permanent and Temporary Migrants and Temporary Graduates. Low and Medium Series assumes workforce attrition of 3% per year (2.5% for High Series). All series assumes 64 additional Permanent Skilled Migrants (based on change in 2016 to 2021 Census Data) and no changes to the level of Temporary Skilled Migrants. Low Series assumes constant number of Temporary Graduates, while Medium and High Series assumes 2% annual increases (Base number is 7-year UTAS Average Completions for Medium-Series, while High-Series is 2020 Figures, as they were a peak.) to completing Cohort, of those 34% will go onto work in Tasmania based on GOS Survey Data 2019 – 2023.

We will also need increases in general technology and specialist IT skills to enable digital transformation in most industries.



Tasmania's current workforce is lacking in technology skills

Deloitte research suggests 3 in 5 businesses do not have skills for emerging technologies, costing ~\$51M per year in lost output.



Most industries will need more general technology skills

An estimated 270,000+ Tasmanian workers in multiple sectors will need upskilling to keep up with new technologies.



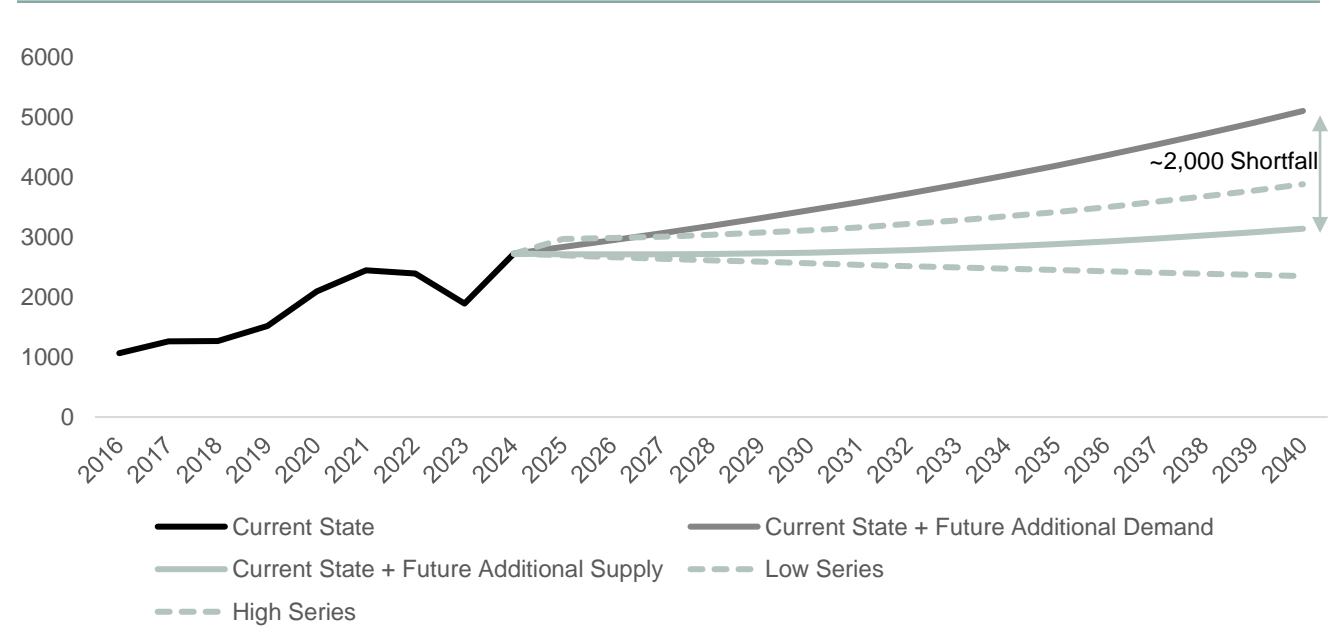
And more qualified workers with specialist IT skills

Deloitte estimates an extra 3,000 University or VET qualified technology and IT workers will be needed in Tasmania by 2030.

Source: Deloitte 2023 Report: Australia's Digital Pulse, Tasmania edition.

The projected supply of Bachelor qualified IT and technology workers is not expected to keep up with this level of demand.

Current and projected Tasmanian Bachelor and Above IT workforce supply and demand



General methodology based on similar National modelling in "Engineering a Better Future" – The Insight Centre, 2023. Relevant Occupation Codes are from Table 4.1: University STEM-qualified occupation list: <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/stem-equity-monitor/methodology>. Current State is based on Education and Work, 2023. Future additional demand based on an annual increase of 4% per year. Future additional supply based on domestic and international completions, Permanent and Temporary Migrants and Temporary Graduates. Low and Medium Series assumes workforce attrition of 3% per year (2.5% for High Series). All series assumes 23 additional Permanent Skilled Migrants (based on change in 2016 to 2021 Census Data) and no changes to the level of Temporary Skilled Migrants. Low Series assumes constant number of Temporary Graduates, while Medium and High Series assumes 2% annual increases (Base number is 7-year UTAS Average Completions for Medium-Series, while High-Series is 2021 Figures, as they were a peak.) to completing Cohort, of those 39% will go onto work in Tasmania based on GOS Survey Data 2019 – 2023.

As we address the education challenges we are facing in Tasmania, we need a focus on STEM education.

STEM skills are vital for the economic development of Tasmania.

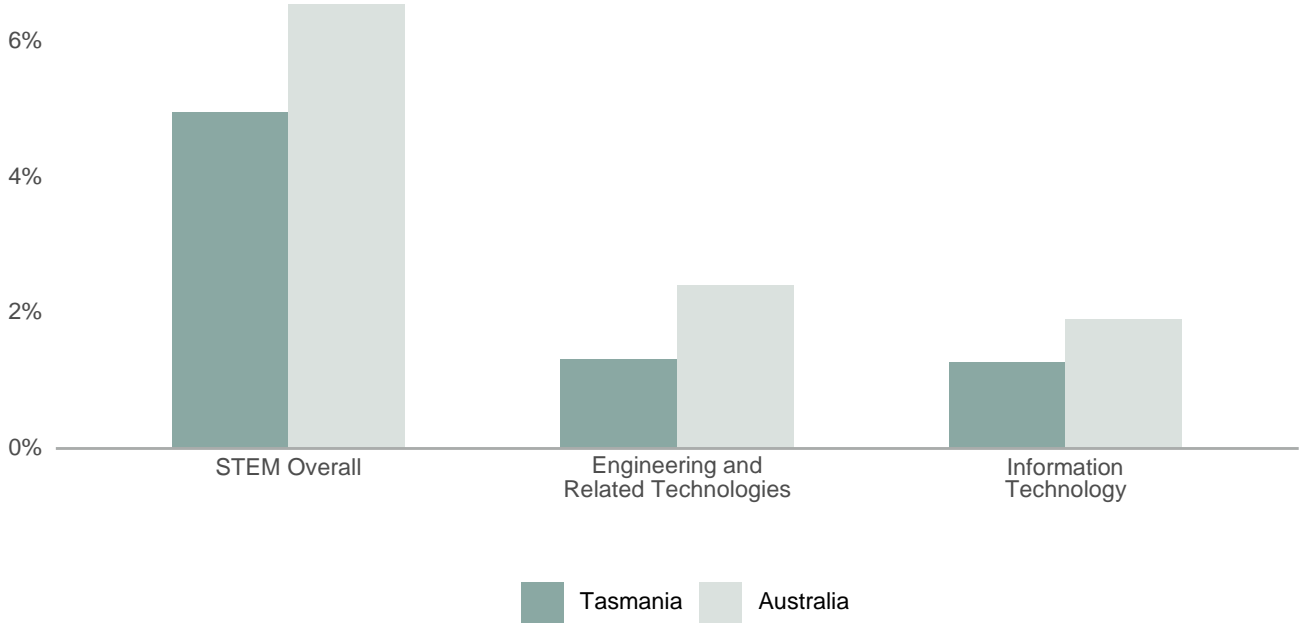
Tasmania already has a shortage of people with the required STEM education and skills.

The future pipeline of STEM students is at a crisis point.

We need strong leadership across Tasmania in industry, education and government sectors to improve STEM outcomes and make a real change for the future of our State.

National averages of STEM Bachelors attainment are concerningly low, and in Tasmania these rates are even lower.

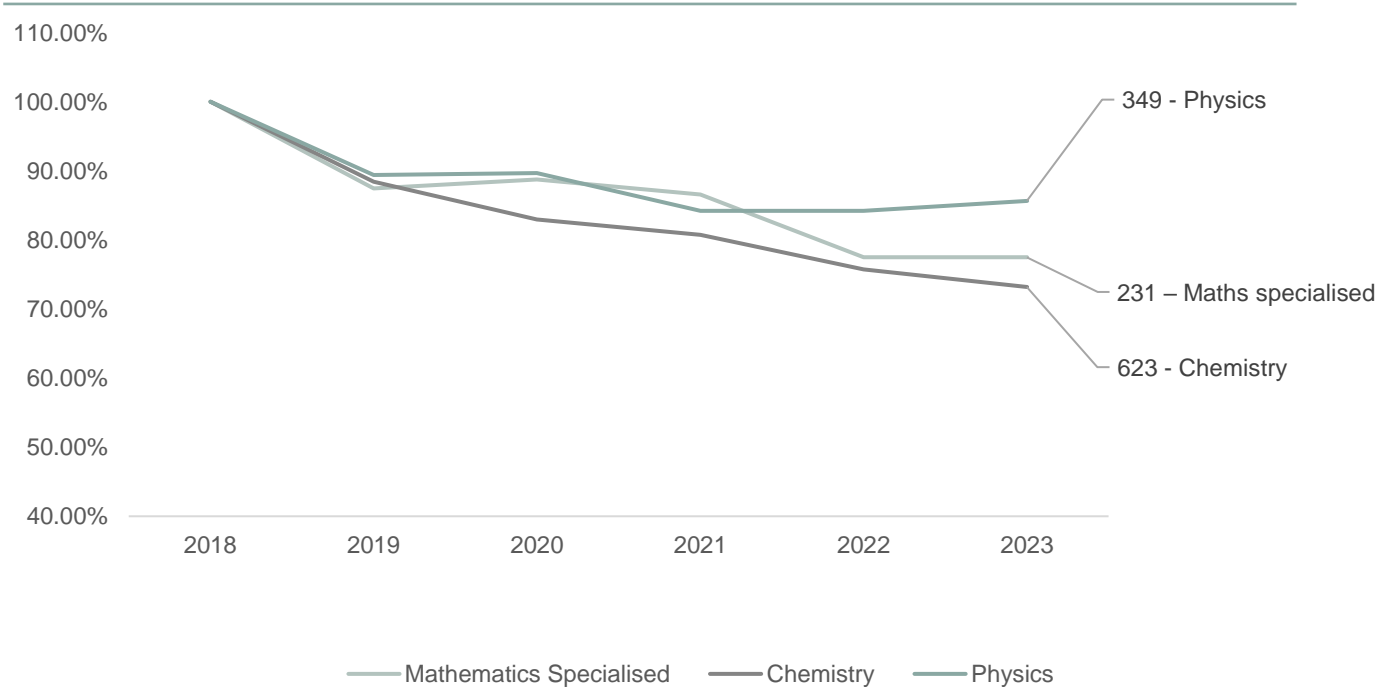
Percent of 15-64 year olds with Bachelor or above qualification in key STEM fields



Source: ABS Census 2021. STEM Overall qualifications in broad Fields of Education 01, 02, 03 & 05.

Educating the STEM workforce we need for the future will continue to be challenging, with declining enrolment rates in pre-tertiary STEM school subjects.

Percent change in enrolments in selected pre-tertiary STEM subjects (2018 as baseline)
Tasmania, 2018 - 2023

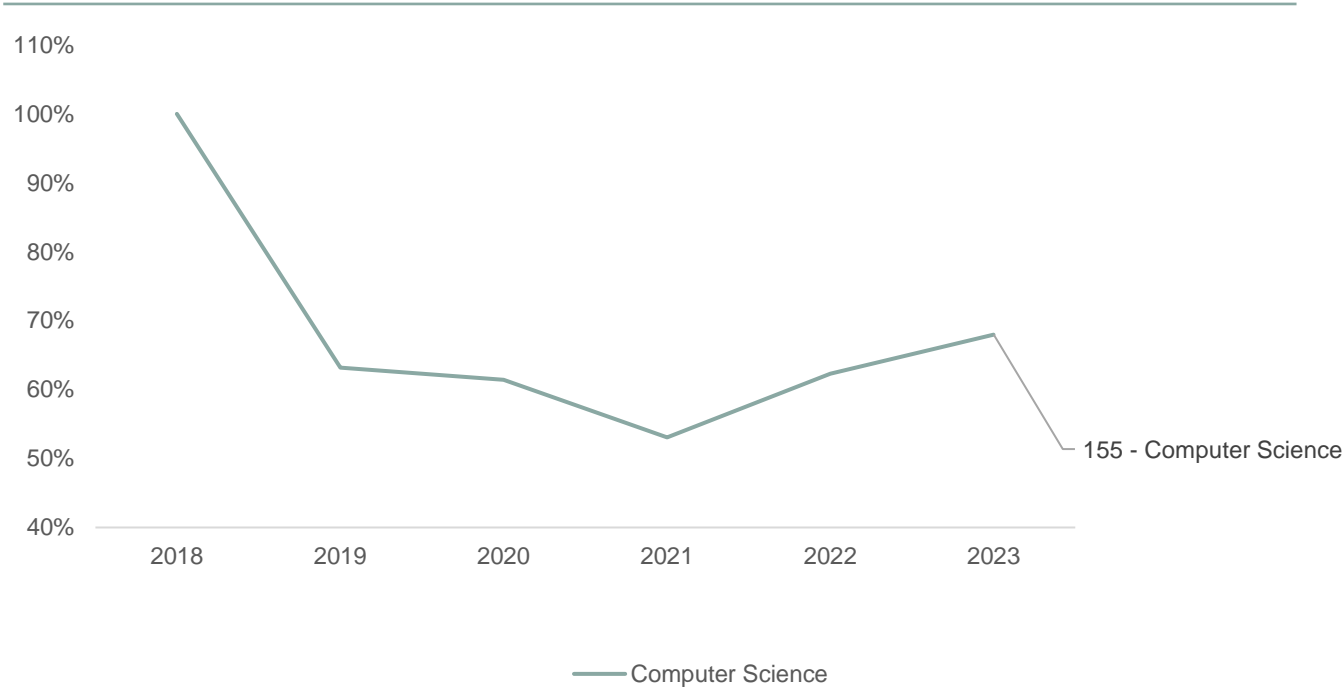


- In 2023 of the ~1,100 maths teachers in Tasmanian schools only ~500 had specialist qualifications.
- Of the ~1,300 science teachers working in Tasmanian schools, only ~900 were specialists.
- Student enrolments in STEM teaching qualifications is not enough to fill this gap, or to replace existing teachers as they exit the school system.

TASC Course Scaling Data, 2018 – 2023, Figures are indexed to 2018 levels; absolute enrolment numbers for 2023 shown beside the class title

While we have seen a slight uptake in school enrolments in Computer Science, this is still well down on 2018 levels and below what we need in the pipeline.

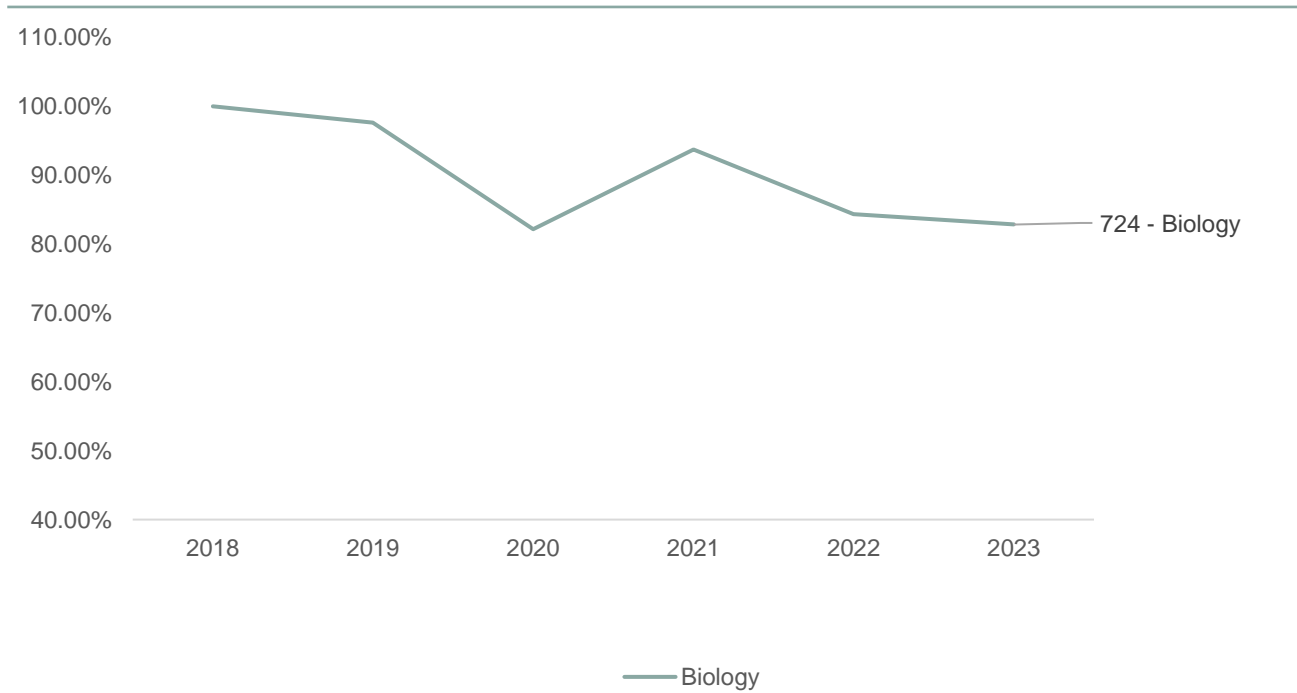
Percent change in enrolments in selected pre-tertiary STEM subjects (2018 as baseline)
Tasmania, 2018 - 2023



TASC Course Scaling Data, 2018 – 2023, Figures are indexed to 2018 levels; absolute enrolment numbers for 2023 shown beside the class title

Other key areas of the sciences, such as Biology, are also seeing downward trends.

Percent change in enrolments in selected pre-tertiary STEM subjects (2018 as baseline)
Tasmania, 2018 - 2023



TASC Course Scaling Data, 2018 – 2023, Figures are indexed to 2018 levels; absolute enrolment numbers for 2023 shown beside the class title

Around the country, there is a growing recognition of this national STEM crisis.

Western Australian year 12 physics enrolments, 2015 & 2023



NEW PROGRAMS AND TEACHING TOOLS AIM TO REVERSE DECLINE OF SCHOOL SCIENCE

Physics students 'gone by 2035'

THE DIBBS
EDUCATION EDITOR

A catastrophic decline in the number of students studying physics in senior high school is ongoing, warn DIBBS, with one analysis predicting that Australia will lose the capacity to train the competitive STEM workforce necessary for the country's economic future.

The Education Editor of the Australian, David DIBBS, who was Prime Minister's science czar for his role in the discovery of gravitational waves, said it is of physics enrolments contracted to just 10 per cent of their current rate there would be no school leavers qualified to study physics at university by 2035, and no study by 2035.

"We are on track to having no young medical physicists, no physicists to become tomorrow's astronauts, no physicists to support the energy transition, no physicists to support the nuclear industry, not just in medicine but crucial medical products - and no energy scientists," he said.

"Hospital-based medical physicists who are essential for producing the short life radioactive sources for medical diagnosis and treatment."

"Our medical industry depends on a large number of physicists."

Data from WA, which Professor DIBBS said was representative of Australia as a whole, shows year 12 physics enrolments fell from 3800 in 2015 to 2400 in 2023.

The number of girls studying physics fell even faster over the period. Girls made up 42 per cent of the year 12 physics cohort in 2015 but only 36 per cent by 2023.

Professor DIBBS said a fellow Prime Minister's science czar, Warren Snowdon's call from the Australian National University, are pushing for a rethink of school science to keep children interested and encourage them to study science at university.

The past few leaders of the Education portfolio have backed by UWA, now operates in 55



In an Einstein First course, students at Auburn High School in Victoria roll balls into a circular funnel to learn how curved space explains gravity.

which teaches year 12 to 10 students, modern physics topics that engage their interest, such as black holes.

Experts show that 14-year-olds are the more interested in physics after doing Einstein First. However, the course only shows a third of the parts and half the level of depth.

Einstein First and UWA have also just launched a 'Quantum Leap' program, which will help teachers to improve their skills and the quality of their teaching.

The Australian Academy of Science is also part of the push to

improve science and maths education in schools, and on Tuesday launched two free online 'tool boxes' for primary school teachers to help them teach these subjects.

Academy CEO Anna Maria Anshel said that the science is (Primary Curriculum) and the maths is (NSW) aimed at helping teachers at whatever level of science understanding they had and helped them teach in effective

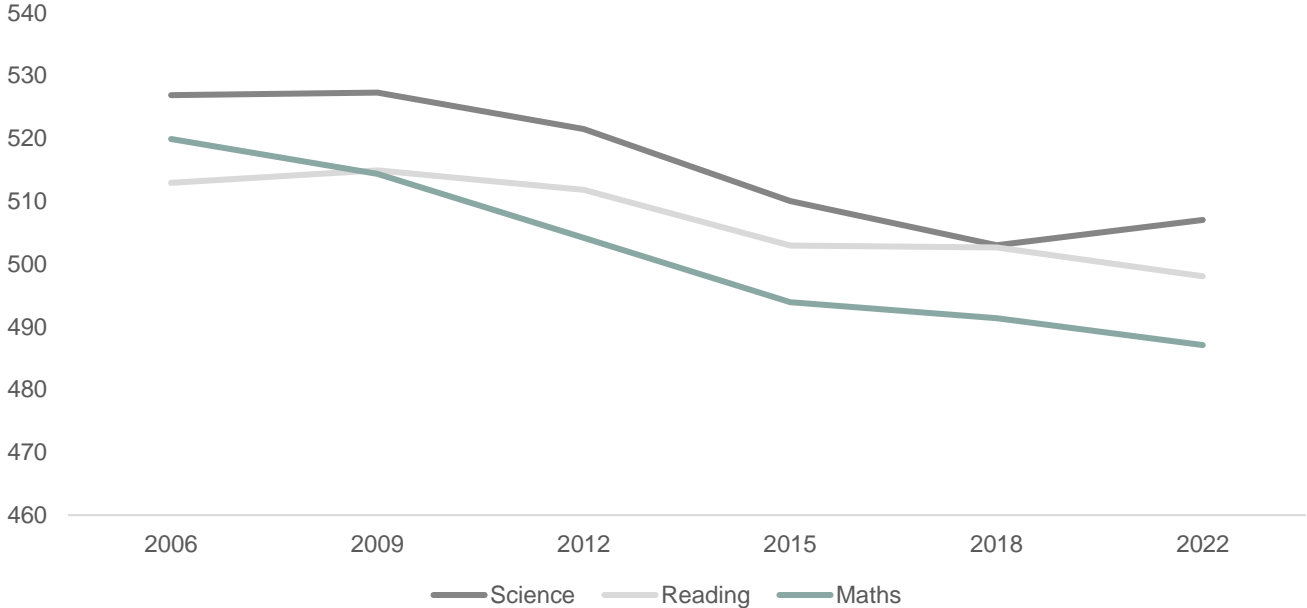
ways regardless of where their students were at.

"We would love all teachers to be trained in science and maths but that is long-term," Mr Anshel said.

Launching the new tool boxes at Hagston Primary School in Canberra, Federal Education Minister Jason Clare said the resources were designed to take the lead of teachers and engage students and help them to fall in love with science and maths.

STEM standards in all Australian schools have been in decline for over 20 years.

Australian Program For International Assessment (PISA) average performance by subject area, 2006-2022



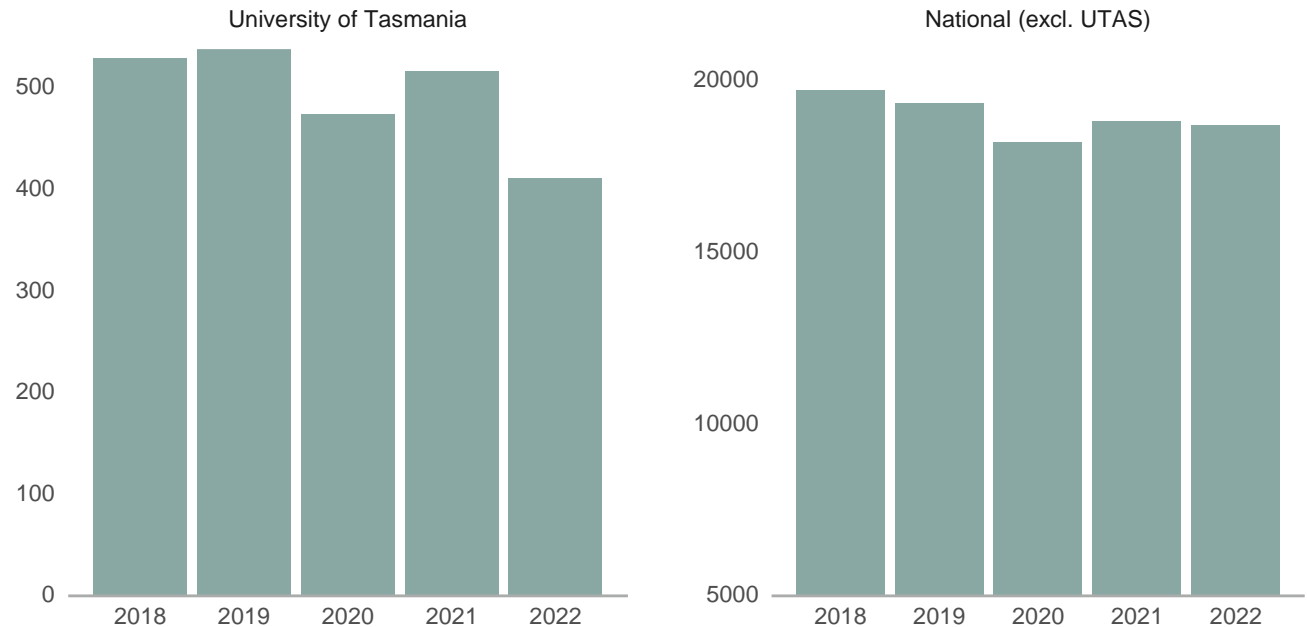
- Australia's performance has been declining relative to OECD overall.
- PISA averages from 2006 to 2018:

	Australia	OECD
Maths	- 5.5%	- 0.1%
Science	- 4.5%	- 1.6%

OECD Program for International Assessment, sourced from <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/average-performance-of-15-year-olds-in-mathematics-reading-and-science> and <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/pisa-test-score-mean-performance-on-the-mathematics-scale>. Based on performance of 15-year olds.

This downturn in schools nationally is flowing through into universities, with declining STEM Bachelors completion rates in Tasmania and nation-wide .

STEM Domestic Undergraduate Bachelors Completions (2018-2022)



- Based on 2023 STEM commencements figures, it is estimated that Tasmania will be around 190 completions short of maintaining the current STEM bachelor qualified workforce.
- Considering the level of growth we need in our STEM workforce; this projected shortage is significant.

Source: HEIMS Completions. STEM Overall qualifications in broad Fields of Education 01, 02, 03 & 05. Y-axis in National (excl. UTAS) chart has been intentionally restricted.

As we address the education challenges we are facing in Tasmania, we need a focus on STEM education.

STEM skills are vital for the economic development of Tasmania.

Tasmania already has a shortage of people with the required STEM education and skills.

The future pipeline of STEM students is at a crisis point.

We need strong leadership across Tasmania in industry, education and government sectors to improve STEM outcomes and make a real change for the future of our State.

Tasmania needs a STEM education strategy to build engagement, aspiration and skills at all levels of our education system.



Community Engagement

We need to provide opportunities for communities to engage in STEM – including public facilities like a science museum to facilitate schools and community engagement.

Teachers and Curriculum

Teachers need to be supported with contemporary teaching curriculum and materials, alongside access to professional development to upskill in STEM fields.

Education Infrastructure

Our university needs accessible, world leading STEM facilities to support the STEM education ecosystem including industry aligned research.

TAFE's technical facilities also need serious investment to support the technical skills agenda.

We can work in partnership to deliver better STEM outcomes for Tasmania.

Commitments

At the University, we are deeply committed to improving STEM education attainment in Tasmania, and we are delivering world-leading research impact.

Capabilities

Our Research Centres & Schools align with Tasmania's industry leading sectors:

- Agriculture: TIA
- Aquaculture and Marine: IMAS and AMC
- Environmental Management: Natural Sciences

Facilities

Significant investments in University STEM facilities in North and Northwest Tasmania are increasing regional access to STEM education.



Our whole community needs to be engaged in developing a STEM strategy for Tasmania.

This is a collaborative effort involving community, education, industry sectors and government to increase engagement, aspiration and skills in STEM fields.





UNIVERSITY of 
TASMANIA

Thank you

From: [MINVA.DPDIARY](#)
To: [Vice Chancellor](#)
Subject: For Diary Consideration: Letter from Professor Rufus Black [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 18 September 2024 11:13:45 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Good morning,

Unfortunately Minister Keogh is unavailable at this time.

I believe you have also invited Minister Conroy and that he is considering your request.

I wish you the best of luck with the opening of the UCRF.

Kind regards,

Harper

Office of Hon Matt Keogh MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel



(02) 6277 7820 | minister@dva.gov.au | fb.com/KeoghMatthew | [@mattkeogh](https://twitter.com/mattkeogh)
mattkeogh.com | minister.dva.gov.au | minister.defence.gov.au/minister/mkeogh

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and acknowledge their elders past and present.

From: Vice Chancellor <Vice.Chancellor@utas.edu.au>

Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 1:13 PM

To: Minister <Minister@dva.gov.au>

Subject: Letter from Professor Rufus Black

Dear Minister Keogh,
Please find attached a letter from Professor Rufus Black.
Kind regards,
Kieren.

Dr Kieren Rix

Senior Executive Officer

Office of the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor
Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
p. 03 6226 7424
utas.edu.au

Please refer to the [DVC Resources](#) intranet page for current versions of the templates for committee papers, presentations, briefings and correspondence.



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FW: 2023 Annual Report tabled in Parliament

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Date Thu 20/06/2024 2:53 PM
To Sarah Lovell <sarah.lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Cc Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

 1 attachment (176 KB)

International Education Framework - UTAS summary overview - June 2024.pdf;

Hi Sarah

Please find below a summary of our annual report tabled today in Parliament as well as our broader financial context and here's the link to the full report: [Annual reports | University of Tasmania \(utas.edu.au\)](#)

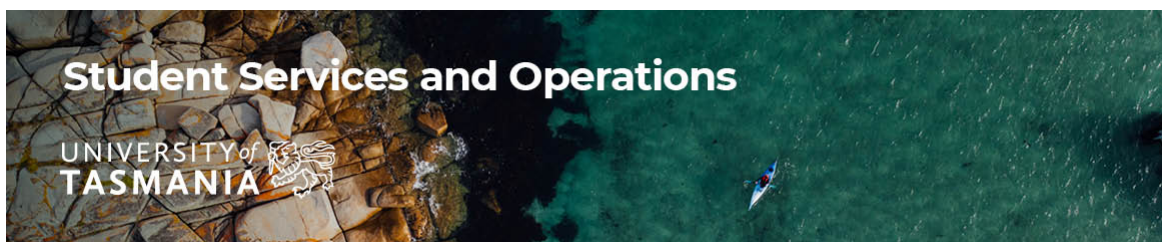
Also FYI here is the link to our submission to the Federal Government on International Students policy and attached the two pager on that: [Draft International Education and Skills Strategic Framework: Consultation \(utas.edu.au\)](#).

I'll also forward through a (shorter!) message to staff we're sending re the Sandy Bay legislation this afternoon.

Cheers, Kate

From: Craig Barling <SSO.Office@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 11:48 AM
To: Kate Huntington <Kate.Huntington@UTAS.EDU.AU>
Subject: 2023 Annual Report tabled in Parliament

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2023 Annual Report tabled in Parliament

Dear colleagues,

The University's 2023 Annual Report was tabled in Tasmania's Parliament today. You can read it on [our website](#).

We delivered on our mission in 2023. We made a difference for and from Tasmania through our teaching, research and engagement and we did so in a challenging financial environment amid policy uncertainty. Careful management of our finances is an ongoing task as the volatility in the national higher education sector, particularly in relation to international students, continues in 2024.

For the first time, the report includes a section on sustainability, in addition to the regular institutional overview and segments on the University's governance and finances. We've done this because it is important to us and our students that we have a positive impact for our community and the planet.

We are a recognised global leader in sustainability – the number one university in the world for climate action three years in a row according to the *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings. As a world leader, we wanted to set out how we approach sustainability and report on our performance in areas such as waste, energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions. We will continue to evolve our sustainability reporting in the years ahead.

Other sections of the report capture our financial performance. Pleasingly, our domestic student revenue and research income was stable, and our asset base strong, in 2023. However, the post-pandemic volatility in the international student market impacted revenue while high inflation impacted costs, and this put pressure on our financial result.

In these difficult times, we focused on managing our financial performance with an emphasis on our cash operating result, known as EBITDA (Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation). Through the efforts of many we met our goal for 2023 of generating positive cash flows from our operations. In the Annual Report this is best represented by the \$1.5 million inflow reported in the 'Cash flows from operating activities' table on page 79.

Once we take into account the \$54.7 million of depreciation we incur from our \$1.2 billion in property, plant and equipment assets, and the inflows we received from our investment portfolio returns and government capital grants, our consolidated net result from continuing operations was a deficit of \$10.4 million. This result reflects the careful financial management we have undertaken across the entire university in these challenging circumstances for the sector.

The result also reflects the excellent returns we were able to make from our investment portfolio in 2022, generating a gain of \$40.5 million, contributing to the consolidated net result and growing our portfolio, which is a critical asset to support our investments in teaching and research facilities and our scholarship program. As at the end of 2023, our consolidated net asset position was more than \$1.3 billion.

Our continued ability to deliver our budgeted result in a difficult revenue and cost environment, as well as the underpinning strength of our balance sheet and growing domestic student numbers, give us a solid foundation as we manage the complex economic and policy environment in which we operate.

The challenges experienced in 2023 have continued into 2024. The Australian Government's proposed reforms, which would see higher education shift from a market-driven model to a managed model, will help address these challenges in the medium term and create a more stable, equitable funding system. That will be good for Tasmania, but the transition will take time. In the short term, unannounced changes to international visa processing have reduced the number of international students at regional universities like ours.

We have a plan that we have consulted with you on to continue to deliver on our mission and remain financially sustainable. Thank you again to the more than 900 people who contributed during the consultation process and to the 350 people who came to the drop-in session on Monday where we discussed the outcomes and outlined how the strategies are being implemented.

One of the initiatives we received feedback on was senior manager wage restraint. All staff covered by the staff agreement will receive the specified 2.5 percent pay increase from the first full pay period in July, but we have agreed that there will be no pay increase in 2024 for members of the University's executive or Council members. Pay increases for senior managers on individual contracts will be limited to 1.5 percent with some exceptions to ensure we continue to reduce our gender pay gap. Vacancies and recruitment will be carefully managed, making sure we prioritise critical roles, support the student experience and ensure local decision-making for Colleges and Divisions.

We are responding and making the adjustments needed to ensure our financial sustainability in these challenging times for the sector. You can find more information about our savings strategies, including a recording of Monday's drop-in session, on [the staff intranet](#).

I would encourage you to look at our 2023 Annual Report and all of the financial and sustainability information it contains. If there is anything you would like to discuss about our financial position, please don't hesitate to contact me at craig.barling@utas.edu.au.

Regards,

Craig



Craig Barling

Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Student Services and Operations)
University of Tasmania
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T: +61 3 6226 2005
sso.office@utas.edu.au
CRICOS 00586B



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FW: An update on Sandy Bay and STEM infrastructure

From Kate Huntington <Kate.Huntington@UTAS.EDU.AU>
Date Fri 10/05/2024 7:05 AM
To Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Morning

This is what we've told staff – haven't been approached by media for comment.
Cheers, Kate

From: Professor Rufus Black <listserv@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 2:10 PM
To: Kate Huntington <Kate.Huntington@UTAS.EDU.AU>
Subject: An update on Sandy Bay and STEM infrastructure

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An update on Sandy Bay and STEM

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to update you on the Tasmanian Government's position in relation to the Sandy Bay campus and the STEM infrastructure needs for our state.

In a statement today the Government reaffirmed its commitment to introduce legislation that would require the University to have the approval of both houses of Parliament to sell any part of the Sandy Bay campus. This was a commitment made during the recent State election and has been included in the Government's list of priorities for its first 100 days.

Pleasingly, the Government has recognised the need for investment in new STEM facilities in the South and indicated they will work with us to update our STEM precinct business case, which has been approved and listed on Infrastructure Australia's priority list since 2017, and to pursue external funding for the project given that the previous plan had been to realise value from the Sandy Bay site to fund those facilities.

Contemporary STEM facilities in the South are important for our students and staff, for the future of STEM education in Tasmania, to meet our workforce needs, and for our state's

ability to meet the challenges we face here and around the globe.

It is critical that our response to the Government is guided by the expertise and experience of those who will teach, research, and learn in any possible new STEM facilities, and also by our strategy to support STEM in Tasmania. Therefore, I have asked Angela Castles, Acting Executive Dean of the College of Sciences and Engineering to work with colleagues and students to build a picture of our future STEM facilities needs as part of the College's ongoing Future of Sciences and Engineering strategy process. This work will be supported by Professor Nicholas Farrelly, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Southern Tasmania), and Poppy Fay, Director, Campus Futures.

We are seeking a coordinated, collaborative path to new STEM facilities in the South involving all levels of government, similar to the successful approach we took in the North and North-West.

Meanwhile, work continues on important developments in the Hobart CBD. The former Forestry building, the largest single project in our current redevelopment program, is on track to welcome staff and students in 2026 and the Philip Smith Centre at the Domain is in its commissioning phase. At Taroona, the expansion of our IMAS facilities is now underway.

We will provide further updates about the Government's planned legislation and its commitment to support renewed STEM infrastructure as they become clear, and on the work of colleagues about our preferred future state for our STEM facilities.

Regards,

Rufus



Professor Rufus Black

Vice-Chancellor
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FW: Cadet facility

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Date Fri 16/08/2024 10:50 AM
To Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Hi Marcus

Here's the link to Senator Tyrrell's question yesterday as discussed: [Senate question re cadet facility](#).

Let me know if you can't access it.

Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington
Executive Director, Strategic Communications
University of Tasmania
Admin Building | Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
0432 389 793

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#1 in climate
action globally
THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS 2023

We acknowledge the Aboriginal people of Tasmania as Traditional Owners of the land on which this university is located.

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.


FW: Follow up from today's discussion

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Tue 28/05/2024 4:38 PM

To Dean L. Winter <Dean.L.Winter@parliament.tas.gov.au>; sarah.lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au <sarah.lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au>; Ella Haddad <Ella.Haddad@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Cc Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

 2 attachments (2 MB)

Accord and Tasmania - May 24 Presentation.pdf; Statewide Transformation Projects 2010 to 2030.pdf;

Hi Dean, Sarah and Ella

Thanks for your time today – please find below and attached some of the stats and key messages Rufus shared. Also attached is an updated picture of the infrastructure investment we have attracted to the state since 2010 which runs out over the next two years.

Leon Compton's producer has confirmed Rufus for Tuesday at 9 am – I will let you know if that changes.

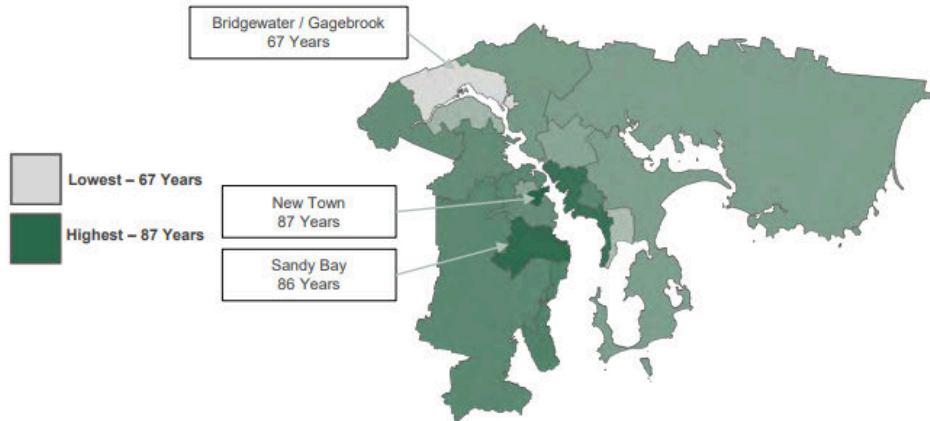
Please let me know what further information would be useful to you.

Cheers, Kate

- Last year in Tasmania only 179 students in year 12 studied specialist mathematics, only 299 studied physics, and 456 studied chemistry.
- Participation levels in pre-tertiary level STEM have been in decline, with student enrolments in these subjects falling 14% since 2018. These numbers are too low to sustain a STEM workforce in Tasmania or even to renew STEM teaching in the schools.
- We need new STEM facilities designed to engage school students in a state with no science museum, to educate primary and secondary teachers in STEM, to develop STEM curriculum for schools, and to provide compelling tertiary STEM education opportunities to attract students and staff.
- It will be very difficult to meet the Australian Universities Accord objectives of closing skills gaps without high-quality STEM education in Tasmania or even to close the 25% productivity gap that already exists with the rest of the nation. Urgent attention is needed to begin closing these gaps.
- The University is the only place in the state with the critical mass of STEM capability to turn this situation around but its major southern campus is in urgent need of infrastructure renewal.
- The existing Sandy Bay buildings are aged, with 75% over 48 years old, in poor condition and ill-suited for contemporary teaching, which results in very low utilisation and poor accessibility, coupled with high running costs.
- Buildings are now being closed on the Sandy Bay campus as they are not viable to continue using.

Life expectancy is a way of summing up inequality. In Hobart and surrounds, the inequality is extraordinary

Life Expectancy in Greater Hobart, by Public Health Area, 2017 - 2021

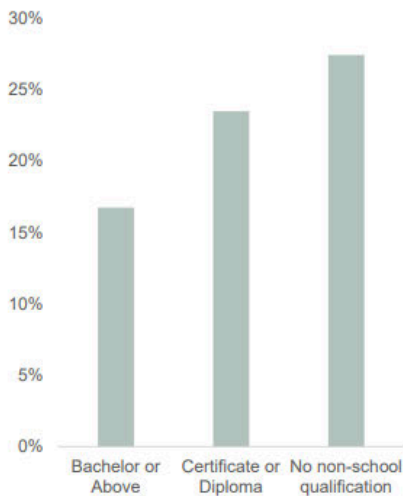


- The difference between Bridgewater and New Town or Sandy Bay is stark.
- For every kilometre you travel north away from Sandy Bay you effectively lose a year of life expectancy.
- It is like comparing one of the richest places in the world (Hong Kong - 85 years) with one of the poorest (Eritrea - 67 years).

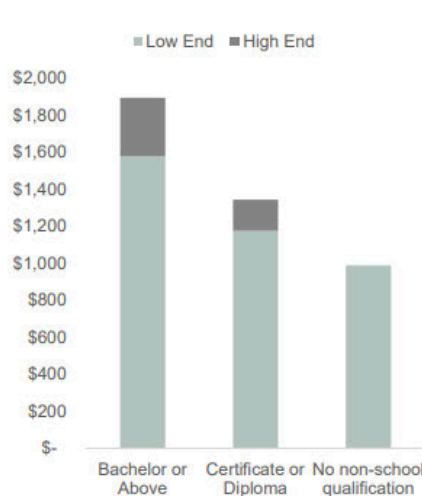
PHIDU, Social Health Atlas of Australia: Population Health Areas, Median Age at Death by PHA, 2017 - 2021

This is underpinned by education inequalities: poorer health, income and life expectancy are all correlated with lower levels of educational attainment.

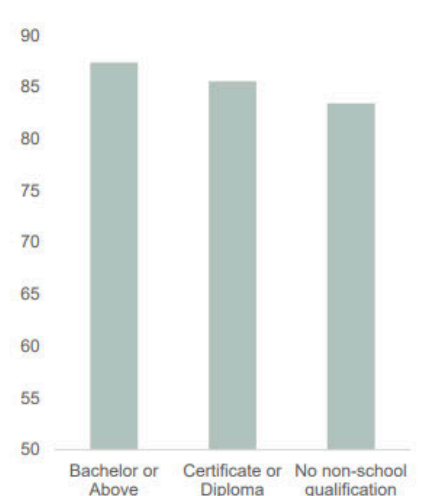
Rate of Selected Comorbidities*, National Health Survey 2011 - 12



Median Weekly Earnings**, by Level of Education, 2023



Australian Life Expectancy*** by Level of Education, 2016



* Comorbidity Rate is the rate at which surveyed individuals reported having Diabetes, Kidney Disease or Cardiovascular Diseases. Tablebuilder, National Health Survey 2011 - 12.
 ** Low/High End is the smallest/largest value in category across education levels (e.g. High End in Bachelor is Postgraduate, whereas Low End is Bachelors only). ABS Employee Earnings 2023.
 *** Values calculated by averaging across Men and Women and assuming a 50/50 Gender split. Absolute and relative differences by education level in life expectancy at ages 25, 45, 65 and 85 years for Australian men and women, 2016

From: Kate Huntington
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2024 5:11 PM
To: dean.winter@parliament.tas.gov.au
Cc: Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Follow up from today's discussion

Hi Dean

Thanks for your time today – please find attached an electronic copy of the document I gave you this morning, as well as a presentation on education in Tasmania that Rufus will be keen to discuss when we meet with you, Sarah and Ella later this month. I've connected Sarah with Nicholas Farrelly, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Southern Tasmania), to arrange a time for a Sandy Bay tour and to look at the Philip Smith building on the Domain.

We're also putting together a list of all our questions about the legislation for you guys which I'll send through next week.

Please let me know if anything else would be useful.

Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications
University of Tasmania
Admin Building | Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
0432 389 793



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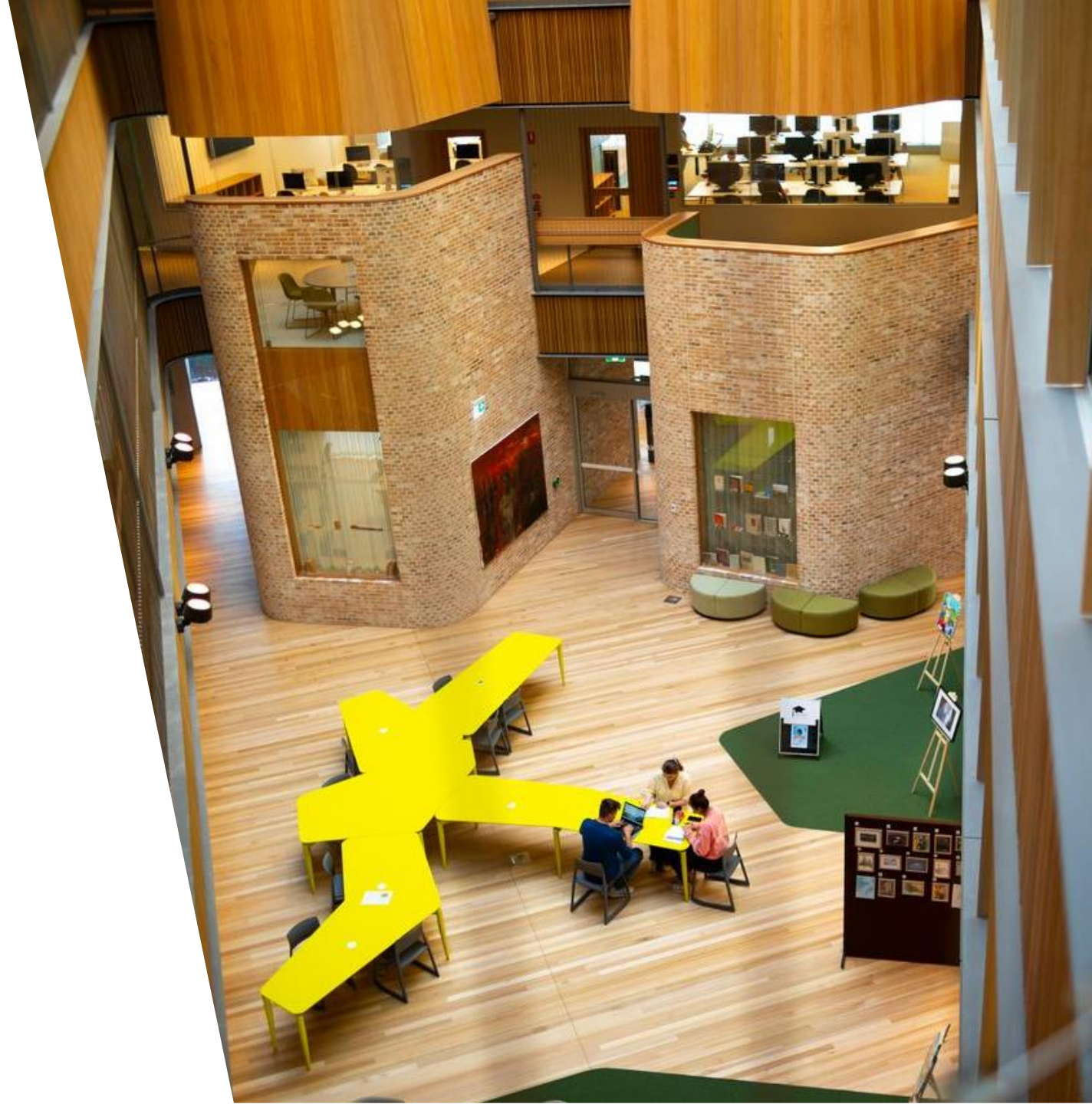
I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.



Statewide Transformation Projects

A pipeline of investment
2010 - 2026

May 2024



Over a billion dollars has been invested in transforming UTAS campuses and facilities across the state since 2010

Region	Investment
NORTH	\$322.3m
NORTH-WEST	\$65m
SOUTH	\$697.1m
	\$1.084bn

Local labour, materials and procurement have been prioritised throughout every project, supporting a pipeline labour force of over 4,500 individuals, including apprentices

Over \$320 million has been invested in transforming UTAS campuses in the North since 2010 but there is no currently committed investment beyond 2026

NORTH – Inveresk and Newnham



**Student Accom
Newnham Apartments
\$17m
2013 - 14**



**Student Accom
Inveresk Apartments
\$15m
2015 - 16**



**Pedestrian & Cycle Bridge
+ Northern Car Park \$10m
2019 - 21**



**Inveresk Library
\$23m
2020 - 22**



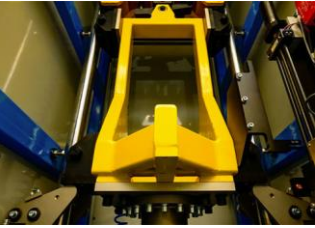
**Urban Realm
Activity Space &
Food Garden \$6.8m
2020 - 22**



**Stone Building \$22m
Workshop & Levee
Studios \$27m
2021 - 25**



**River's Edge \$45.5m
2021 - 23**



**DMIDP Stage 1 \$30m
2021 - 25**



**The Shed \$100m
2022 - 24**



**Tasmanian Institute of
Agriculture \$26m
2024 - 26**

Over \$65 million has been invested in transforming UTAS locations in the North-West since 2010 but there is no further investment currently planned

NORTH-WEST – Burnie and region



**Student Accom
West Park Apartments
\$7m
2014 - 15**



**Cradle Coast campus
Field Building \$50m
2019 - 21**



**Elliot Dairy Research
Facility \$4m
2021 - 22**



**The Makers Technology
and Innovation Hub \$4m
2023 - 23**

Almost \$700 million has been invested in transforming UTAS campuses in the South since 2010 but the current activity will conclude by the end of 2026

SOUTH – Hobart City, Sandy Bay and Taroon



Medical Sciences 1
\$58m
2009 - 11



Medical Sciences 2
\$90m
2011 - 13



IMAS Salamanca
\$45m
2012 - 14



Centenary building and Domain \$17m
2015 - 16



Student Accommodation Hobart Apartments
\$86m
2015 - 17



Excelsior Biscuit Works (fit out) \$2.9m
2020 - 2021



Podium building (fit-out)
\$2.7m
2019 - 21



Hedberg
\$115m
2019 - 21



Student Accommodation Hytten Hall
\$78m
2019 - 2021



Philip Smith
\$13.5m
2022 - 24

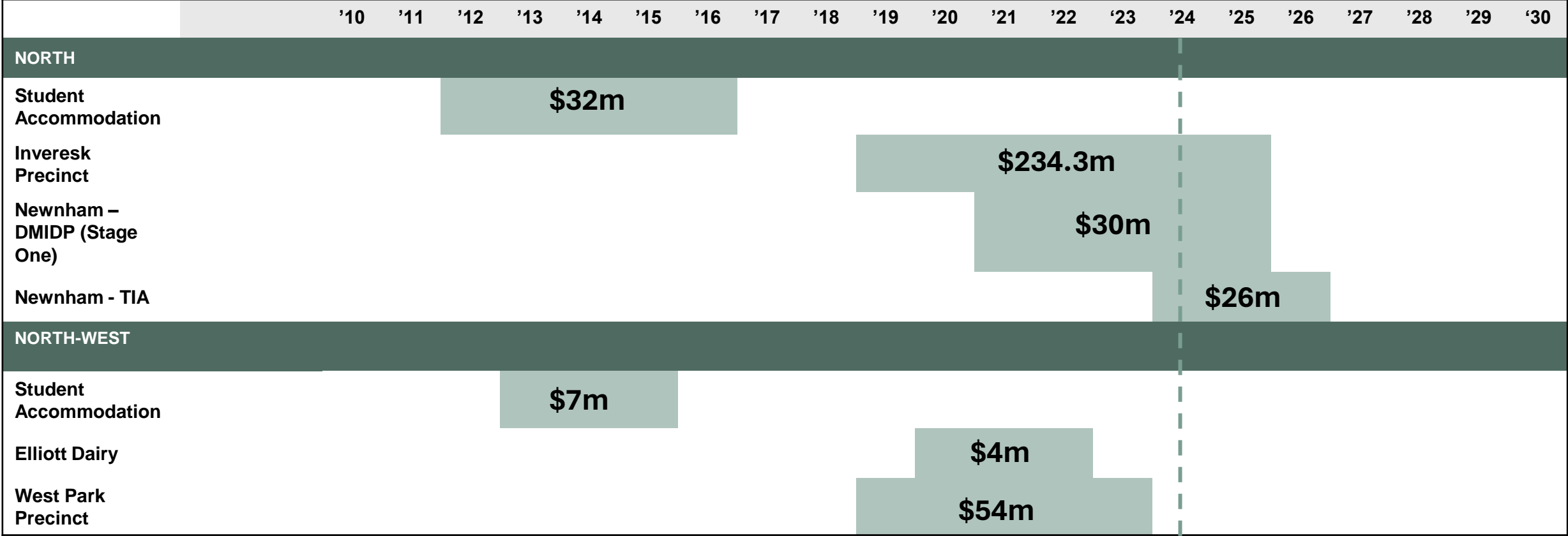


Forestry building
\$131m
2023 - 26

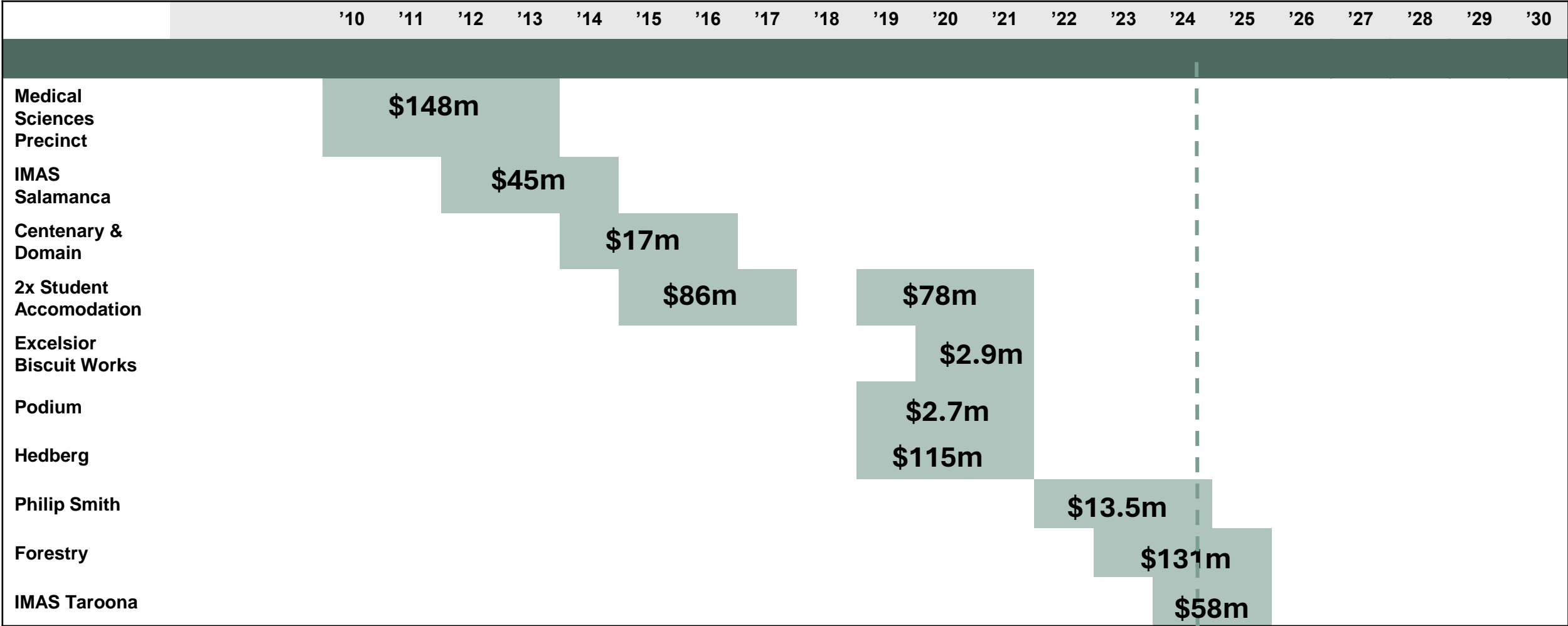


IMAS Taroon
\$58m
2024 - 26

North and North-West campus revitalisation projects have been staged from 2011 and currently committed projects will be complete by the end of 2026



UTAS has had projects consistently underway in the South since 2010 but there is no investment in the pipeline beyond the end of 2026





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Thank you

FW: From page 268 of the Accord

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Date Tue 27/02/2024 1:46 PM
To Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

 1 attachment (116 KB)

The Australian Universities Accord;

From: Kate Huntington
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 7:45 AM
To: Josh Willie <Josh.Willie@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Subject: From page 268 of the Accord

Attached is overall summary of the Accord, below is specific to delivery in the regions:

Section 7.5 High cost of delivery and diseconomies of scale in the regions

These diseconomies of scale – and indeed the full cost of educational delivery in regional Australia – need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. The Review believes action is needed. Without adequate investment in new, maintained and replacement infrastructure, there will likely be an exacerbation of the existing financial pressures felt by regional universities as well as further erosion of student load in regional areas. To support overall system growth and greater participation of regional and remote students, the specific infrastructure needs of regional universities have to be addressed. The Review considers that this could be managed through the proposed Higher Education Future Fund. The Review has also heard of critical infrastructure needs that warrant consideration of direct and more urgent funding, including significant maintenance backlogs affecting regional universities and their ability to deliver and attract students, staff and research funding.

Kate Huntington
Executive Director, Strategic Communications
University of Tasmania
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0432 389 793

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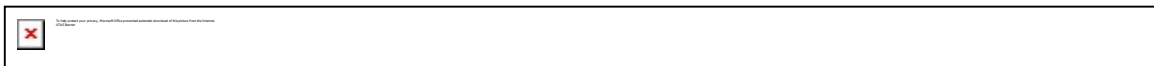
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action globally
THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS 2023

We acknowledge the Aboriginal people of Tasmania as Traditional Owners of the land on which this university is located.

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.

From: Professor Rufus Black <listserv@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, 26 February 2024 1:44 PM
To: Kate Huntington
Subject: The Australian Universities Accord

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The Australian Universities Accord

Dear colleagues,

You will have seen that the Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education, released the **Australian Universities Accord Final Report** yesterday.

The Report contains 47 recommendations for the Australian Government that chart the way from our mass higher education system to become a high-quality universal access system by 2050, with a strengthened national research scheme more focused on impact, which includes additional investment in the Australian Research Council to discover the new knowledge that in time will contribute to solving the challenges of the nation, region, and world. The Review also has important recommendations that will see better financial support for students and a fairer HELP system.

The overall direction aligns extraordinarily well with our strategy and circumstances, and as a vision for the sector, this is a very welcome document.

At over 400 pages, there is much richness and attention to specific issues that will take time to digest and analyse. We will also learn more about the Australian Government's likely response in the weeks and months ahead. The breadth of reform in this Review will take a considerable length of time to fund and implement, requiring much adaptation and evolution, but the benefits for the University, Tasmania and Australia promise to make that effort well worthwhile.

For the University of Tasmania, this report has landed at an opportune time as we undertake our strategic refresh throughout 2024. I would encourage everyone to review at least **the summary report** to consider the implications for us in the years ahead. I have also shared a brief overview of the report and initial thoughts on its implications for our University in this **intranet article**.

We have organised drop-in sessions in March for staff to come together to hear more about the Accord and its likely implications for us, as well as contribute your thoughts on what it means for the future direction of our strategy and delivery of our mission. Please register your attendance at one of the sessions below, and if you wish, **submit a question** that you would like to discuss.

Australian Universities Accord Drop-in Sessions

- Wednesday 13 March, 1.00pm - **Register**
- Friday 15 March, 9.30am - **Register**
- Friday 15 March, 12.00pm - **Register**

I look forward to the opportunity to hear your reflections.

Kind regards,

Rufus



Professor Rufus Black

Vice-Chancellor
Office of the Vice-Chancellor
University of Tasmania
T: +61 3 6226 2002
E: vice.chancellor@utas.edu.au
CRICOS 00586B



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FW: Hobart Agenda Item tonight

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Date Mon 27/05/2024 4:59 PM
To Dean L. Winter <Dean.L.Winter@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Hi Dean

Here's the link to the Sandy Bay and Mount Nelson Neighbourhood Plan:
<https://yoursay.hobartcity.com.au/mount-nelson-sandy-bay-neighbourhood-plan>

It was all heading on a sensible path but then there's been interference to slow it down by adding a Directions paper step:

On 29 April 2024, Council resolved to note and endorse the outcomes of the engagement process and the next steps involved with progressing the Mount Nelson and Sandy Bay Neighbourhood Plan project, principally through the preparation of a Directions paper.

The Engagement Report which outlines the outcomes of the engagement activities undertaken in late 2023 is now publicly available.

[Discussion Paper Engagement Report \(Added 06/05/24\)](#)

And this is the motion that Will Coats is putting forward tonight:

Motion

"This motion is to clarify the position of Council given the confusion arising from frequent reporting and commentary at the recent 2024 State election.

That this Council:

1. Accept the results of the Elector Poll from October 2022 in which the constituents of the City of Hobart voted 74% that they *do {Not} support the University of Tasmania's proposal to relocate the Sandy Bay campus into Hobart's central business district.*
2. Note that the position taken by the Liberal Party, who subsequently formed Government, at the 2024 election was that they would pass laws prohibiting UTAS from selling off the Sandy Bay campus except with the permission of Parliament. (attached as appendix)
3. Note the position statement put forward by the Tasmanian Greens including that "The State Government should use available opportunities to ensure UTAS halts the relocation into the CBD and confirming an ongoing commitment to the maintenance of the Sandy Bay Campus for educational purposes". (attached as appendix)
4. Note the media release put out by the Save UTAS group condemning the Liberal Policy as not stopping the relocation into the CBD and lauding the Greens position. (attached as appendix)
5. Advise that the Hobart City Council has never resolved to support the position of the Liberal Government.

6. Position is that it does *not support the University of Tasmania's proposal to relocate the Sandy Bay campus into Hobart's central business district*. In line with the October 2022 elector poll subsequently accepted at the meeting of the 12 of December 2022 (the next Council meeting).
7. Note that that the Council is obligated to represent and promote the interests of the community and, in doing so, to consult and involve the community (*Local Government Act 1993*, section 20 (1) and (2)).
8. Further notes that the elector poll was a consultation of the community of their view of the UTAS relocation and that there is a clear interest in the community to oppose the relocation into the CBD and that this poll was not qualified to suggest a hybrid model.
9. Further notes that the relocation of components of the UTAS campus, including the school of Business and Economics, are contrary to the elector poll and are a relocation into the CBD.
10. Asks officers to report back to council actions currently being taken to promote the interests of the community and oppose the UTAS relocation from Sandy Bay into the CBD."

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications
University of Tasmania
Admin Building | Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
0432 389 793



We acknowledge the Aboriginal people of Tasmania as Traditional Owners of the land on which this university is located.

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.

Ben Wild

Director, Media

Strategic Communications
University of Tasmania
03 6324 3218 or 0438 510 616
utas.edu.au



CRICOS 00586B

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From: [Invites.Wells](#)
To: [Vice Chancellor](#)
Cc: [STOKER, Jody](#)
Subject: FW: Letter from Professor Rufus Black [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 7 May 2024 9:53:23 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[VC Letter to the Hon Anika Wells MP.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

On behalf of Hon. Anika Wells, Minister for Aged Care, Minister for Sport and Federal Member for Lilley, thank you for your invitation to attend the launch of the DREAM Project in July.

Unfortunately Minister Wells is unable to attend and sends her apologies. Hon. Ged Kearney, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care will be pleased to attend on Minister Wells' behalf.

I have cc'd Jody from Assistant Minister Kearney's office who will liaise to confirm details.

Once again thank you for the invitation, and best of luck for the event.

Kind regards,

Karenya Ward
Executive Assistant

Office of the Hon Anika Wells MP
Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Sport
Member for Lilley

Dear Minister Wells,
Please find attached a letter from Professor Rufus Black.
Kind regards,
Kieren.

Dr Kieren Rix
Senior Executive Officer

Office of the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor
Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
p. 03 6226 7424
utas.edu.au

Please refer to the [DVC Resources](#) intranet page for current versions of the templates for committee papers, presentations, briefings and correspondence.

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Hon Anika Wells MP
Minister for Aged Care
Minister for Sport

By email: Minister.Wells@health.gov.au

Dear Minister Wells

I am delighted to invite you to the formal launch of the Dementia Respite Education and Mentoring (DREAM) Project.

This important event will be held in Hobart in July this year by the Wicking Dementia Centre and Dementia Support Australia (DSA) at the Wicking Dementia Research & Education Centre.

The Wicking Dementia Centre at the University of Tasmania was awarded \$8 million in Commonwealth Funding in 2023 under the Grant Program "*Improving respite care for people with dementia and their carers*" (GO5835), to establish the DREAM Project. The DREAM Project is being delivered in collaboration with DSA and has been designed to increase the capability of the aged care workforce to deliver quality respite care through a combination of education, an online community of practice and personalised coaching.

It would be terrific if at the launch you could speak about the Grant Program which enabled the DREAM Project.

We have some flexibility around the timing of the launch and can work with your office on confirming a date that is suitable for you. If you can attend in-person in Hobart, we would also be delighted to brief you about the many impactful projects of the Wicking Dementia Centre that relate to the cause, care, and prevention of dementia. If that were not possible, we would be happy to facilitate your involvement via video link.

We look forward to hearing from you in relation to your availability for the launch.

Yours sincerely




Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

10 April 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

FW: Letter from the University

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Date Fri 19/07/2024 4:29 PM
To Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

 1 attachment (355 KB)
20240719_ PVC Letter to Dean Winter.pdf;

FYI – thanks for everything this week.
Cheers, Kate

From: Nicholas Farrelly <nicholas.farrelly@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 4:21 PM
To: dean.winter@parliament.tas.gov.au
Cc: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Subject: Letter from the University

Dear Dean,

Thank you, again, for your strong advocacy this week on behalf of the rising generation of Tasmanian students, innovators, researchers and educators.

We are very appreciative of your commitment to delivering outcomes that will support a sustainable and successful future for young people in southern Tasmania.

In this context, please find attached a letter which, among other points, highlights the substance of the communication we have undertaken this week with members of the Parliamentary crossbench. We are continuing to discuss with them the grave challenges of the government's legislation and the risks it would present to the long-term success of Tasmania's education and research systems.

We look forward to being in touch with you and your team next week, and to continuing our engagement on these crucial issues for Tasmania's future.

For now, I hope you enjoy a well-deserved rest over the weekend after this very busy and productive week.

Best wishes,

Nicholas

Professor Nicholas Farrelly

utas.edu.au

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The Honourable Dean Winter MP
Tasmanian Labor Leader
Member for Franklin

Via email: dean.winter@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Dean,

I am writing with our appreciation for the support Tasmanian Labor has provided in response to our concerns with the proposed legislation to amend the *University of Tasmania Act 1992* (the Act) to require parliamentary consent to sell the Sandy Bay Campus.

I am also writing to let you know that I have written to the crossbench to communicate these issues. Specifically, I have highlighted our University Council's concern that the proposed legislation to require parliamentary consent to sell the Sandy Bay Campus will in practice deter virtually all prospective development partners.

I have shared that our initial legal advice is that this bill looks to be inconsistent with the fundamental principles of landownership in Tasmania, amounting to a reverse compulsory acquisition that:

- effectively prohibits sale in order to force a use of the land which the University Council would otherwise have decided is not in the best interests of the University;
- deprives the University of the value of the land;
- imposes an ongoing cost burden on the University through ongoing holding and upkeep costs for the land and buildings which it is prohibited from disposing; and
- inhibits the Council's long-term planning for the University to achieve the objectives set out under the Act.

The Chancellor is also concerned this legislation impacts individual Council members' governance duties (which are akin to director's duties under the Act) and likely prevents or impedes members of Council from making decisions that they believe are in the best interest of the University, ultimately affecting the good governance of the University and potentially exposing Council members to liability.

As we have discussed, our existing Treasury debt approval includes a condition relating to maintaining our debt maturity profile (which includes revenue from the Sandy Bay campus development) and this bill creates uncertainty with regard to our ongoing funding arrangements which is of considerable concern to the Council.

In addition, the proposed Ministerial power to place a caveat on the Sandy Bay Campus would not appear to be required as part of any Parliamentary legislative approval process, and would very likely detract from the University's capacity to attract commercial partners, for example under lease arrangements.

Of serious concern is that it is highly unlikely any development partners would contemplate a transaction dependent on parliamentary approval. The chilling effect will be further reinforced by the requirement that any sale motion include 'details of the amount of payment or consideration, or any other benefits, that the University is to receive if the sale is approved as required under this section'. This could require disclosure of much of the 'usual' parts of the contract, such as purchaser indemnities, purchaser waiving rights to claim for problems with the property, and so on.

I have also emphasised that Australia's higher education sector is largely funded and regulated by the Commonwealth. Given the Sandy Bay campus was originally Commonwealth land provided to the University via a transfer through the State in 1951 for the purposes of sustaining higher education in Tasmania, it seems very important that the Commonwealth be consulted about the State's proposed restrictions on the University's use of the Sandy Bay land.

Furthermore, considering the scale of the Universities Accord reforms the Australian Government is currently pursuing and the bold ambitions for Tasmania, the relevant agencies and Ministers should understand the impact this legislation will have for resourcing higher education in Tasmania into the future.

Finally, we warmly welcome and appreciate your support for a new STEM facility in Hobart. In consultation with our staff, students and representatives of industry, community and future students, we are scoping the detail of the facilities required to support the approximately 2900 students and 360 staff that study and work in our outdated facilities currently on Sandy Bay, and we look forward to sharing the outcomes of that process with you in due course.

Thank you, again, for your strong advocacy on behalf of the next generation of University of Tasmania staff and students. We are very appreciative of this proactive support and look forward to further discussions with you and your team in the weeks ahead as the government's legislation is considered by Tasmania's elected representatives.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Farrelly', written in a cursive style.

Professor Nicholas Farrelly
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Campus Life (Southern Tasmania)
19 July 2024

FW: Reminder: Official Opening of The Workshop and Levee Studios at Inveresk - 12pm Friday 23 Feb

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Date Thu 15/02/2024 4:43 PM
To Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Cc Janie Finlay <janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au>

 1 attachment (107 KB)

Invitation to the Official Opening of The Workshop and Levee Studios at Inveresk;

Hi Marcus

Here are the details on the event next Friday which Janie is already attending – please let us know if Bec would like to attend and speak.

Let me know of any questions.

Cheers, Kate

From: Campus Transformation <Campus.Transformation@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 11:30 AM
Subject: Reminder: Official Opening of The Workshop and Levee Studios at Inveresk - 12pm Friday 23 Feb

Good morning,

A reminder that the [Official Opening of The Workshop and Levee Studios](#) will be held next week, celebrating the transformation of this historic industrial building into a creative hub for Creative Arts and Media, Architecture and Design and ICT.

Date: Friday 23rd February
Time: 12:00pm – 12.45pm
Location: The Workshop at Inveresk is marked 11 on the [Inveresk Campus Map](#) (previously known as the Architecture and Design building)

Parking on the day:

Parking is available in the Northern car park, entrance via Forster Street with a 5-min walk. Accessible parking is via the entrance off Invermay Rd/Lindsay St.

Touring the space:

A light lunch will be provided and there will be opportunities to tour the renovated space following the formalities.

Haven't RSVP'd yet?

If you're still yet to register for the opening there's time, although we encourage you to do so ASAP

for catering purposes.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

For any questions in the meantime, please reach out to
Campus.Transformation@utas.edu.au.

Best wishes,

The Campus Transformation team

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From: Campus Transformation <campus.transformation=utas.edu.au@cmail20.com> on behalf of Campus Transformation <campus.transformation@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Thursday, 14 December 2023 10:53 AM
To: Kate Huntington
Subject: Invitation to the Official Opening of The Workshop and Levee Studios at Inveresk

No images? [Click here](#)



INVITATION

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Rufus Black, invites

Kate Huntington

to the

Official Opening of The Workshop and Levee Studios at Inveresk

The refurbishment of this iconic building is part of the University's Northern Transformation. It brings together teaching and research in Architecture and Design, Creative Arts and Media and Information and Communication Technology as a new creative hub for the Precinct.

Join project partners to mark the official opening and celebration on

Friday, 23 February 2024

12.00 - 12.45pm

2-4 Invermay Road
Inveresk Precinct, Launceston

Please RSVP by 16 February.

RSVP

University of Tasmania
Email: campus.transformation@utas.edu.au
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FW: Sandy Bay legislation introduced

From Kate Huntington <Kate.Huntington@UTAS.EDU.AU>
Date Thu 20/06/2024 3:37 PM
To Sarah Lovell <sarah.lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Cc Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Hi Sarah
Our message to staff regarding the legislation is below FYI.
Kate

From: Professor Ian Anderson AO <listserv@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 3:35 PM
To: Kate Huntington <Kate.Huntington@UTAS.EDU.AU>
Subject: Sandy Bay legislation introduced

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Sandy Bay legislation introduced

Dear colleagues,

Minister Madeleine Ogilvie today introduced legislation that would require the University to get the approval of Tasmania's Parliament to sell or lease land at the Sandy Bay campus.

You can read the legislation on the [Tasmanian Parliament website](#).

This legislation places unnecessary constraints on the University at a time when we are navigating a complex financial environment and major, once-in-a-generation reforms to the higher education sector.

We have made our initial concerns clear to the Government and expressed our disappointment that we were not given the opportunity to see the legislation and engage in proper consultation before it was introduced. Our legal team is currently examining the legislation to ensure we understand the full potential consequences for the University.

As you know, making a difference for Tasmania is central to our mission.

We are currently working to ensure the Australian Government's reforms to the sector, which include significant changes to international education, will benefit Tasmania. You can read our submission on the proposed International Education Framework on our [website](#).

Given the Sandy Bay campus was originally Commonwealth land provided to the University via a transfer through the State in 1951 for the purposes of sustaining higher education in Tasmania, we have also urged the State Government to consult with the Commonwealth about the impact this legislation will have for resourcing higher education in Tasmania into the future.

Our key priority remains renewing science, technology, engineering and maths facilities in the South. Tasmania urgently needs investment in STEM facilities, which would cost in the order of \$500 million. The legislation introduced today would severely limit our ability to fund a project of this scale, so we are pleased Minister Ogilvie and the State Government are committed to securing funding.

Dr Angela Castles, Acting Executive Dean of the College of Sciences and Engineering, is working with colleagues and students to build a picture of our future STEM facilities needs as part of the College's ongoing Future of Sciences and Engineering strategy process, supported by the Campus Futures team.

We will engage with the State Government and the Tasmanian Parliament to find a constructive path forward. Professor Nicholas Farrelly, as Pro Vice-Chancellor with responsibility for Southern Tasmania, is leading this work.

Regards,

Ian



Professor Ian Anderson
Deputy Vice-Chancellor - Academic
Academic Division
University of Tasmania
Administration Building
Private Bag 3, Hobart, TAS, 7001
CRICOS 00586B



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FW: The Universities Accord & Tasmania

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Wed 6/03/2024 11:01 AM

To Josh Willie <josh.willie@taslabor.org.au>

 2 attachments (758 KB)

Accord Review - Summary and Initial Response.pdf; Accord and Tasmania - March 24 Presentation.pdf;

From: Kate Huntington

Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 11:00 AM

To: Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>; Josh Willie <Josh.Willie@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Subject: The Universities Accord & Tasmania

Hi Josh and Marcus

I know you're deep in campaign mode but I thought I'd still share with you our take on what the Accord means for Tasmania as with its primary policy focus on improving access for underrepresented groups (ie most Tasmanians) we think its going to be really significant over the long term for the University and Tasmania more broadly.

Attached is our initial summary which we shared with our large senior leadership (130+ people) last week and then the PowerPoint is a summary we shared with a range of key stakeholders at a breakfast last Friday morning, which touches on the outcomes of the Tasmanian school system and how it prepares Tasmanians for their post school education. Slide 18 particularly resonated with the audience.

Happy to discuss as is useful, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications

University of Tasmania

Admin Building | Private Bag 51

Hobart TAS 7001

0432 389 793

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#1 in climate
action globally
THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS 2023

We acknowledge the Aboriginal people of Tasmania as Traditional Owners of the land on which this university is located.

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.

The Australian Universities Accord Summary and Initial Thoughts

26 February 2024

The Final Report of the Accord Panel articulates a bold goal to create a high quality universal higher education system for Australia and a more impact focused research system with a strengthened base of discovery research, which includes additional investment in the Australian Research Council to discover the new knowledge that in time will contribute to solving the challenges of the nation, region, and world.

At over 400 pages, there is much richness and attention to specific issues in the Accord Panel's final report, so this summary aims to explain the broad policy agenda and logic that is set out, as well as an initial assessment of the implications for the University of Tasmania.

A universal higher education system

The Accord sets the objective to see the system provide *all* Australians with the opportunity to obtain higher education. The reason is that by 2050 over 80% of all jobs will require higher education, which means that 90% of 25-34 year olds in the workforce will require a tertiary education (both HE and VET). For the Higher Education sector this means 55% of 25-34 year olds having a bachelor's degree or higher by 2050. That is a doubling of the number of students in higher education by 2035, growing to at least 1.8m students in higher education by 2050 compared to 860,000 today.

Overall, what this means is that close to all school leavers need to be going into tertiary education by 2050. Anyone who doesn't go from school into tertiary education will need to have their opportunity to reach the education standard to attend university. That is a universal higher education system. Equality and economic progress will depend on achieving that objective.

The only way that objective can be achieved is through a higher percentage of students in currently under-represented groups (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, low SES groups, those living in regional and remote areas, and people with disabilities) successfully completing tertiary education.

The Accord offers four key strategies to meet this challenge.

1. Access to a high-quality system through a radical expansion of pathways education

The Accord is very clear that high entry standards to universities need to be maintained. Therefore, there needs to be strong 'enabling' or pathways programs to enable promising but underprepared students to meet those standards. The report looks to universities to expand that pathways education. It proposes full cost funding of these places, at no cost to students, for as many students who seek that opportunity.

2. Removal of equity barriers

To tackle equity barriers the Accord proposes three key strategies:

1. **Needs based funding** of students to ensure their success with specific loadings for First Nations students, students from low SES backgrounds, students with disabilities, and students on regional campus. The funding model for eliminating equity barriers mirrors exactly our recommendations.
2. **Reducing financial barriers to study**. The Accord proposes a key set of initiatives to address what the Panel recognise as study poverty, including:
 - Important reform to the social welfare system so that a wider group of students receive more adequate funding;
 - Payments for placements in teaching, nursing, and social work courses; and
 - A jobs broker to enable students to get part-time work in jobs aligned with their study.

The reforms also include improvements to the HELP system to make it a more equitable scheme and reduce the prospect of unreasonable levels of debt being a barrier to participation.

3. **Reducing geographical barriers** through a further increase in study hubs and improved regional access scholarships.

3. Strengthened regional education

The Accord report is very clear about the value of regional education. It says the Panel ‘sees regional tertiary education institutions as crucial to meeting the nation’s current and future knowledge and skills needs. Without flourishing regional institutions, an accessible, strong and transformative tertiary education sector is simply not possible.’ In support of that, the Accord makes the case for additional investment in regional tertiary education.

The report observes that the initiatives to remove equity barriers will see significantly better operational funding for regional universities and recommends that there is work needed across government to support the growth of international education in regional and remote areas.

There is a very concrete recommendation to grow the number of places for medical students in regional Australia.

Importantly, it recognises a pressing need for better capital funding of regional universities. It observes, ‘Without adequate investment in new, maintained and replacement infrastructure, there will likely be an exacerbation of the existing financial pressures felt by regional universities as well as a further erosion of student load in regional areas’. It recognises this will need to be addressed to achieve the Accord’s objectives and it proposes that the funding come from a new ‘Higher Education Future Fund’.

4. More flexible course structures

The Accord Report suggests that increasing the level of successful participation will require more flexible courses structures with an expansion of stackable micro-credentials; more expansive recognition of course credits within and across universities; and greater recognition of prior learning.

Maintaining quality as the system grows

The Accord Report is concerned to make sure that as the system grows substantially, the quality of education and the student experience remains high — and in some areas like student safety, improves. Central to the approach is to establish a national Student Charter on the welfare, safety, and wellbeing of all students. Complementing this direction is the *Action Plan Addressing Gender-based Violence in Higher Education* released on Friday, which includes a National Student Ombudsman and a clear national code that sets the standards for prevention and response.

The Accord Report wants to see teaching quality and the status of teaching improved. It sees a role for strengthened monitoring to ensure universities are teaching with evidence-based, best practice approaches, and they are investing in the development of teaching capabilities. The Panel also emphasise the need to increase the indigenisation of the curriculum.

A strengthened, more impact focused research system

The Accord Report looks at university research in the context of total national research and development expenditure. It observes that our national level of R&D expenditure is low, with higher education research forming a much larger proportion of it compared to other countries. It also observes that Australia's innovation outputs are low.

The Panel calls for a strategic review of our overall R&D system and puts a strong emphasis on the need for 'making sure Australian university research has maximum impact'. In support of that agenda, it proposes a strategic fund aimed to reward 'real world' impact.

The Report does recognise that impact is ultimately built on discovery research, which is an important, intrinsically worthwhile goal. It argues that there is a need for a significant increase in the funding of basic research through the ARC.

The themes of impact and discovery are complemented by an emphasis on the need to strengthen and better support First Nations research and to grow the First Nations research community.

The Report recognises that to deliver these changes, the Research Training System needs to be strengthened with PhD programs that develop a broader range of skills that prepare people better for careers beyond academia; and that in order to attract and retain the required talented students and for them to be treated fairly, research stipends need to increase.

A Better and Actively Managed System

The Report recommends creating an Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC) - with a scope covering the full mission of teaching and research- who are tasked to coordinate and manage these overall objectives in order to deliver this high-quality system. Its greatest influence will come from it being a pricing authority and the entity that negotiates university compacts that set domestic student numbers. There is important recognition of the need to increase the role of First Nations people in all levels of the governance and management of the system from the Commission itself down to local levels in universities.

A powerful vision that will rest on the detail and funding

The Accord provides a sweeping and compelling vision for higher education. To realise that vision will require an extraordinary amount of work on the detail, and very large budget commitments running into the billions. The only proposed funding mechanism is a Higher Education Future Fund to be created from co-contributions from universities based on their capability to contribute and matched by government. It is a welcome initiative, but it will take years to create, and the income from it will only cover a portion of what is recommended.

How far this vision will be realised will depend on years of work and the need for successive governments to find substantial funding in a highly pressured budget. In welcoming the Report's direction, the Minister made the challenge of implementation very clear in his press release: "This is a plan not for one budget, but a blueprint for the next decade and beyond."

So what does this mean for the University of Tasmania?

Overall, the direction set by the Accord is very supportive of the strategic direction we have for teaching, research, access and equity, regional delivery, and long-term financial sustainability. If fully implemented and funded, it would be transformative for our university and Tasmania.

The themes emphasising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governance, indigenising the curriculum, and strengthening the First Nations research system are all well aligned with our agenda, although ours are more ambitious than the one in this final version of the Review.

The commitment to ensure the higher education institutions are safe places for staff and students, free from sexual violence and harassment, is as important to the Accord Panel as it is to us.

On the teaching front, providing a needs-based funding model that will better support our ability to deliver a high-quality experience to our diverse student cohort is very welcome.

All the strategies to reduce barriers to higher education are well aligned with our approach and very welcome. The prospect of better financial support for students, which is urgently needed, by addressing the broader social welfare system issues that need reform and the changes to HELP to make it fairer are also very welcome.

The significant support for a dramatically expanding pathways education program to enable increased access, while retaining high entrance standards, will be critical to Tasmania's future and a major opportunity for us. In Tasmania today only 53% of students meet the requirement of a senior secondary certificate (compared to Victoria at 82%) and only 22% have a bachelor's degree or above, which means we have the nation's greatest need for a much larger pathways program. The reforms proposed offer a strong funding model to support such a program.

Broad policy support for whole government efforts to grow international education in regional areas is a very positive development, especially in Tasmania where more international students would make a valuable long-term contribution in the face of an aging and shrinking population.

The Accord's narrative and proposal are very supportive of our strategic direction for research and will enable us to continue to strengthen our research profile and impact. The encouragement to reform PhD programs is very much consistent with our thinking too.

The funding model offers the prospect of funding that is far better aligned with our context, and it would significantly improve our long-term financial sustainability. It offers:

- A future funding model for teaching that is better aligned with our actual cost of delivery, moving from funding based on the average cost of educating an average student in a large metropolitan university, to one based on the cost of delivery, which takes into account the additional costs to meet diverse student needs and regional delivery. It will replace the deeply problematic JRG funding structure. The model is essentially the same as the one we proposed and in the long run will help create a much more financially sustainable university.
- A funding model that has a floor to it to reduce the impact of the volatility of student loads, which would be very helpful to us.
- The recognition of the pressing need for infrastructure funding for regionally based universities like ours.
- A transition funding model that recognises the need to avoid sudden changes.

The Accord still aims to achieve scale by making universities even bigger, but it encourages universities to find new ways to organise themselves to improve student and staff experiences. The feedback from our strategic refresh sessions make it clear this encouragement is welcome across the University.

Finally, a strong entity like an Australian Tertiary Education Commission to manage the system is very important for a university like ours to ensure that unchecked market forces don't prevent the objectives of the reform agenda being fully delivered in Tasmania.



Australian Universities Accord and the Tasmanian Context

Professor Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor

March 2024



The Universities Accord will guide Higher Education Policy reforms over the coming years, with a strong direction on how higher education needs to evolve.

From the late 1980s, Higher Education Policy in Australia has driven a shift from an elite system to the mass higher education system we have today.

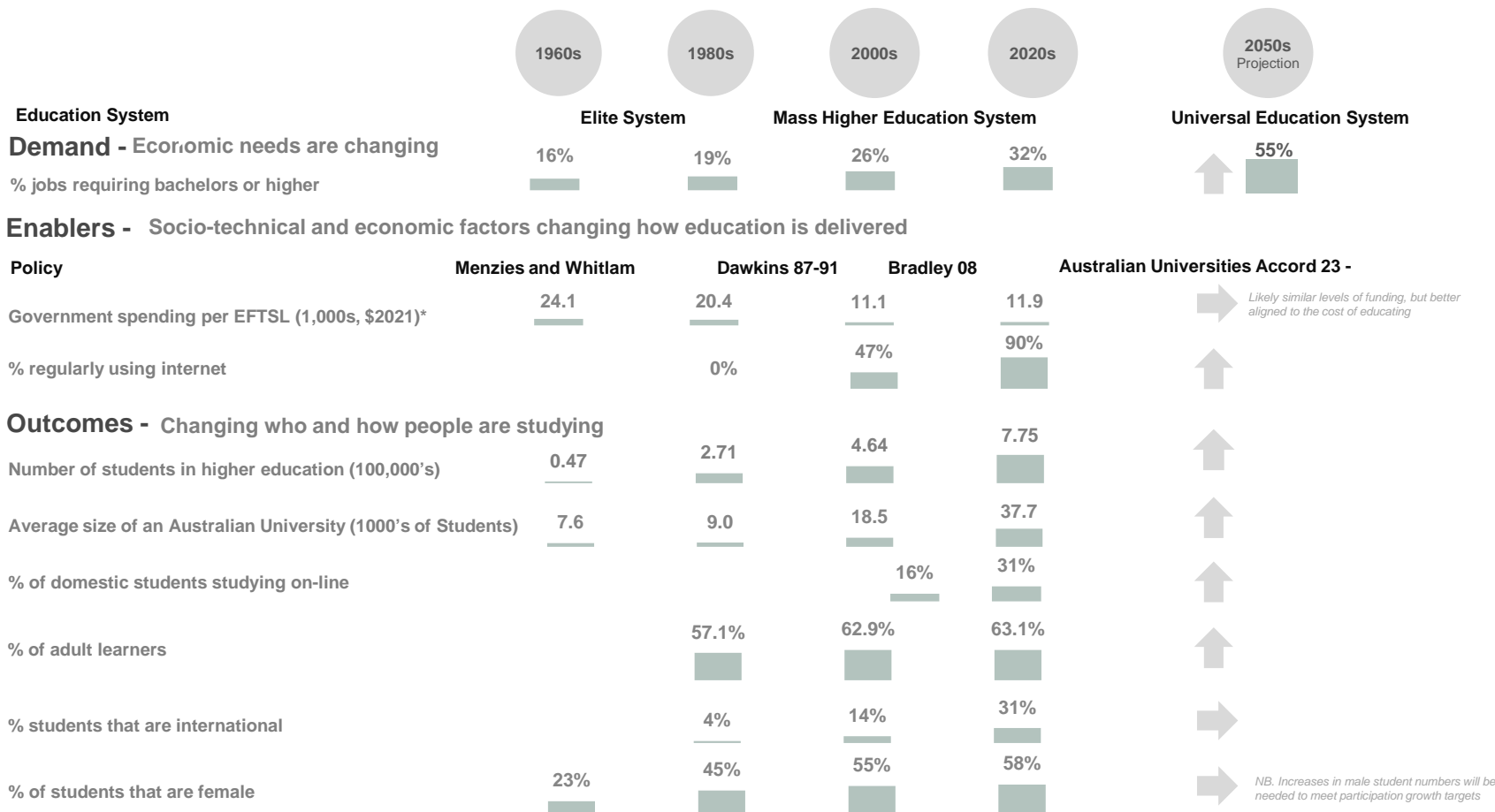
This shift has helped shape the University of Tasmania we see today: a high quality, high performing university with a larger and more diverse student population.

To create an equitable and economically prosperous future, the Australian Universities Accord sets a shift from a mass to a universal education system, accessible to more people.

This is important for Tasmania, due to serious inequalities in the state, requiring reform at all levels of education to meet the Accord's objectives.

The University is well placed to contribute to meeting these challenges, improving equity while maintaining excellence

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Higher Education Policy in Australia has driven a shift from an elite system to the mass higher education system we have today.



The Universities Accord will guide Higher Education Policy reforms over the coming years, with a strong direction on how higher education needs to evolve.

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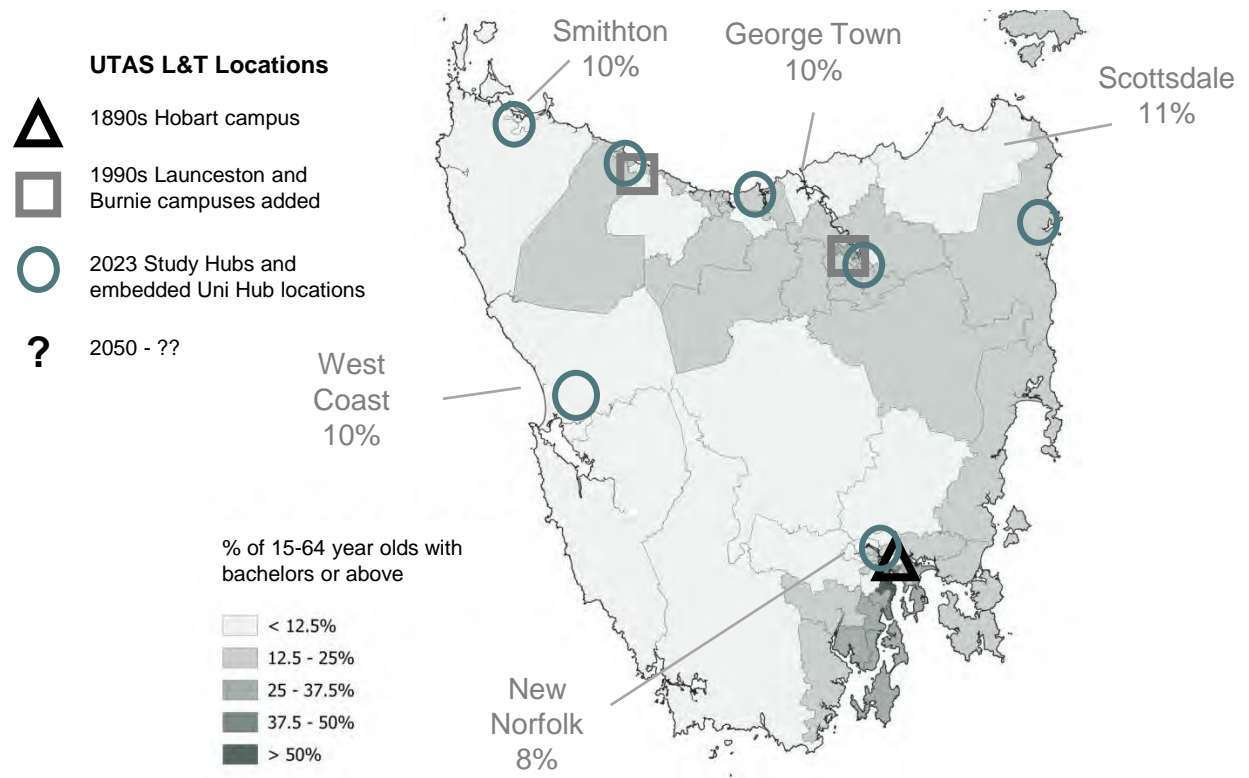
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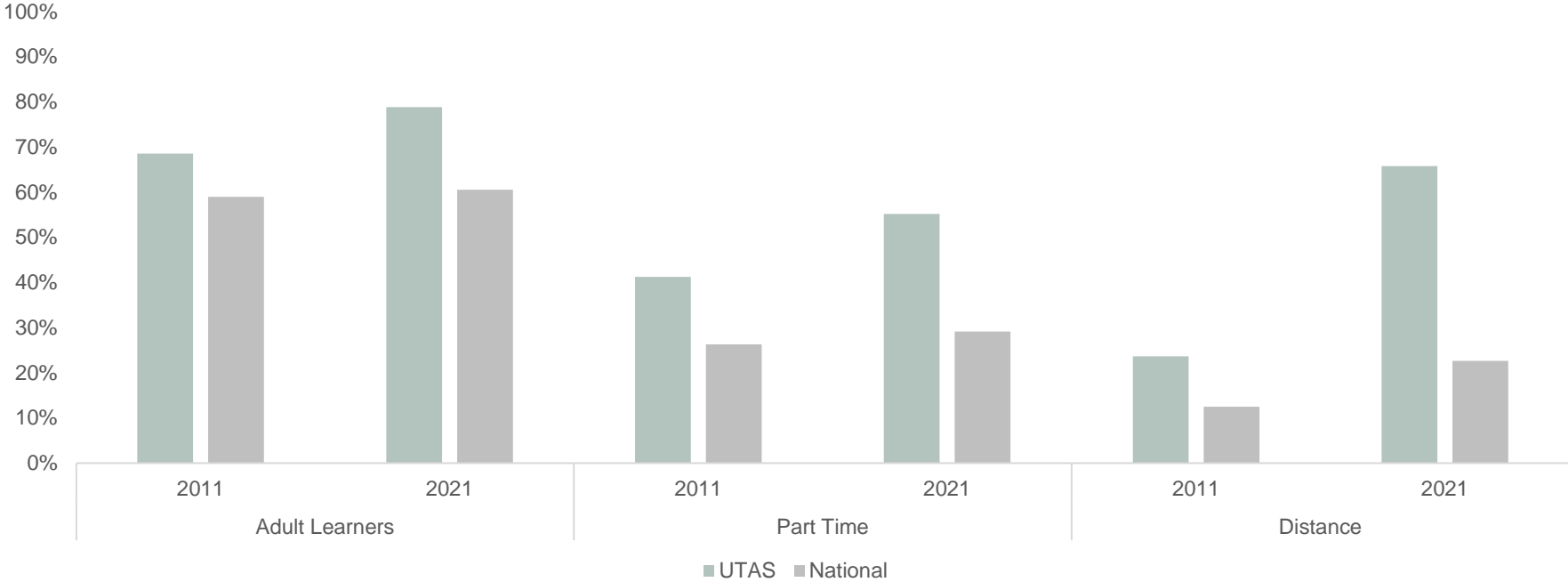
Increasing higher education participation has dramatically changed the footprint of universities like UTAS



Source: ABS Table Builder, Level of Educational Attainment (HEAP), 2021 census data. Data in chart by SA2 region level. Note 'King Island' and 'Flinders and Cape Barren Island' are 14% and 17% respectively.

We have seen a significant growth in adult, part-time, on-line learners as we meet participation and critical mass objectives

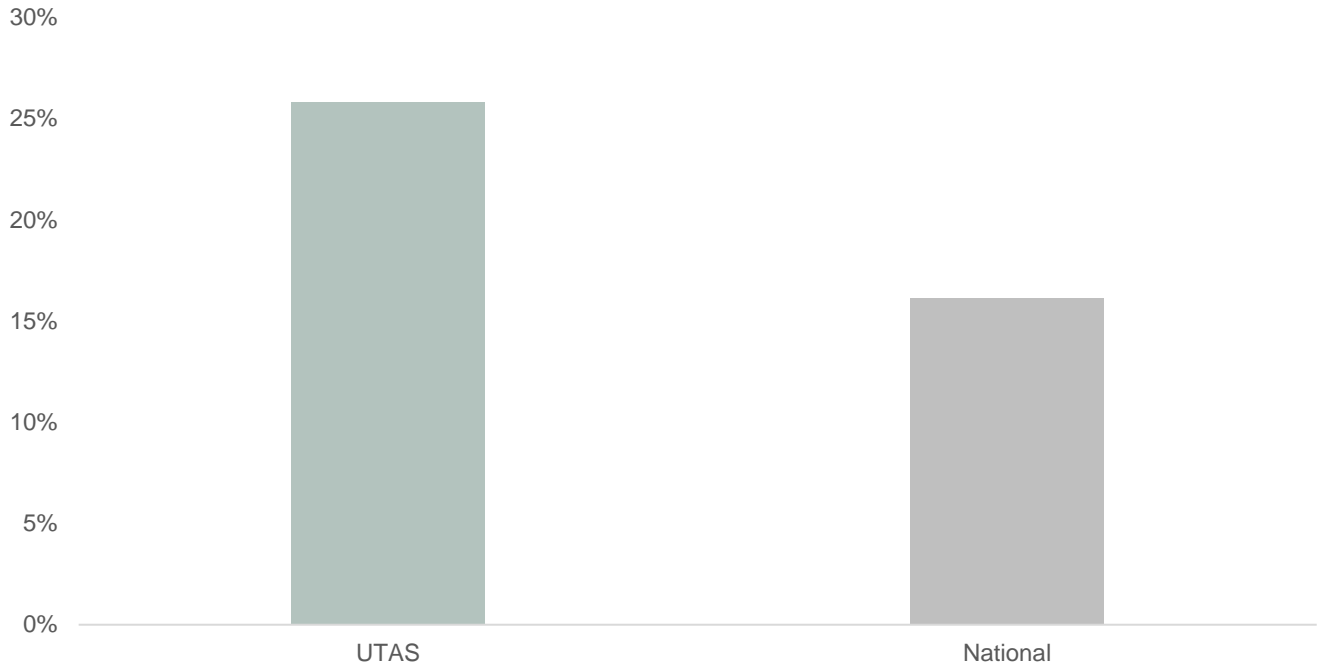
Percentage of enrolments, domestic on-line, part time and domestic adult learners, 2011 and 2021



Source: HEIMS Course Enrolments table, and Enterprise Data Warehouse Course Enrolments table, commencing students. An adult learner is a commencing student aged 20 and over.

The University of Tasmania continues to educate a high rate of students from lower socio-economic backgrounds, particularly relative to the sector

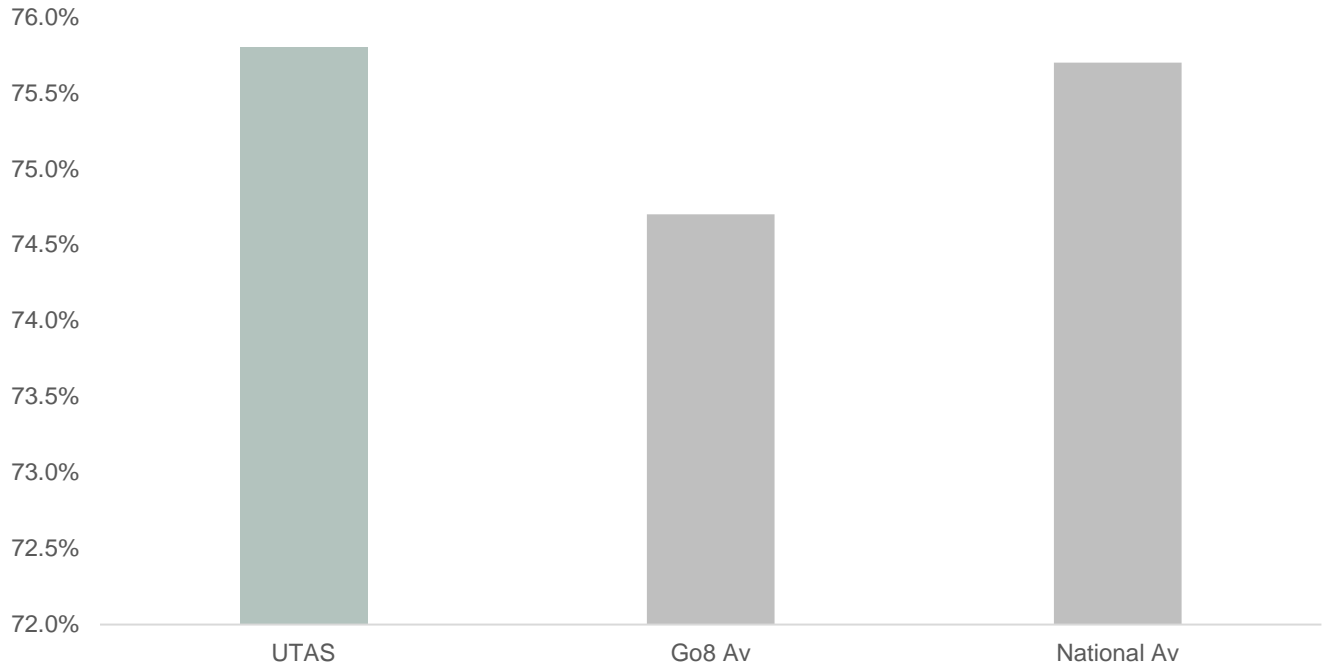
Percentage of lower socio-economic commencing domestic enrolments, 2021



Source: HEIMS and Enterprise Data Warehouse Course Enrolments table, Domestic Commencing students

We are doing well: Student experience

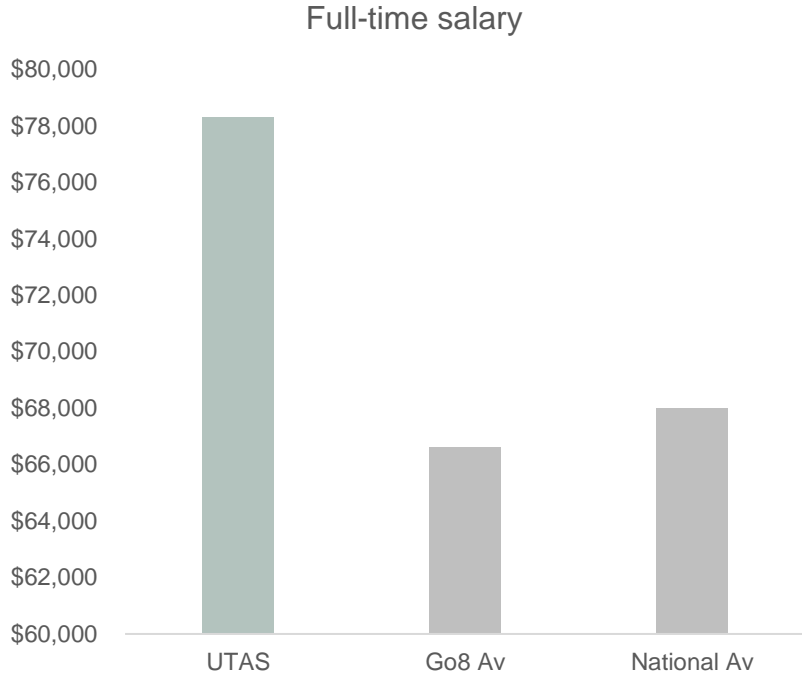
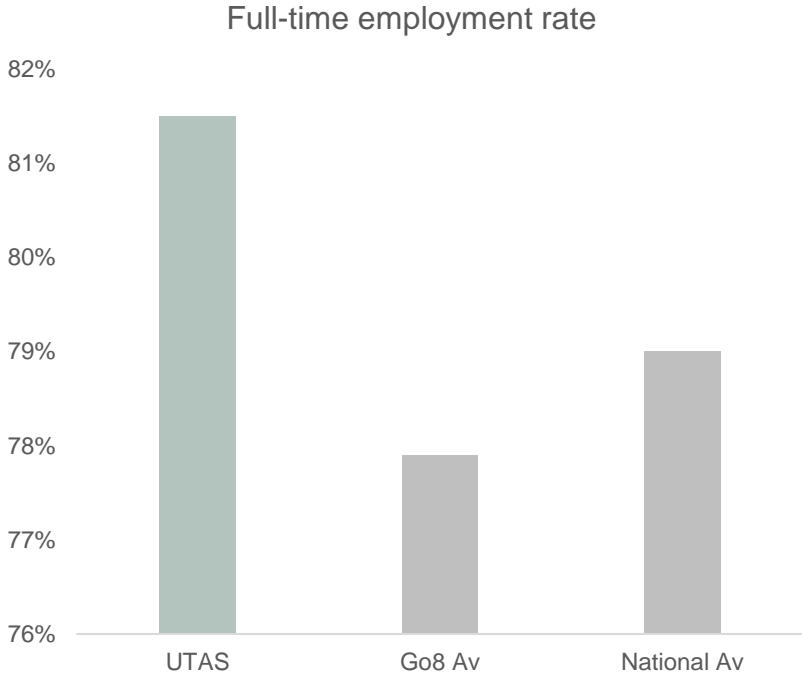
Student experience (% positive rating)



Source: 2022 Student Experience Survey, June 2023, QILT (Quality Indicators of Learning and Teaching)

We are doing well: Graduate outcomes

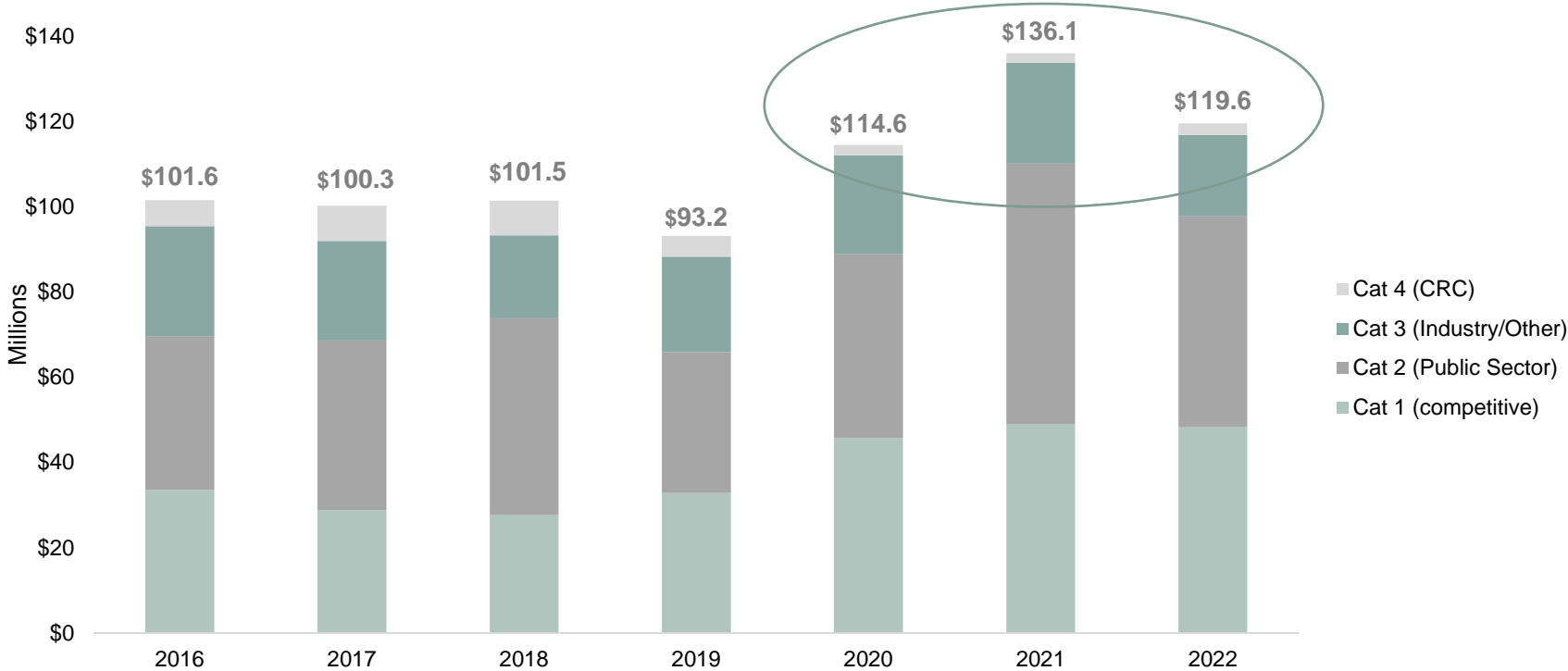
Graduate Outcomes Survey Performance



Source: 2022 Graduate Outcomes Survey, February 2023, QILT

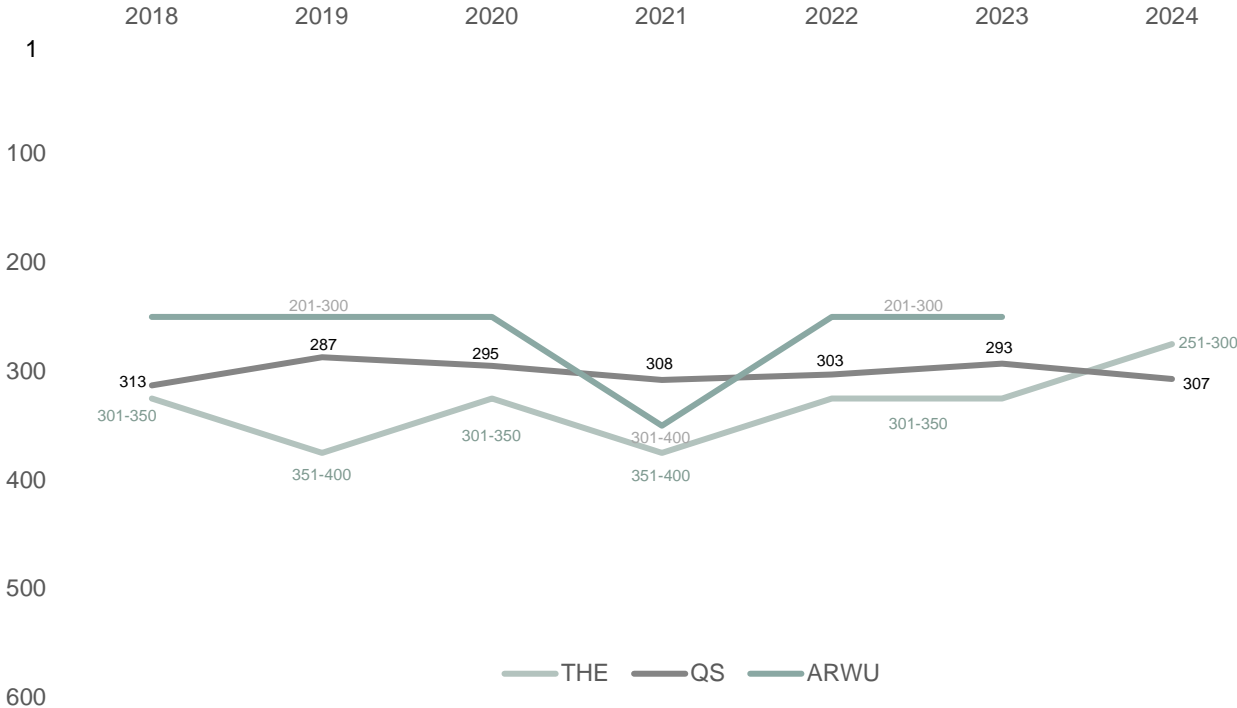
We are doing well: Research income

Research income by category, 2016-2022



We are doing well: Global Rankings

Ranking performance on major global University rankings, 2018-2024



Source: Times Higher Education World University Rankings, QS World University Rankings, ShanghaiRanking Academic Ranking of World Universities

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In November 2022, the Federal Minister for Education announced the ‘Australian Universities Accord’ review to recommend higher education reforms to meet the future needs of the nation.

- The Accord review considered how we can improve the **quality, accessibility and affordability of higher education** for the benefit of all Australians.
- The Final Report, released on Sunday 25 February, articulates a bold goal to create a **high quality universal higher education system** for Australia and a **more impact-focused research system**.
- The **Government is currently considering the Report’s recommendations**, including how these could be funded.



The Accord Final Report sets the goal of a high-quality universal education system for Australia by 2050. This includes four key strategies for policy reform:



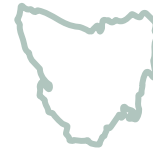
Enabling access via pathways programs

Funded preparation programs to enable underprepared students to meet university entry standards.



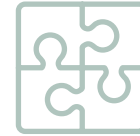
Removing equity barriers

Needs based funding of students including equity loadings, reducing financial barriers to study, and improving regional access.



Strengthening regional education

Supporting growth of international education, increased funding for regional medical student places, access to capital funding



A well-integrated HE/VET system

Including modular, stackable micro-credential and more seamless navigation between higher ed and VET courses.

The Accord report also proposes changes to university research, to result in a strengthened, more impact focused research system



Increased focus on Australian university research having impact with additional dedicated funding



Significant increase in ARC funding of basic research, as impact is built on discovery research.



PhD programs that prepare people for broad careers, with improved stipends to attract and retain research students.

The Accord also emphasises the need to strengthen and better support First Nations research

To deliver a universal higher education system, the Accord sets some bold targets for increasing tertiary attainment and improving equity.

By 2050, 80% of all jobs will require a tertiary qualification (Higher Education or VET).

To meet this need, 90% of young people finishing school need to go to TAFE or University.

The Accord report sets a target of 55% of Australians aged 25-34 to have a university qualification by 2050 to meet these workforce needs.

The Universities Accord will guide Higher Education Policy reforms over the coming years, with a strong direction on how higher education needs to evolve.

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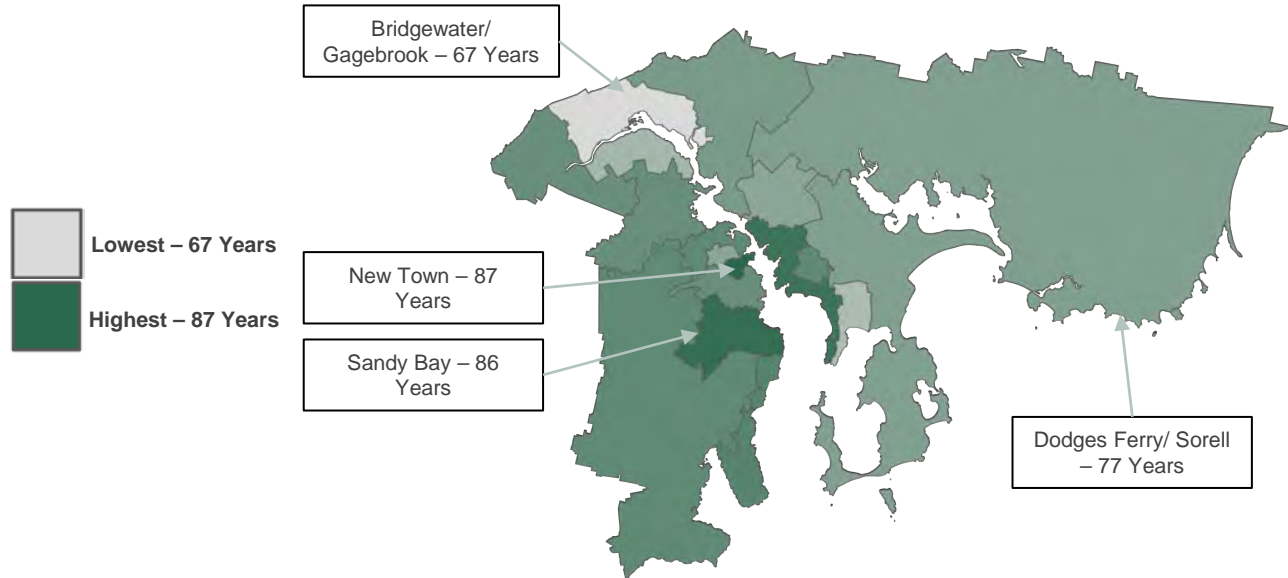
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Life expectancy is a way of summing up inequality. In Hobart alone, the inequality is extraordinary

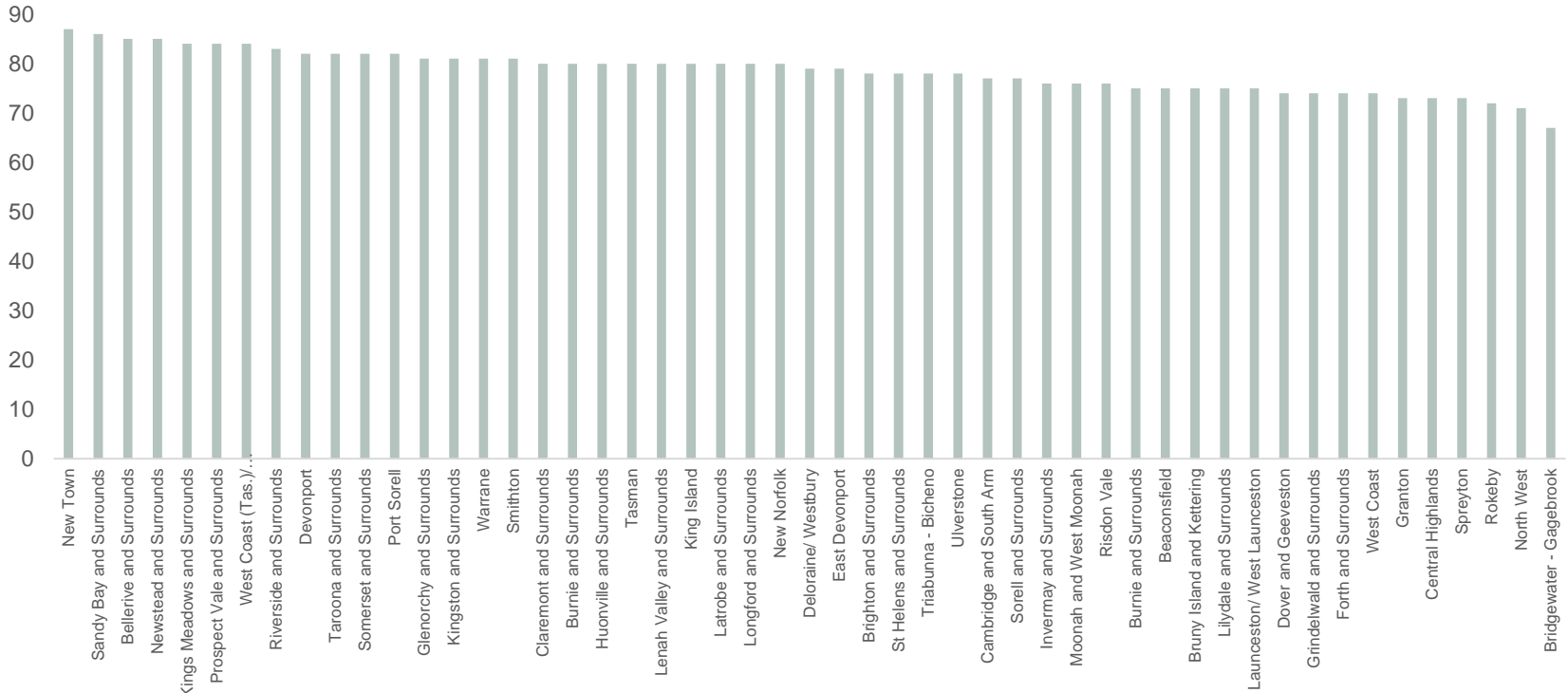
Life Expectancy in Greater Hobart, by Public Health Area, 2017 - 2021



- The difference between Bridgewater and New Town or Sandy Bay is stark.
- For every kilometre you travel north away from Sandy Bay you effectively lose a year of life expectancy.
- It is like comparing one of the richest places in the world (Hong Kong - 85 years) with one of the poorest (Eritrea - 67 years).

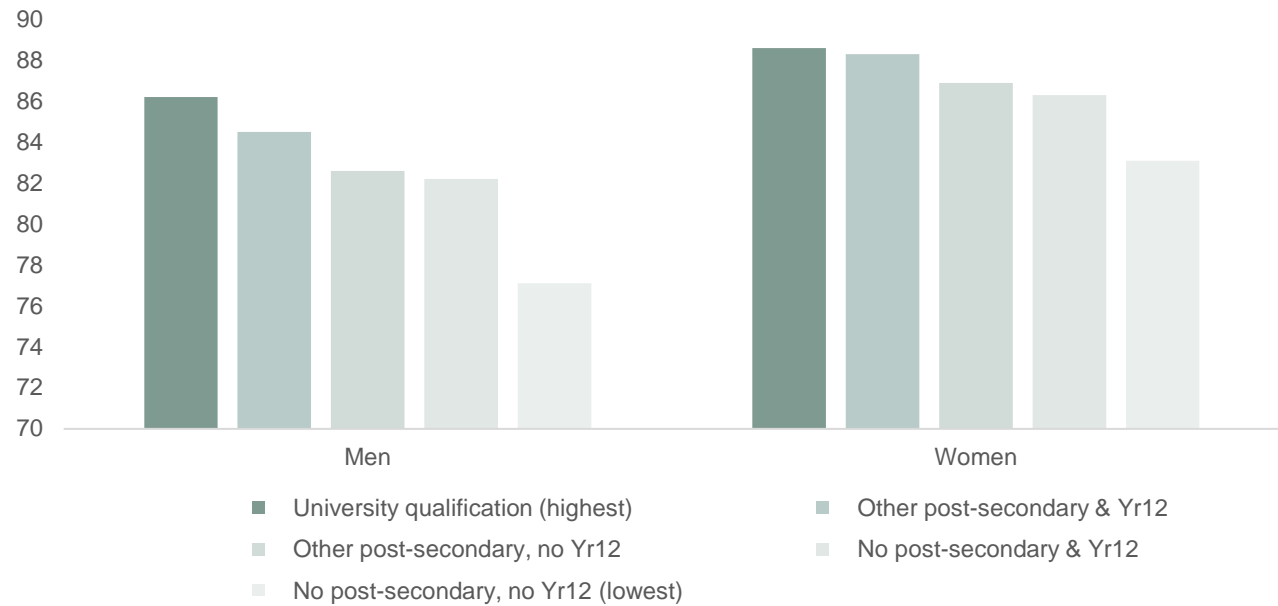
This variation in median age at death is seen across the State

Median Age at Death, by Population Health Area, 2017 - 2021



This is underpinned by education inequalities: health outcomes are correlated to education, with further education associated with greater life expectancy

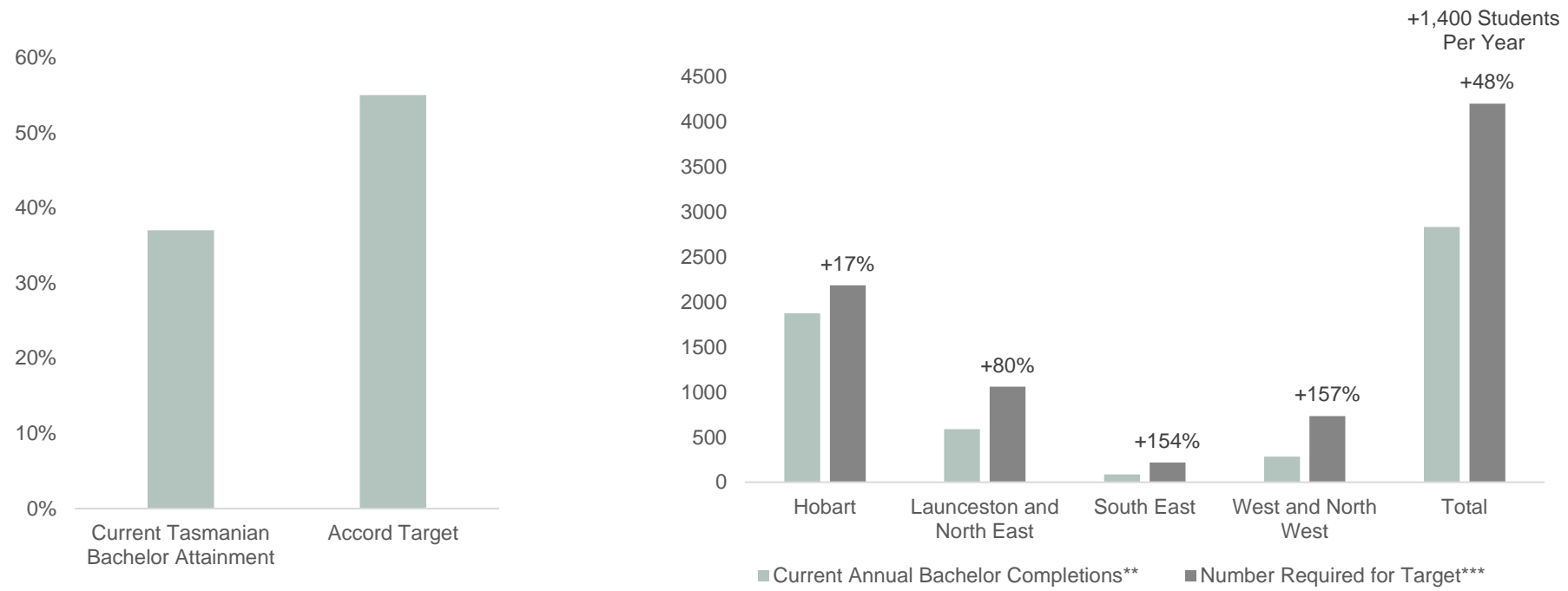
Life expectancy at age 25 for Australian, by level of education and sex, 2016



Absolute and relative differences by education level in life expectancy at ages 25, 45, 65 and 85 years for Australian men and women, 2016
<https://equityhealthj.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12939-021-01513-3/tables/1>

Tasmania will need a very strong focus on education at all levels to tackle this inequality and reach the Accord targets given our starting point

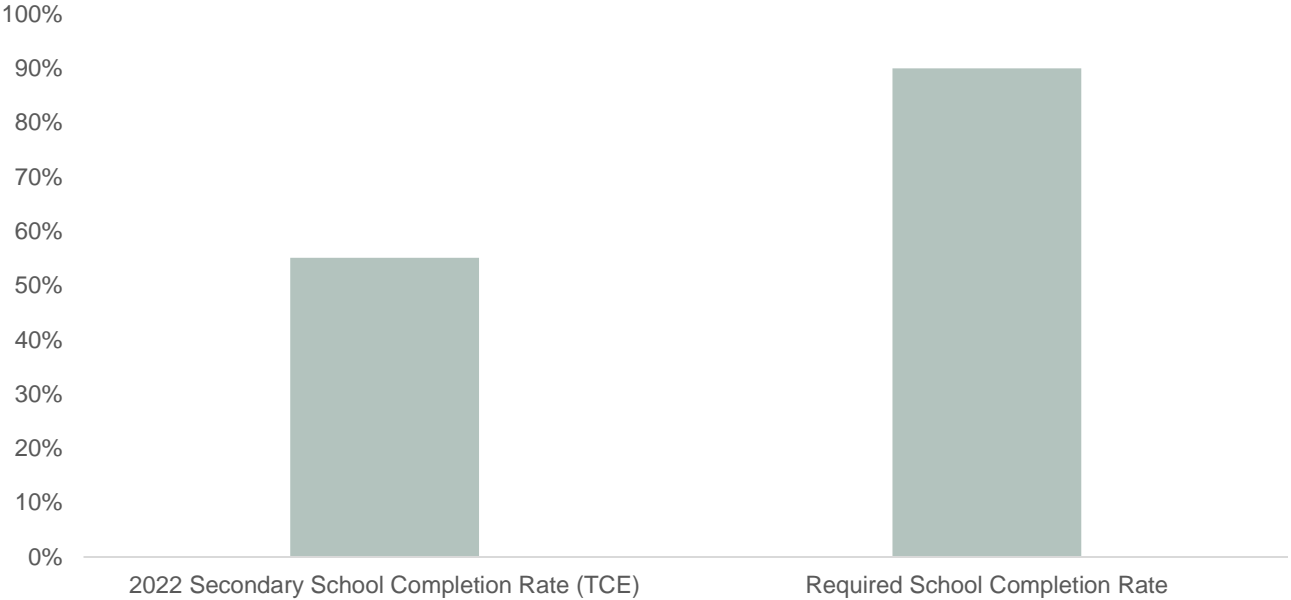
Estimated increase in Tasmanian bachelors attainment required to reach 55% by 2050 (by SA4 region)



Source: Estimated from bachelor attainment data from ABS TableBuilder, Census 2021 Level of Educational Attainment (HEAP), 2021 census. Includes non-University of Tasmania graduates in Tasmania
 * Estimate of annual bachelors completions indicative only based on 2021 census 25-34 Bachelor and above attainment population divided by number of years in cohort
 ** Estimates based on population size from 2021 census for 24-34 year olds and bachelor completion rates for the current 25-34 year old cohort. Does not include 9.3% estimated decline in population of 25-34 year olds between 2022 and 2050 as per ABS medium population projections for Tasmania

To achieve this uplift we will need to see 90% of school students coming to either university or TAFE and a significant increase in university completion rates

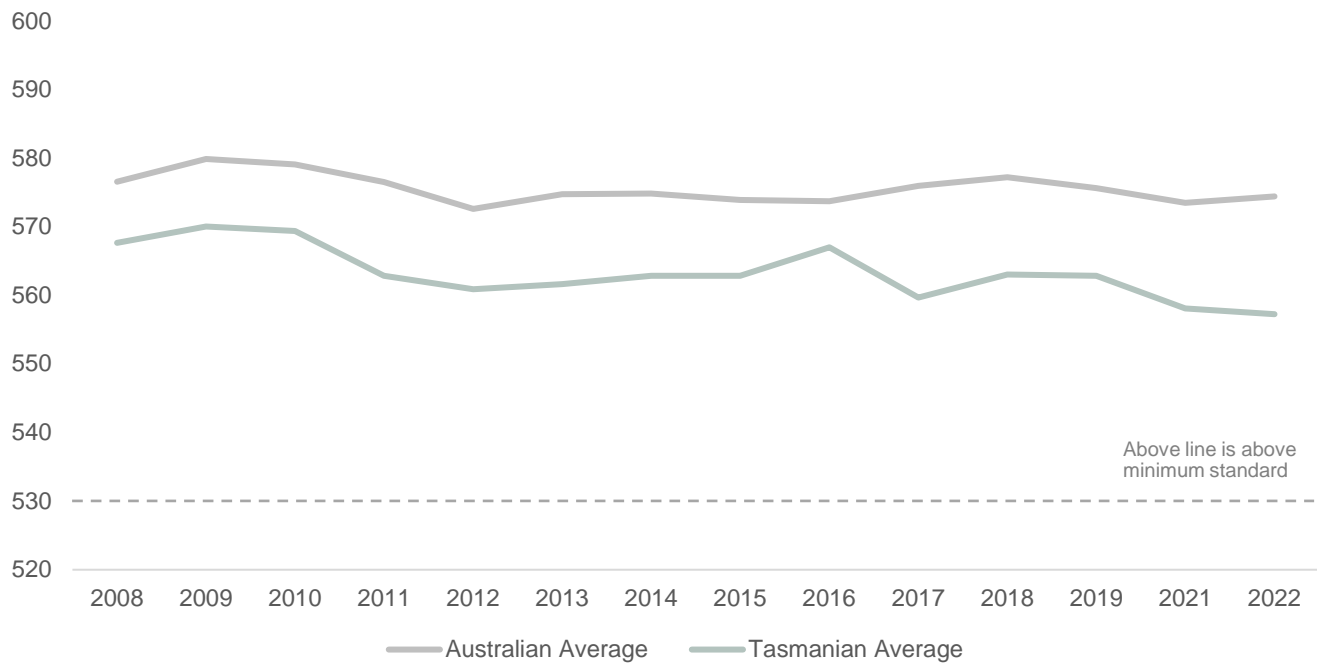
Current and Required School Completions



TASC Annual Report 2022/23. Note: The potential Year 12 population is based on an age-weighted value using Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates for the number of persons aged 15-19 years in Tasmania in the given year..

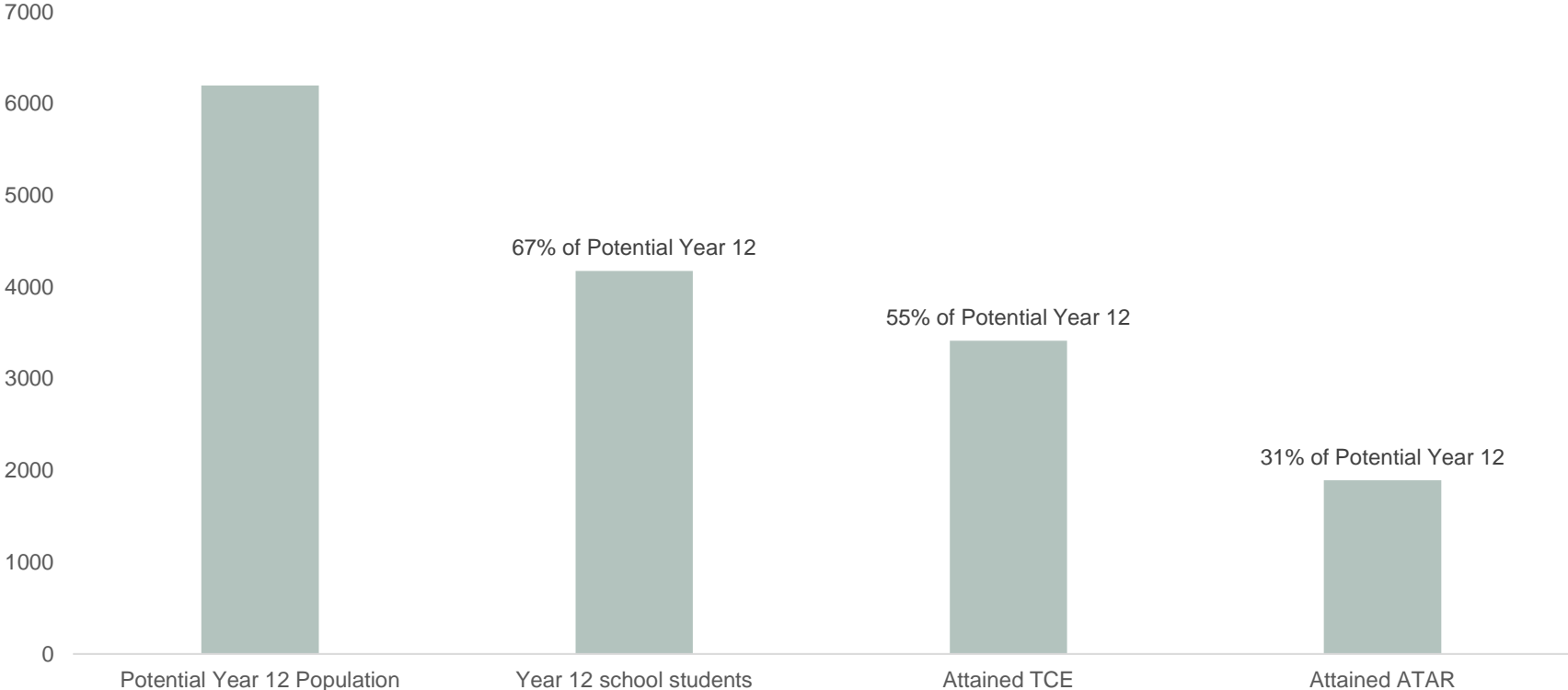
It starts in schools where Tasmanian students are less well prepared than the national average with NAPLAN results consistently below the Australian average

Tasmanian vs Australian Average NAPLAN result Average, Year 9 Students, 2008 - 2022



- In 2022, the gap between the Tasmanian and Australian average result increased to 17 points.
- Between Year 7 and Year 9, the national minimum standard increases by 52 points NAPLAN points
- Based on this, the current difference between Tasmanians and Australia represents being approximately half a year behind the rest of Australia

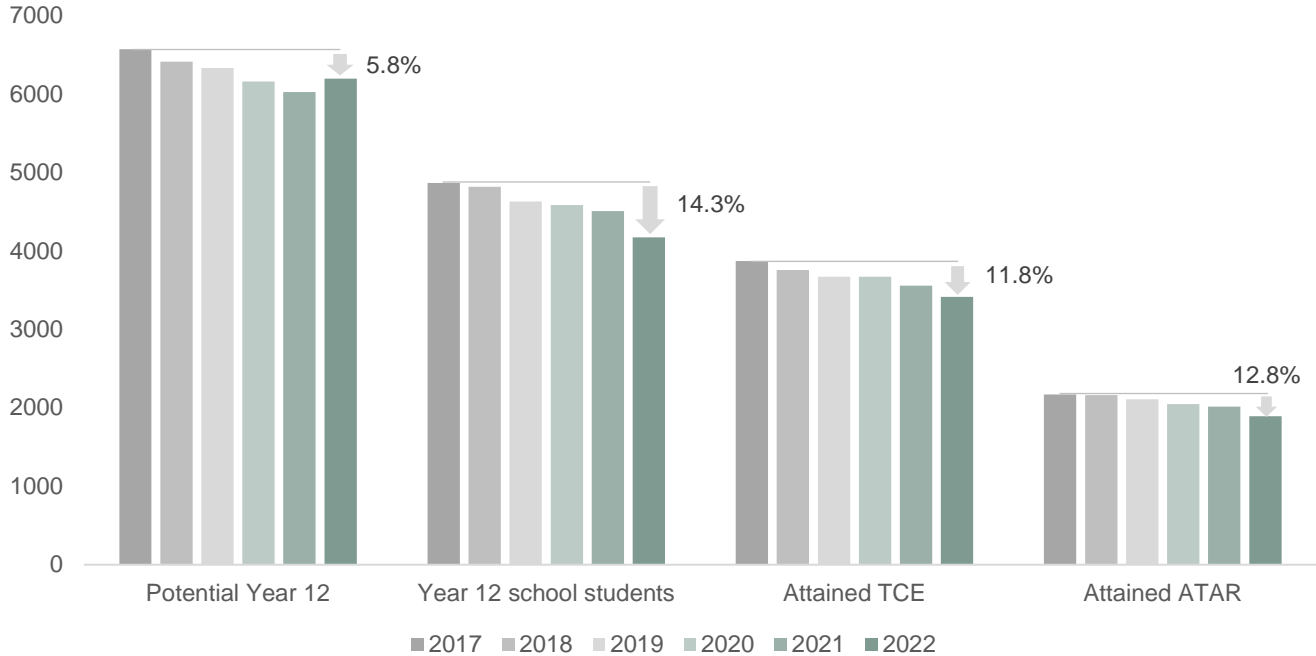
In 2022, of the potential year 12 population, only 55% finished and only 31% gained an ATAR



TASC Annual Report 2022/23. Note: The potential Year 12 population is based on an age-weighted value using Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates for the number of persons aged 15-19 years in Tasmania in the given year.

What is more concerning is that these completion rates have been in decline

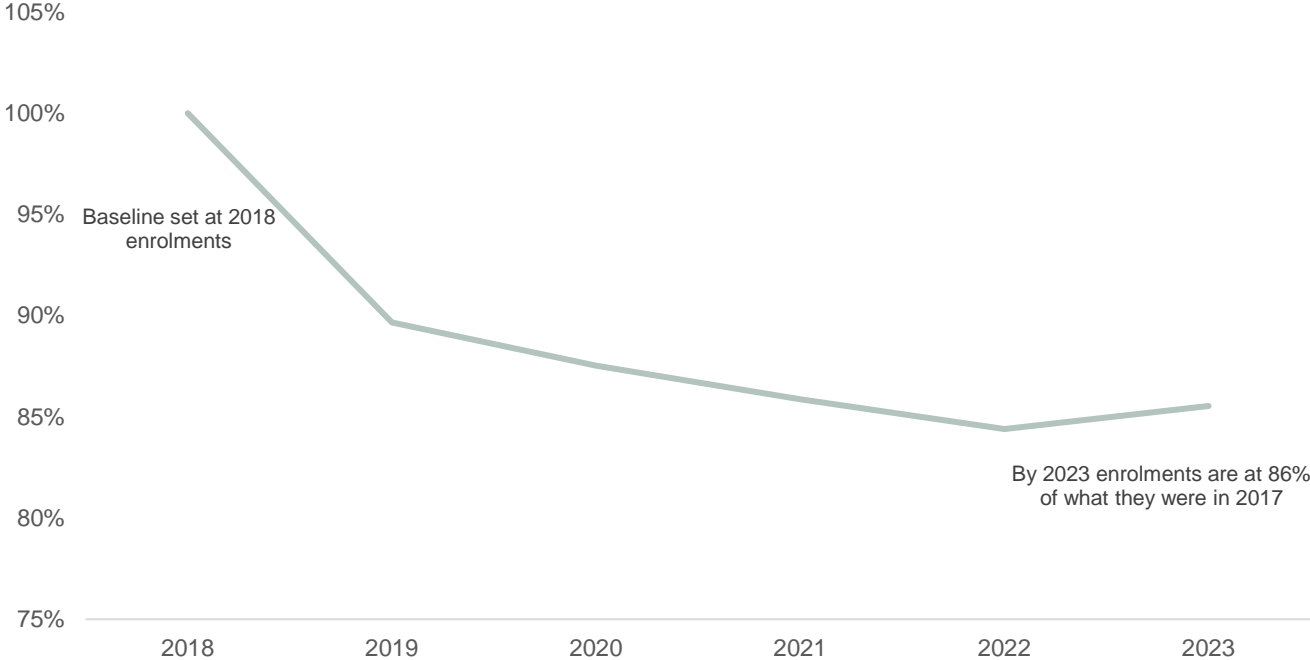
Number of Tasmanian Year 12 Students, 2017 - 2022



TASC Annual Report 2022/23. Note: The potential Year 12 population is based on an age-weighted value using Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates for the number of persons aged 15-19 years in Tasmania in the given year.

Even those completing year 12 are studying fewer of the subjects needed for university admission. Since just 2018 this has fallen 14 percentage points.

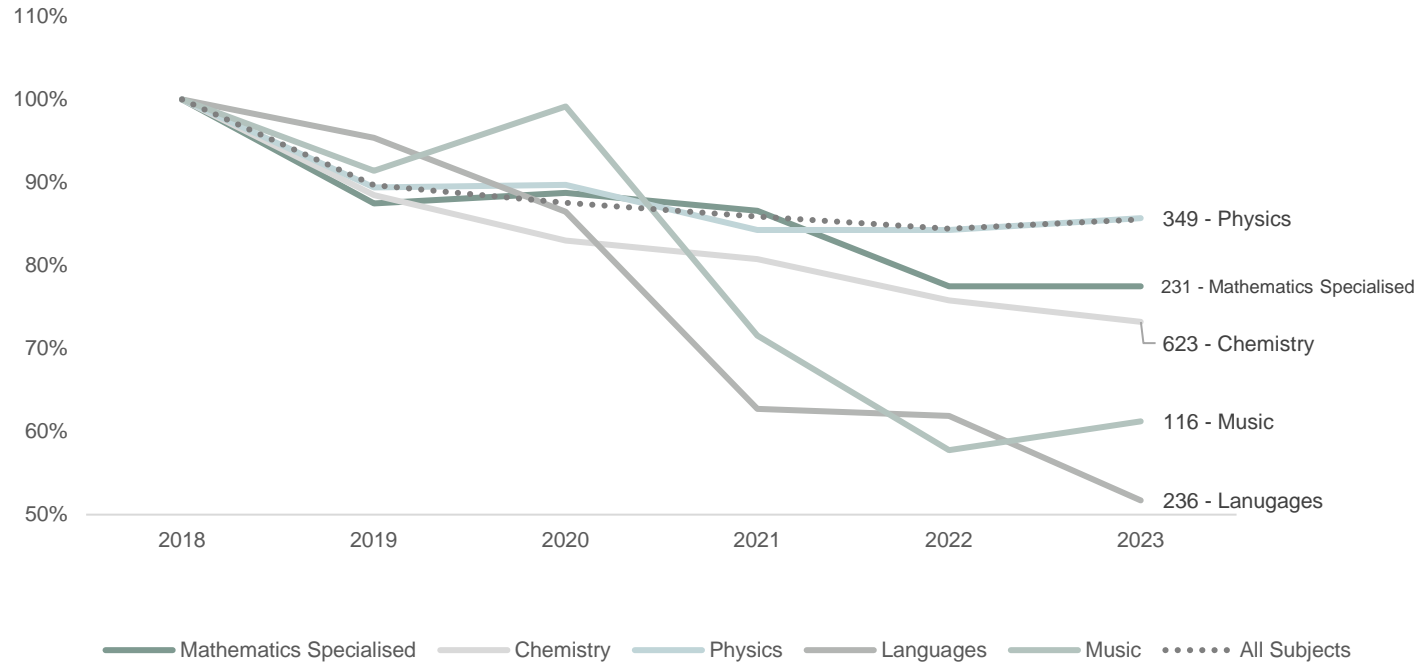
Percent change in enrolments in all pre-tertiary classes (2018 as baseline) Tasmania, 2018 - 2023



TASC Course Scaling Data, 2018 – 2023, Figures are indexed to 2018 levels.
Note that this chart relates to enrolments in classes, not absolute student numbers (with each student enrolling in one or more class)

And we are seeing substantial drops in enrolments in some of the key school subjects required to study STEM, languages, and music at a tertiary level.

Percent change in enrolments in key pre-tertiary subjects (2018 as baseline) Tasmania, 2018 - 2023



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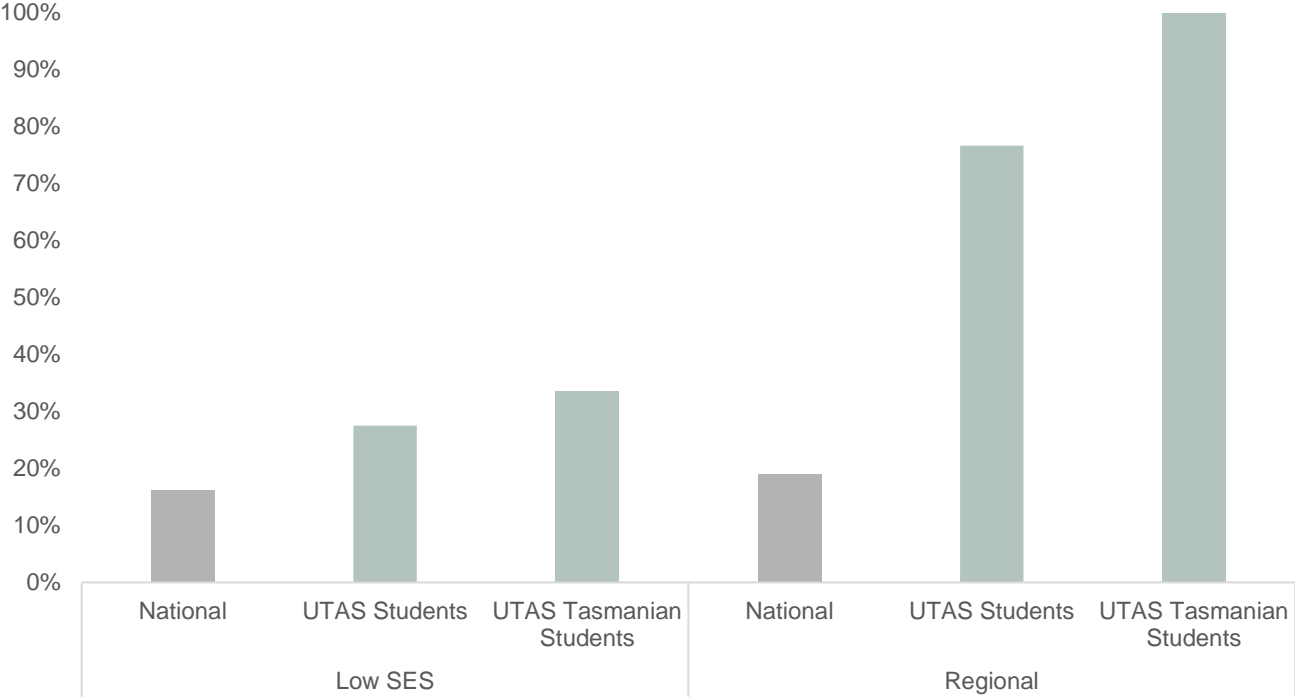
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We educate a higher rate of low SES and regional students relative to the sector, so we are well placed to deliver on equity targets

Percentage of lower socio-economic and regional commencing domestic bachelor enrolments, 2022



Source: HEIMS and Enterprise Data Warehouse Course Enrolments table, Domestic Commencing Bachelor students, excluding students where Address is unknown.

While continuing to be a world class research institution through our specialist research institutes and areas of international distinctiveness



Institute for Marine & Antarctic Studies (IMAS)

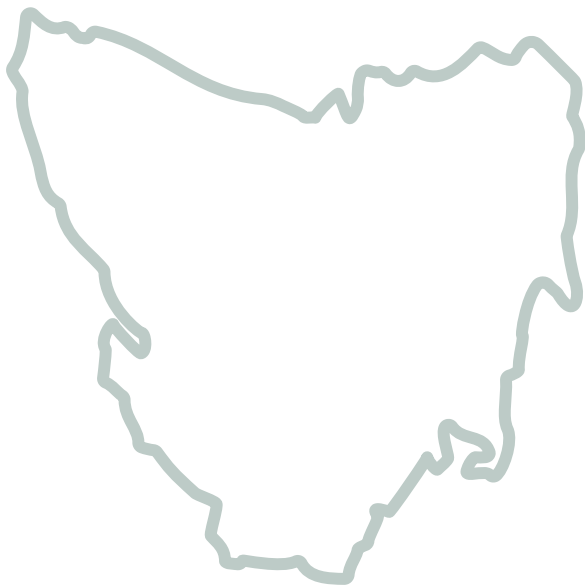


Menzies Institute for Medical Research



Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA)

And continuing to make a difference for Tasmania and helping the world with the massive transitions that need to be made by 2050 for us to have a sustainable planet



#1 in Climate Action globally

#5 in the world overall

With the education challenges we are facing in Tasmania our whole community - including schools, TAFE and university - will need to work together to build an integrated high quality universal education system.

This will transform lives and the future for our State.





UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA 

Thank you


FW: TIA Greenhouses doc

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Thu 22/02/2024 9:09 AM

To Janie Finlay <janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Cc Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>; Michael Rose <m.rose@utas.edu.au>

 1 attachment (147 KB)

UTAS - NW Greenhouses Proposal Feb 2024.pdf;

Hi Janie

Please find attached the brief on the proposal we are discussing tomorrow. I haven't heard back from Marcus so we have you down on the run sheet to speak too.

Look forward to seeing you tomorrow.

Cheers, Kate

From: Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>

Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 4:14 PM

To: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Subject: TIA Greenhouses doc

New one attached – thanks

Regards

Bonnie French
Associate Director Stakeholder Engagement
0438 385 757

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Tasmania's Agriculture sector is critically important to the economic health of our state, and we are nationally and internationally recognised as leaders in food production, agricultural innovation, and agri-business opportunities. Investment is required in agricultural research, facilities, and training to facilitate and enable collaboration and partnerships which bring together education and research capability with industry and enable Tasmania to remain competitive in global markets.

The Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) delivers world class research, industry development, extension, and education for the agri-food industry of Tasmania, underpinning the State's ambition to grow the sector.

Through deep connections with farmers and the wider industry, TIA research priorities are industry-led, relevant and practical for 'on-farm' adoption of the findings. TIA invests significantly in its on-farm adoption team to support this priority. In partnership with industry, TIA leads research projects on many important sustainability issues, including developing practices to support the sustainable use of water and nitrogen on farms, producing and testing plant varieties to withstand climate change and drought, creating livestock systems to improve animal welfare, and the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions from livestock.

To enable this work, the University of Tasmania has invested in cutting-edge research facilities in Tasmania, including building new research laboratories in the North-West, and a complex of glasshouse and research facilities in Launceston.

New greenhouse facilities in North-West Tasmania are urgently needed to enable the continuation of this industry critical research within the region.

In December 2023, TIA staff and researchers in Burnie moved from the previous University campus at Mooreville Road to the newly refurbished Makers building at West Park, as part of the University's Northern Transformation Program. The Makers has been re-imagined as a technology and innovation hub including brand new state-of-the-art laboratories for TIA research.

At the new West Park campus there is no space for appropriate greenhouse facilities. A temporary agreement was reached with Homes Tasmania to continue using the existing greenhouse at Mooreville Road; however, this land is earmarked for housing construction and the University has now been given a deadline of 1 November 2024 to vacate.

Greenhouses are vital to the delivery of many current and ongoing research activities, including for the development of new pasture forages, the disease management of pyrethrum production, the development of new pasture species for Tasmanian livestock, and TIA's commitment to the national program investigating BioClay as a method of controlling fungal diseases. Without ongoing access to a greenhouse facility, this important

research will need to either cease altogether, move out of the North-West to the greenhouse facilities in Launceston or Hobart, be undertaken at other universities, or use inadequate (lack of heating and lighting) polytunnel facilities.

Co-locating new greenhouse facilities with TasTAFE's Agricultural Training Centre of Excellence will strengthen our collaborative partnership and enable new opportunities for agricultural innovation and excellence.

To realise additional benefits of investing in greenhouses in the North-West, in principle agreement has been reached with TasTAFE for these facilities to be located at the Agricultural Training Centre of Excellence on TasTAFE's Freer Farm in Burnie. The University and TasTAFE are currently working on the development of a detailed plan for the greenhouses at Freer Farm, including agreeing the specifications and scope of works, and location of the greenhouses to maximise these mutual benefits.

UTAS and TasTAFE have an existing MOU regarding Agricultural Research and Training Partnerships for North and North-West Tasmania which includes mapping education pathways and sharing resources, capability, infrastructure, and assets. Under this MOU, TIA staff support TAFE students' learning on the TIA research farms, and TAFE staff deliver some applied agriculture to TIA's courses. This has led to better learning outcomes for students, more efficient use of infrastructure, reduced resource duplication, and more efficient use of teaching budgets. This partnership has also resulted in research trials on Freer Farm, including plot trials examining establishment of legumes into pastures and feeding of biochar as a carrier for methane mitigation options for cattle. A co-taught Diploma in Precision Agricultural Technology is being developed, with both University and TAFE staff teaching into the course. This new course will be aimed at those in the industry who are mid-career, and who wish to understand the rapidly changing developments for sensors, virtual fencing, harvesting and automated control on farms. Additionally, machinery has been shared between our organisations to enable more efficient use of assets.


Shared greenhouse facilities on the North-West will enable closer interaction and exposure of vocational and University students to each other in a collocated environment, allowing for better education pathways and opportunities for the region.

We **urgently require funding** for the construction of a research and teaching greenhouse facility, critical infrastructure to support the development of **North-West Tasmania as a region of agricultural excellence**.

An indicative quote for **construction of the greenhouse at Freer Farm** has estimated the cost of this facility, including operationalisation, as **\$3 million**.

UTAS contact: Bonnie French - Associate Director Stakeholder Engagement
Bonnie.French@utas.edu.au | 0438 385 757

Notice under s18(2) of the RTI Act: this copy is not a complete copy of the original information.

 Outlook

FW: Sandy Bay Campus

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Wed 24/07/2024 11:33 AM

To Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>; David Abbott <David.Abbott@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Thanks for the feedback Shane

Fwd: MEDIA RELEASE: LABOR STOOPS TO LIES ABOUT UTAS

From Marcus Atkinson <Marcus.Atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Date Thu 25/07/2024 5:08 PM

To Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

 2 attachments (857 KB)

UPDATED_SU_MEDIA_RELEASE_REFUTING_TAS_LABOR_CLAIMS_28Jul24_V5.pdf; SU_Labor_Stoops_to_Lies_25Jul24.pdf;

From: SAVE UTAS CAMPUS INC. <saveutascampus@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 1:06 PM

To: Deb Foster <mikedebfoster1@gmail.com>; Angela Bird <ambird58@gmail.com>

Subject: MEDIA RELEASE: LABOR STOOPS TO LIES ABOUT UTAS



MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed until 12 noon, Sunday 28 July 2024

'This media release and attached information sheet is for release at **noon on Sunday, 28 July 2024** in conjunction with a rally/launch to be held at **K&D, corner of Murray and Melville Streets**. Keynote speaker will be Greg Barns SC. SaveUTAS co-chairs Angela Bird and Mike Foster together with UTAS academics and Hobart architects will be available for comment.'

LABOR ACCUSED OF TREATING VOTERS AS FOOLS OVER UTAS

SaveUTAS has released an information sheet which savages Labor and labels many of Labor's recent announcements as 'lies'.

The information sheet identifies 7 key claims by Labor which SaveUTAS says are 'completely false'. The information sheet is intended to inform voters but particularly parliamentarians who will be considering the government's University of Tasmania (Protection of Land) Bill.

SaveUTAS co-chair Angela Bird said, "Has a Tasmanian political party ever stooped so low? It's despicable to deceive people into thinking the Sandy Bay campus can be quickly converted into 2000 homes and hundreds of millions of dollars for STEM facilities when in actual fact the necessary rezoning process would take years and may never succeed. Tasmania needs new homes and a refurbished uni now, not in a few years' time".

SaveUTAS is calling on UTAS to sell its extensive city properties so much-needed homes can be built on them. Ms Bird said, "These sites are empty or rented out. They are 'shovel-ready'. Builders could

start work immediately, without waiting years to see whether a rezoning is approved”.

SaveUTAS is particularly critical that Labor plans to make refurbishing of UTAS STEM facilities dependent on the uncertain outcome of a long Sandy Bay rezoning process. Ms Bird said, “With the sale of UTAS city properties refurbishment of STEM at Sandy Bay could start this year. Labor’s plan leaves young Tasmanians high and dry for years”.

Ms Bird said it was a mystery as to why Labor, after years of disinterest, had suddenly become excited about a plan which she said effectively died when UTAS withdrew its 2021 campus rezoning application in the face of 155 objections raised by the Hobart City Council.

This wasn't UTAS' first rezoning failure. In 2017 UTAS applied to rezone parts of the upper campus but that was rejected by the Tasmanian Planning Commission and UTAS then lost a subsequent appeal in the Supreme Court.

Ms Bird said that Labor’s newfound interest may have something to do with the need for its new leader, Dean Winter, to raise his profile. She said, “We asked Labor not to use UTAS in order to score political points. Sadly, for higher education in Tasmania, our request fell on deaf ears”.

For further comment please contact Save UTAS Co-Chairs, Angela Bird on 0409 977 350 or Mike Foster on 0432 962 416

Attached is a copy of the information sheet, embargoed until the media conference for its release .

SAVE UTAS

ASK YOUR LOCAL LABOR MP WHY LABOR STOOPS TO LIES ABOUT UTAS

Labor says it backs Vice Chancellor Black's quest to destroy the magnificent Sandy Bay campus of the University of Tasmania (UTAS), demolishing good buildings at Sandy Bay and duplicating them in the city.

But Labor isn't being honest with you, making seven completely false claims:

1. Labor says the answer to the housing challenge is 'to build more homes and faster'.

But Labor hasn't disclosed that NO home, NOT a single one, can be built at Sandy Bay because the entire campus is zoned 'education'. Experts say rezoning, if granted at all, would take years. In the meantime, vacant and under-utilised UTAS properties across Hobart city are 'shovel-ready' for building homes right now.

2. Labor says it wants 'to see nearly 2000 new homes built on the university's land above Churchill Avenue'.

This is a fantasy. The truth is Labor's plan leaves new housing for Tasmanians delayed for years, awaiting the outcome of a complex rezoning application process. If rezoning was ever approved not even UTAS has claimed its possible to build 2000 homes 'above Churchill Avenue', where the land is steep, wooded and has serious access problems.

3. Labor claims the government's plan prevents UTAS using its biggest asset, 'its vacant, unused land above Churchill Avenue'.

On the contrary, the government's bill enables UTAS to put forward a plan for the sale of any land that is genuinely not needed, but in a way that gives transparency for one of Tasmania's most important public assets.

4. Labor claims UTAS needs a '\$500M STEM facility'.

Labor knows UTAS has no costings nor even a design for refurbished STEM facilities. UTAS has only just begun staff

consultations on what is needed so \$500M is a made-up figure. A better estimate based on earlier UTAS costings is around \$110M.

5 Labor says UTAS 'is unable to fund' STEM without selling its campus.

But Labor hasn't disclosed that its plan delays STEM facilities for years, leaving them dependent on the success of a long rezoning process. This leaves young Tasmanians high and dry. At the same time UTAS has hundreds of millions of dollars tied up in idle property around the city, ideal for urgent housing. The sale of this plus the hundreds of millions UTAS has in the bank is easily enough to refurbish STEM at Sandy Bay right now.

6 Labor says the move from Sandy Bay 'is nearing completion'.

This is false. In fact, every single Sandy Bay college/school remains at Sandy Bay except the College of Business and Economics which was temporarily moved for COVID-related reasons to rented rooms in the CBD where both staff and students say it is slowly dying, crippled by access problems caused by the lack of staff/student parking in the city.

7 Labor says relocation is only opposed by 'a noisy minority group'.

Labor knows this is a lie. The 74% (Hobart elector poll) who opposed relocation were from all of Hobart, not just Sandy Bay. Relocation is strongly opposed by UTAS staff and students, the very people who know what a good university needs. Law School staff and students have recently won their fight to stay permanently at Sandy Bay.



Proposed site of Law, Business Schools and Admin, Melville St



UTAS Sandy Bay Campus

MEDIA RELEASE**Embargoed until 12 noon, Sunday 28 July 2024**

'This media release and attached information sheet is for release at **noon on Sunday, 28 July 2024** in conjunction with a rally/launch to be held at **K&D, corner of Murray and Melville Streets**. Keynote speaker will be Greg Barns SC. SaveUTAS co-chairs Angela Bird and Mike Foster together with UTAS academics and Hobart architects will be available for comment.'

LABOR ACCUSED OF TREATING VOTERS AS FOOLS OVER UTAS

SaveUTAS has released an information sheet which savages Labor and labels many of Labor's recent announcements as 'lies'.

The information sheet identifies 7 key claims by Labor which SaveUTAS says are 'completely false'. The information sheet is intended to inform voters but particularly parliamentarians who will be considering the government's University of Tasmania (Protection of Land) Bill.

SaveUTAS co-chair Angela Bird said, "Has a Tasmanian political party ever stooped so low? It's despicable to deceive people into thinking the Sandy Bay campus can be quickly converted into 2000 homes and hundreds of millions of dollars for STEM facilities when in actual fact the necessary rezoning process would take years and may never succeed. Tasmania needs new homes and a refurbished uni now, not in a few years' time".

SaveUTAS is calling on UTAS to sell its extensive city properties so much-needed homes can be built on them. Ms Bird said, "These sites are empty or rented out. They are 'shovel-ready'. Builders could start work immediately, without waiting years to see whether a rezoning is approved".

SaveUTAS is particularly critical that Labor plans to make refurbishing of UTAS STEM facilities dependent on the uncertain outcome of a long Sandy Bay rezoning process. Ms Bird said, "With the sale of UTAS city properties refurbishment of STEM at Sandy Bay could start this year. Labor's plan leaves young Tasmanians high and dry for years".

Ms Bird said it was a mystery as to why Labor, after years of disinterest, had suddenly become excited about a plan which she said effectively died when UTAS withdrew its 2021 campus rezoning application in the face of 155 objections raised by the Hobart City Council.

This wasn't UTAS' first rezoning failure. In 2017 UTAS applied to rezone parts of the upper campus but that was rejected by the Tasmanian Planning Commission and UTAS then lost a subsequent appeal in the Supreme Court.

Ms Bird said that Labor's newfound interest may have something to do with the need for its new leader, Dean Winter, to raise his profile. She said, "We asked Labor not to use UTAS in order to score political points. Sadly, for higher education in Tasmania, our request fell on deaf ears".

For further comment please contact Save UTAS Co-Chairs, Angela Bird on 0409 977 350 or Mike Foster on 0432 962 416


Attached is a copy of the information sheet, embargoed until the media conference for its release .

Fwd: Signs of hope for endangered Maugean skate in Tasmania amid population monitoring efforts


From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Tue 24/09/2024 10:43 AM

To Janie Finlay <janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au>

 4 attachments (956 KB)

24.09.24 Maugean Skate Monitoring.pdf; ATT00001.txt; AdamGibson_IMAS_AGP_6581.jpeg; Maugean Skate - Macquarie Harbour TAS - Photo Jane Ruckert.jpg;

Here you go! If you email the below email address, they'll add you to the mailing list 

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Communications Office <communications.office@utas.edu.au>

Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 9:01 AM

Subject: Signs of hope for endangered Maugean skate in Tasmania amid population monitoring efforts

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA



Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies

Tuesday, 24 September 2024

Signs of hope for endangered Maugean skate in Tasmania amid population monitoring efforts

For the first time in nearly a decade, scientists have recorded an increased presence of young Maugean skates – a ray of hope for the survival of the endangered species.

The research by the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies offers a promising sign for the Maugean skate, a species endemic to the unique environment of Macquarie Harbour.

Data collected between 2021 and September 2024 suggest the population may be stabilising after a decline reported over a decade leading up to 2020.

“Although the population remains significantly lower than historical levels, catch per unit effort data - a standard measure of relative abundance - shows the skate population has stabilised since 2021 and there has been no overall further decline,” IMAS researcher and Maugean skate captive breeding program leader Professor Jayson Semmens said.

“It takes approximately six years for Maugean skate hatchlings to reach maturity, so while immediate recovery of adult biomass is not expected, the presence of juveniles at a similar proportion relative to adults in the sampling as we were seeing in 2014 is a positive sign. Continued monitoring will be crucial to understanding the long-term trajectory of the species.”

While the skate remains endangered, IMAS researcher Dr David Moreno said it was too early to predict long-term outcomes and stressed the importance of ongoing research and monitoring to guide effective conservation efforts.

“Additional data are needed to determine whether the observed presence of young skates will lead to a sustained recovery,” Dr Moreno said.

“Updated population models and action plans are needed to ensure the species' survival in Macquarie Harbour, its last remaining habitat.”

The extended dataset and early signs of stabilisation in the population underline the critical need for ongoing support and monitoring efforts, which will be pivotal in guiding effective conservation efforts for the Maugean skate.

“This is science in action,” IMAS Fisheries and Aquaculture Centre Head Professor Sean Tracey said.

“All the work presented to date has been based on the best available information at the time. Funding support from the Tasmanian and Australian governments has helped us improve our understanding of the Maugean skate.

“As we learn more, our role is to ensure that we’re updating and reassessing that information so that decisions are made based on the best contemporary data.”

[Interim Report Number 2 – Macquarie Harbour Maugean skate population status and monitoring](#) is available on the IMAS website.

The study was funded by the Sustainable Marine Research Collaboration Agreement and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania.

For interview: Professor Jayson Semmens m: +61 409 488 520

Media assistance: Ben Wild m: +61 438 510 616 e: ben.wild@utas.edu.au

Images They are for single use only, and the publication must fully acknowledge the photographer/s. No archival permission is granted.

- Maugean Skate pictured in Macquarie Harbour. Picture Credit: Jane Ruckert/IMAS



- Baby Maugean Skate. Picture Credit: Adam Gibson




Information released by:
Communications Office, University of Tasmania
+61 3 6226 2124 Twitter: @utas_
Communications.Office@utas.edu.au

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Govt support for STEM proposal and City Deal

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Date Thu 11/07/2024 9:42 AM
To Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

 1 attachment (240 KB)
20170203 Mercury STEM.pdf;

Hi Marcus

As discussed, here is some info on Government support for the [Infrastructure Australia STEM Business Case](#) and the [Hobart City Deal](#). There's a collection of media items around the IA STEM proposal and the role the STEM proposal played in shaping up a Hobart City Deal and how this had the support of the local Council in particular:

- Feb 3, 2017 early support from Andrew Wilkie and Eric Abetz – refer attached PDF.
- Feb 16, 2017 Andrew Wilkie put the Business Case to the PM: <https://www.themercury.com.au/news/tasmania/wilkie-takes-stem-to-pm/news-story/913dce16c53f593ed9cc7f7769a704a5>
- June 29, 2017 push for Hobart Council to support the STEM proposal as central to a Hobart City Deal: <https://www.themercury.com.au/news/scales-of-justice/university-of-tasmania-stem-centre-key-to-push-for-hobart-city-deal/news-story/d9dea0cb586a1fa640fe491dcd51593f>
- July 3, 2017 Hobart Council supported the potential for STEM proposal in Hobart City Deal: <https://www.themercury.com.au/news/politics/council-adds-its-support-to-university-of-tasmanias-400m-stem-project/news-story/3c33e46c59b586c978c560a47893d177>
- July 27, 2017 Hobart and surrounds Councils support the STEM proposal: <https://www.themercury.com.au/news/tasmania/southern-councils-band-behind-universitys-stem-project/news-story/c671ef74c479469e8488c9adef5e12a6>

The STEM proposal sits within the 'smart, liveable and investment ready City' of the [Hobart City Deal](#) which states: "The University of Tasmania is considering options to develop an enhanced STEM presence, including the best approach and location to deliver programs and services. Building on this work, City Deal Partners will seek to support the University's master planning work, and to support partnerships with industry, community and education providers to drive innovation, commercialisation of research, and use of smart technology.... City Deal Partners will support the development of a project plan by the University of Tasmania outlining the process and timeframe to build new STEM facilities that integrate into the Hobart community. This includes considering and addressing the potential housing and transport needs for both students and staff."

The [City Deal annual progress reports](#) since 2020 all note the continued collaboration to support the transition of the University's southern campus into the CBD.

Let us know if anything further is useful there.
Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications
University of Tasmania
Admin Building | Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
0432 389 793

 BH_2023_#1 Climate Action_Email Signature_V1_@1x

We acknowledge the Aboriginal people of Tasmania as Traditional Owners of the land on which this university is located.

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.



\$400m STEM PROJECT A STEP CLOSER



UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA

DOWN TO BUSINESS

NICK CLARK
Federal Political Editor

AN AMBITIOUS \$400 million education project, which could further transform the face of the Hobart CBD, is a step closer to fruition.

The University of Tasmania has submitted a business case to Infrastructure Australia for a \$400 million project involving the move of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) functions into Hobart's central business district.

The STEM precinct would be relocated to the corner of Argyle and Melville streets and accommodate 5200 staff, researchers and students.

Infrastructure Australia said it was assessing the busi-

ness case.

The news comes as the Federal Government frames its May Budget.

Denison MP Andrew Wilkie said he was in a strong position to make the case in Canberra for federal funding in May.

"Indeed I hope to meet with the Prime Minister personally sometime during the three parliamentary sitting weeks in February when I'll raise a number of important matters, including the STEM project," he said.

"This is project of national significance given the importance of STEM subjects,

CONTINUED **PAGE 6**

\$400m project closer

FROM PAGE 1

particularly considering the under-investment in STEM in Australia compared to many other countries," Mr Wilkie said.

"Such a massive building project, and the thousands of academics, researchers and students that would occupy it, is obviously a very exciting prospect for Hobart."

The STEM plan was the only education project identified in Infrastructure Australia's 15-year national plan released last year.

At the time, Infrastructure

Australia chairman Mark Birrell described it as "a head-turning project".

The project has been labelled a major step towards making Hobart a "global centre of excellence" and world renowned university campus.

Liberal Senator Eric Abetz said it was possible funding could be accessed through a Hobart City Deal presently being worked on.

"The Tasmanian Liberal Senate Team has long supported the University of Tasmania



STEM project and drawn it to the attention of ministers in Canberra," he said.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull told Parliament in 2016 that the Government understood the potential of the project.

"We obviously have demonstrated an interest in it, but Australians, and indeed Tasmanians, would expect that we would go through proper processes prior to committing their taxpayer dollars," he said.

"That includes assessment of the business case by government, by Infrastructure Australia, should the University of Tasmania request more than \$100 million of Australian government contribution."

An Infrastructure Australia spokeswoman said that when assessment of the business case was finished, the business case would be put to the board for a final decision at a monthly board meeting.

Australians with a STEM background represent just 18 per cent of graduates, compared with Singapore and China, which are 35 and 47 per cent respectively.

This is despite it being one of the fastest-growing sectors in the world.

Editorial: Page 20



BIG PLANS: An artist's impression of UTAS's proposed STEM precinct for Hobart's CBD.

From: [Education - India and South Asia](#)
To: [Vice Chancellor](#)
Cc: [KIM,Danni](#); [VC Office](#); [Education - India and South Asia](#)
Subject: Invitation - Participation at 2nd AIESC - Thurs 24 Oct 2024 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 18 October 2024 2:42:31 PM
Attachments: [DRAFT AIESC AGENDA v2 - 17102024.docx](#)
[FINAL 1st AIESC Joint Communiqué 2023.pdf](#)

Dear Professor Black,

On behalf of the Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education, I am pleased to invite you to participate in the *2nd meeting of the Australia India Education and Skills Council* on **Thursday 24 October (2:15pm- 4:15pm)** in Sydney.

The meeting will be held at the **Austrade Sydney office**, located on Level 7, Tower 3 International Towers, Barangaroo.

The meeting will be co-chaired by Minister Clare, the Hon. Andrew Giles, Minister for Skills and Training, the Hon. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education and the Hon. Jayant Chaudhary (attending virtually), Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The 2nd AIESC is part of a visit to Australia by Minister Pradhan and his delegation between 23-25 October 2024. The visit aims to further progress education, skills and research cooperation with India, with a focus on education as a catalyst for economic growth through skilling workforces and applied research.

Please find the joint communiqué from the inaugural AIESC in 2023 and the draft agenda for your reference.

To accept this invitation, please respond via reply all email by 12pm Monday 21 October.

Please note, this invitation is not transferable. Further information on the program and logistics will follow once your attendance has been confirmed.

Please also be advised that a formal dinner, organised by the Hindu Council of Australia will be held between **6:30 – 8:30pm** on the same evening.

Details on the dinner will be provided upon confirmation of AIESC attendance.

Kind regards,
Vanessa

Vanessa Laphorne (She/her)
Assistant Secretary | Engagement Branch
International Division | Higher Education, Research and International Group
Australian Government Department of Education
Phone (02) 6240 8766 | Mobile 0409 711 214



The Department of Education acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and Elders past and present.

The artwork *Guwanyi wingara yirabana* is our story. It means 'learning journey' in Dharug/Darug language. Designed by Trevor Eastwood from Dalmarri with our people, the artwork was made by many hands in a powerful gesture showcasing reconciliation in action.

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AGENDA: 2nd Australia India Education and Skills Council Meeting



Ministry of Education
Government of India



Australian Government
Department of Education



Australian Government
Department of Employment
and Workplace Relations

2nd meeting of the Australia India Education and Skills Council

24 October 2024, Sydney

Meeting Agenda

14.15	Meeting commences
14.15-14.25 (10 min)	Welcome by Minister Clare and Minister Giles <i>Minister Pradhan and Minister Chaudhary (virtually) to respond</i>
14.25-14.35 (10 min)	Summary of progress since the 1st Australia India Education and Skills Council <i>Progress on commitments made in the 1st AIESC Joint Communique</i>
14.35-15.00 (25 min)	Agenda item 1: Forecasting future workforce and education needs <i>Identifying critical skills of the future</i> <i>Building an adaptable workforce to meet employer needs</i> <i>Improving youth employment outcomes</i>
15.00-15.25 (25 min)	Agenda item 2: Bridging skilling gaps through education and training <i>Building skilled workforces: collaboration across higher education, vocational education and training, industry and Governments</i> <i>Strengthening workforces through innovative delivery and market access</i> <i>Strategies for industry-aligned upskilling and reskilling</i>
15.25-15.50 (25 min)	Agenda item 3: Collaborating to strengthen research workforces <i>Leveraging diaspora networks and building connections</i> <i>Amplifying impact of collaborative research</i>
15.50-16.00 (10 min)	Closing remarks by Ministerial Co-Chairs <i>Adopt and sign the 2nd AIESC Joint Communique</i>
16.00-16.15 (15 min)	Gift exchange and official photos
16.15	Meeting concludes

Labor's UTAS support scholarships

From Rochelle Galloway <Rochelle.Galloway@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Date Thu 18/01/2024 8:29 AM
To Ben Wild <ben.wild@utas.edu.au>
Cc Celeste Miller <Celeste.Miller@parliament.tas.gov.au>; David Abbott <David.Abbott@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Hi Ben,

How are you? Hope you are well.

I am reaching out regarding Labor's policy to provide scholarships to UTAS Students.

We are after a couple of case studies so that we can do some media like last year – do you have any students in mind? Either North or South would be fine.

Kind regards,
Rochelle

Rochelle Galloway

Media Advisor

Office of Rebecca White MP

Tasmanian Labor Leader

m: 0419 999 383

e: rochelle.galloway@parliament.tas.gov.au

a: 253 Wellington Street, Launceston, 7249

www.taslabor.com


Putting people first

Legco hearings

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Tue 27/02/2024 1:39 PM

To Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

<https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/committees/legislative-council/select-committees/lc20select20-20university20of20tasmania>

6 July:

https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/71493/LCS-UTAS-Inquiry-6-July-2023.pdf

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications

University of Tasmania

Admin Building | Private Bag 51

Hobart TAS 7001

0432 389 793



We acknowledge the Aboriginal people of Tasmania as Traditional Owners of the land on which this university is located.

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.


Letter from Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Natalie Brown

From Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>

Date Fri 16/08/2024 1:24 PM

To janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au <janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Cc Natalie Brown <natalie.brown@utas.edu.au>

 1 attachment (523 KB)

PVC letter to Janie Finlay - rPPP Newnham - Aug 2024.pdf;

Good Afternoon

Please find attached a letter from Professor Natalie Brown.

Regards

Bonnie French
Associate Director Stakeholder Engagement
0438 385 757

Janie Finlay
Labor member for Bass
Shadow Minister for Energy & Renewables
Shadow Minister for Parks, Environment & Climate Change
Shadow Minister for Primary Industries & Water
Shadow Minister for Science & Technology

By email: janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Janie

It was wonderful to meet with you recently at the University of Tasmania's Inveresk campus to discuss regional education and the opportunities the campus will bring for more people to access education in Northern Tasmania.

I am writing to provide an update on the next steps in planning for the future of our Newnham campus as the campus transition to Inveresk nears completion.

The University will retain an education and research presence at the Newnham campus as the home base for the Australian Maritime College, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, Centre for Sustainable Architecture in Wood and Australian Forest and Wood Innovations.

To support these nation leading teaching and research institutes, planning for future developments at Newnham are underway to draw together the many uses of the site, including maritime and defence education and training, timber and agricultural research and opportunities to host innovation, business and industry partnerships.

These plans involve a planned multi-million dollar investment in agriculture infrastructure at Newnham to establish the Tasmanian Agricultural Precinct. This Precinct will enable the co-location of the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania and industry organisations at the University of Tasmania's Newnham campus. It will combine agricultural science and research, water management, industry development and biosecurity functions to create a focal point for collaboration and excellence in Tasmania.

This will strengthen our regional capacity for industry collaboration and high-impact research, delivering on the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture's mission to grow Tasmania's agricultural industries while maintaining and improving our land and water quality for future generations.

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CRICOS Provider Code 00586B | ARBN 055 647 848 ABN 30 764 374 782

utas.edu.au

The first stage of the Tasmanian Agricultural Precinct is an Agricultural Research and Development Facility, supporting research and teaching to address critical issues facing Tasmania's agriculture industry.

The Facility includes a glasshouse, headhouse and multipurpose research and education centre and will be accessible for students, researchers, government and industry partners to enable the application of research knowledge and capabilities to industry projects and on-farm improvements.

The University is applying to the Australian Government's Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (rPPP), seeking capital funding of \$31.6m to enable the delivery of this important facility which will be central to the revitalisation of the University's Newnham campus.

I would be very pleased to meet with you to discuss our application and our vision for the Tasmanian Agricultural Precinct, and to schedule a tour of the future site for this facility at the Newnham campus. Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to bring our regional campuses to life and make education more visible and accessible for the greater Northern Tasmanian region.

Yours sincerely



Professor Natalie Brown
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Launceston)
Executive Dean (Regional Education)

16th August 2024

From: [Minister Conroy](#)
To: [Vice Chancellor](#)
Subject: Letter from Professor Rufus Black [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 27 August 2024 2:53:30 PM

OFFICIAL

Dear Dr Rix,

Please thank Professor Black for his letter of 23 August 2024 updating Minister Conroy on the Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct.

Apologies but the Minister will not be able to take up the invitation to open the upgraded Underwater Collision Research Facility – his forward schedule for the rest of the year will not allow a Tasmanian visit (and I'm assuming the opening could not be deferred until next year without considerably inconveniencing the University).

Kind regards,

Mark

Mark Davis
Chief of staff
Office of Pat Conroy MP
Minister for Defence Industry and Capability Delivery
Minister for International Development and the Pacific
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Victoria Geason

From: Nicholas Farrelly <nicholas.farrelly@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2024 4:21 PM
To: dean.winter@parliament.tas.gov.au
Cc: Kate Huntington
Subject: Letter from the University
Attachments: 20240719_ PVC Letter to Dean Winter.pdf

Dear Dean,

Thank you, again, for your strong advocacy this week on behalf of the rising generation of Tasmanian students, innovators, researchers and educators.

We are very appreciative of your commitment to delivering outcomes that will support a sustainable and successful future for young people in southern Tasmania.

In this context, please find attached a letter which, among other points, highlights the substance of the communication we have undertaken this week with members of the Parliamentary crossbench. We are continuing to discuss with them the grave challenges of the government's legislation and the risks it would present to the long-term success of Tasmania's education and research systems.

We look forward to being in touch with you and your team next week, and to continuing our engagement on these crucial issues for Tasmania's future.

For now, I hope you enjoy a well-deserved rest over the weekend after this very busy and productive week.

Best wishes,

Nicholas

Professor Nicholas Farrelly

utas.edu.au

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M: +61 427 299 733

UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA 

OFFICIAL



The Hon Tim Watts MP
Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs

24 September 2024

Professor Nicholas Farrelly
Pro Vice-Chancellor
University of Tasmania
Churchill Avenue
HOBART TAS 7001

Nicholas.Farrelly@utas.edu.au

Dear Prof Farrelly

I am pleased to confirm your appointment as a member of the External Advisory Group (EAG) on the New Colombo Plan (NCP).

The NCP has aimed to strengthen Australia's regional standing by building a diverse cohort of Australian alumni with deeper Indo-Pacific knowledge, capability and connections. Since 2014, the NCP has supported over 50,000 Australian undergraduates to undertake study, language training, internships, research and practicums across 40 host locations in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Penny Wong, has asked me to chair the EAG to ensure the NCP is delivering on its primary objective of building the Indo-Pacific capability of Australians, including in relation to language skills.

In undertaking its work, the EAG will play an important role in consulting with the sector and other experts to inform the next phase of the NCP, for implementation from 2026. As we make these important reforms, the Government would welcome your insights.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will be in contact with further information on the arrangements regarding EAG, including on the consultation process. The EAG's Terms of Reference are enclosed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Watts', with a stylized flourish at the end.

TIM WATTS

OFFICIAL



The Hon Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education

Reference: MS24-000180

Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor
University of Tasmania
Vice.Chancellor@utas.edu.au

Dear Professor Black

On 23 February 2024, Education Ministers agreed and released the *Action Plan Addressing Gender-based Violence in Higher Education* (Action Plan). The Action Plan recognises the unique role higher education providers can and must play in driving the broader social change needed to address gender-based violence, as well as the distinct responsibilities they hold in relation to creating safe study, work, social and living environments.

The Action Plan is a multi-pronged approach with seven key actions to drive change. The establishment of the National Student Ombudsman and the National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence (National Code) are key actions of the Action Plan and will positively impact higher education students, staff and the sector more broadly.

The National Student Ombudsman will provide all higher education students with access to a single, effective and trauma-informed mechanism for escalating complaints about the administrative actions of their higher education providers, including complaints about sexual harassment, assault and violence.

The Australian Government will immediately implement the National Student Ombudsman and the National Code, working closely with State and Territory Governments, relevant agencies and the higher education sector. The National Student Ombudsman is proposed to commence taking student complaints from 1 February 2025, subject to the passage of legislation.

In implementing the National Student Ombudsman, the Department of Education will be developing charging arrangements to support the costs of this new function, consistent with the principles of the Australian Government Charging Framework. This work will be informed by sector consultation. Any charging will not commence before the 2027 calendar year.

Further information about the Action Plan, the National Student Ombudsman and National Code can be found on the Department of Education website at www.education.gov.au/action-plan-addressing-genderbased-violence-higher-education.

I look forward to your continued engagement on this work and the important task ahead.

Yours sincerely



JASON CLARE
15/03/2024

Encl. – Action Plan Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Higher Education



The Hon Catherine King MP

**Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
Member for Ballarat**

Ref: MC24-004707

Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor
University of Tasmania
Private Bag 51
HOBART TAS 7001

via: vice.chancellor@utas.edu.au

Dear Professor Black

Rufus,

Thank you for your letter of 9 May 2024 regarding the refresh of the Infrastructure Australia business case for STEM facilities in southern Tasmania. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Since the University of Tasmania previously submitted a business case for its Hobart campus, Infrastructure Australia's role has been revised to primarily advise the Australian Government on nationally significant infrastructure investment. Any further consideration of the business case would need to be put forward by the Tasmanian Government, and so I encourage you in the first instance to engage with them on this issue.

You may be also interested in the urban Precincts and Partnerships Program (uPPP) which will support the delivery of best-practice investment in urban infrastructure, connecting people and communities to services and opportunities that improve productivity, resilience and equity.

On 16 May 2024, I released the Forecast Funding Opportunity for the uPPP, including program objectives and expected outcomes. I would encourage the University of Tasmania to monitor the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts' website for further updates on the Program, available at: www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/cities/urban-precincts-and-partnerships-program.

Alternatively, you may wish to visit the GrantConnect website for information on other Commonwealth grant opportunities that may also be suitable to support this initiative at www.grants.gov.au.

Thank you also for your continued support and contribution to the Urban Policy Forum.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a horizontal line that loops back to the left and then continues to the right.

Catherine King MP

24 / 6 /2024

Melbourne and Monash SEAMS program

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Thu 11/07/2024 9:52 AM

To Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

 1 attachment (499 KB)

SEAMS-Student-Flyer-2024-Digital-Access-copy.pdf;

Hi Marcus

Attached is some info on the Melbourne Uni and Monash STEM collaboration called SEAMS which is offered as an all expenses paid (including flights) to Year 11 & 12 students studying Maths Methods & Chemistry or Physics. It's targeted at regional/low SES students. Some screenshots attached from Facebook and LinkedIn – February 2024 had the first ever Tasmanian cohort which they specifically targeted Tasmanian schools for. In addition to the Newstead College students in the screenshot we did hear in May this year that 12 Hellyer students and 12 Don College students had an all expenses paid week through Monash – unsure whether this is for the July SEAMS program or if this is something else.

Its important to note that we conduct similar activities, particularly with students from the North and NW, and we have had some great success attracting a cohort of those students to the Hedberg and Arts School this year off the back of a trip to Hobart and we'll be able to do more once Forestry is up and running – we just don't have the same levels of facilities beyond IMAS in the Sciences down here. With the Accord direction, this competition for our Tasmanian students will get more intense so we need to be able to compete – eg. Uni of Melb committed to access scholarships for low SES students which will increase to \$64M per annum by 2030

<https://www.unimelb.edu.au/newsroom/news/2023/november/university-of-melbourne-significantly-expands-supports-for-students-from-all-backgrounds-with-narrm-scholarship-program>

So given that Tasmania is majority regional, which puts most of our school students into the low SES category, we expect the activity of mainland universities recruiting from within Tasmania is likely to increase. While at UTAS we welcome the equity funding and this is important to provide access to more students to university education, there is a potential challenge for Tasmania more broadly in retaining young people on the island which is interesting in light of the recent Population Strategy etc.

Let me know of any questions.

Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications

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0432 389 793

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I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.



Monash University

505,834 followers

5mo • Edited •



The Access, Inclusion and Success Outreach team recently welcomed 95 Year 12 students for the Strengthening Engagement and Achievement in Mathematics and Science (SEAMS) camp.

For the first time ever, this included a cohort from Tasmania – reflecting our focus on fostering talent from across Australia. Students attended Maths Methods, Physics and Chemistry workshops and got a glimpse into the unique Monash campus life.

Students engaged in a **#STEM** campus tour, got active at Monash Sport and finally, connected over a movie night to end a fantastic experience!

Find out more about SEAMS: <http://mona.sh/97EF50QxGGA>

#MonashUni





Last month, Newstead College students Eason, Cadance and Ella travelled to Melbourne to take part in [Monash University's](#) Strengthening Engagement and Achievement in Mathematics and Science (SEAMS) Camp 🛫👩🎓🧪 They were among the first Tasmanian cohort to ever attend the camp!

'We were given opportunity to explore areas of mathematics, physics and chemistry, as we were allowed to choose one or two areas to look deeper into,' Eason said. 'The session consists of information about year 12 subjects' content, which gave us a head start for year 12 Level 4 subjects.'

'While we were attending sessions, we got to explore the Monash Uni campus and Mannix College at the same time.'

'We also had tours in other areas such as biological medicine, where we observed some zebra fish under the microscope and studied some applications of biomedical research.'

Eason said the camp struck a great balance of learning, exploring and socialising.

'As we met each other and participated in social activities, we quickly made friendships with other students on our trip, especially the other Tassie students.'

We congratulate Eason, Cadance and Ella on being accepted into the camp and making the most of the trip 🙌

[#newsteadcollege](#) [#NCscience](#) [Monash Science](#)



Strengthening Engagement and Achievement in Mathematics and Science (SEAMS)

STUDENT INFORMATION

Do you want to get a head start with your VCE subjects, and be inspired by the possibilities mathematics and science have to offer?

WHAT IS THE SEAMS PROGRAM?

Strengthening Engagement and Achievement in Mathematics and Science (SEAMS) is an academic program run in collaboration with Monash University and the University of Melbourne.

Participants will be invited to attend a three-day camp hosted by Monash University and the University of Melbourne, during January and July school holidays.

You will participate in interactive workshops and academic sessions to prepare you for VCE Maths Methods and Chemistry or Physics units ahead.

You will also have the opportunity to take part in fun social activities that will allow you to make friends with other SEAMS participants.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in the SEAMS program, you must:

- Be in Year 11 or 12 in 2024
- Be studying Maths Methods and Chemistry and/or Physics in 2024
- Be an Indigenous Australian, have a low income, or live in a regional or low-socio economic area
- Have parent/guardian consent
- Have your application endorsed by your school.

COST, ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

SEAMS is **free** for all students and fully funded by both universities. You'll stay for two nights at the accommodation provided with other students from across Victoria.

Accommodation, meals and camp activities will be provided at no cost.

CAMP DATES

YEAR 11 CAMP: 16 – 18 JANUARY
YEAR 12 CAMP: 17 – 19 JANUARY

Year 11 camp is hosted by the University of Melbourne
Year 12 camp is hosted by Monash University

BENEFITS

- Get a head start on VCE Maths Methods and Chemistry or Physics
- Connect with other students who share similar interests
- Explore university and campus life
- Explore potential course and career options
- Receive ongoing support throughout the year
- Make new friends and expand your networks
- Participate in an e-Mentoring program (optional).

96% of 2023 participants would recommend SEAMS to others

86% felt more confident about succeeding in Maths and Science at school

92% felt part of a group of students committed to learning

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the SEAMS program, the following must be completed by **Friday 10 November**:

1. Online application at monash.edu/access/outreach/seams
2. Parent/guardian consent



CONTACT US

E: seams.enquiries@monash.edu

T: 0419 504 610

monash.edu/access/outreach/seams

From: [Sloggett, Hayden \(J. Clare, MP\)](#)
To: [Vice Chancellor](#)
Subject: INVITATION: Official Opening of The Shed at UTAS Inveresk
Date: Friday, 23 August 2024 3:49:24 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[Minister for Education Event Profile form.docx](#)



Good afternoon Dean

I hope this email finds you well.

Thank you for inviting Minister Clare to the opening of The Shed at Utas Inveresk.

The Minister is pleased to confirm his attendance at the opening on 18 October at 11:30am.

Attached to this email is the Minister's event profile form. I would be grateful if this could be completed and returned by Friday 21 September.

Please let me know if you need anything further from our office on this.

Kind regards

Hayden

HAYDEN SLOGGETT – Executive Officer

Office of the Hon Jason Clare MP

Minister for Education I Federal Member for Blaxland

SYD 02 9790 2466 I CBR 02 6277 7350 I E hayden.sloggett@aph.gov.au



www.jasonclare.com.au

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All electoral communications authorised by Jason Clare ALP Canberra



**THE HON JASON CLARE MP
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION
EVENT PROFILE FORM**

EVENT TITLE	
HOST	
TIME & DATE OF EVENT <i>(Include proposed duration)</i>	
ARRIVAL TIME	
DEPARTURE TIME	
PURPOSE OF EVENT	
VENUE NAME AND ADDRESS	
MINISTER'S ROLE <i>(ie. speech, tour present awards)</i>	
DIGNITARIES ATTENDING <i>(this includes Local Members, Principal, other key school staff, other community representatives and student leaders)</i>	
EVENT CONTACT <i>(Including mobile number and email)</i>	
EVENT BACKGROUND <i>(a brief summary of the event, including background, information relating to other speakers or host organisation etc)</i>	
DRESS CODE	
ON ARRIVAL THE MINISTER TO BE MET BY NAME AND CONTACT NUMBER	
ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE POINTS: PARKING	
VIP GUEST LIST	

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING	
RUN SHEET/AGENDA	<i>Please supply or complete page 3</i>
VENUE FORMAT	
- Venue layout/set-up	
- Seating/Standing	
MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS	
Event media contact	
Media involvement	
- Media Release	
RECORDING	
Will the event be recorded? If so, where will it be posted? ie. Website	
SOCIAL MEDIA	
Please seek prior approval before posting Minister's attendance on social media (before/after)	
PEOPLE WHO THE MINISTER SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE - <i>(for speech, if required)</i>	
BIOGRAPHIES OF KEY ATTENDEES	Please attach bio's
FORMAL SPEECH/PANEL OR DISCUSSION	
SPEECH THEMES AND LENGTH TIME OF SPEECH <i>(How many minutes, if relevant?)</i>	
Q AND A AND LENGTH <i>(How many minutes, if relevant?)</i>	
LECTERN OR ROUNDTABLE	
ON COMPLETION	Please return to E: christine.kalivitis@aph.gov.au please contact me on 0403 560 145 for any questions

Victoria Geason

From: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 September 2024 1:24 PM
To: Kate Sullivan; Malcolm Wise
Subject: Mr Luke Gosling OAM, MP

Electorate Details – Solomon, Northern Territory

Chair of Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport

Biography

Parliamentary service

- Elected to the House of Representatives for Solomon, Northern Territory, 2016. Re-elected 2019 and 2022.

Committee service

- House of Representatives Standing: Industry, Innovation, Science and Resources served from 15.9.2016 to 11.4.2019; Agriculture and Water Resources served from 22.7.2019 to 11.4.2022; Industry, Innovation, Science and Resources served from 22.7.2019 to 23.7.2019; Infrastructure, Transport and Cities served as Deputy Chair from 23.7.2019 to 11.4.2022; Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport served from 28.7.2022 to 3.8.2022; Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport served as Chair from 4.8.2022 to present
- Joint Select: Northern Australia served from 5.9.2022 to present
- Joint Standing: Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade served from 28.7.2022 to 14.9.2023; National Capital and External Territories served from 28.7.2022 to present; Treaties served from 28.7.2022 to 4.8.2022
- Joint Statutory: Intelligence and Security served from 14.9.2023 to present; National Anti-Corruption Commission served from 7.12.2023 to 15.12.2023

Parliamentary party positions

- Australian Labor Party. Served: 02.07.2016 to present
- Deputy Chair of the Australian Labor Party Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Caucus Committee.

Other positions

- Special Envoy for Defence, Veterans' Affairs and Northern Australia from 29.7.2024.

Personal

- Born: 17.9.1971, Melbourne, Australia
- Gender: Male
- Marital Status: Married

Qualifications and occupation before entering Federal Parliament

- BA (UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy).
- Royal Military College (Duntroon), 1993.
- Level 3 in Bahasa Indonesian.
- Military Officer from 1990 to 2001.
- Founder of Life, Love and Health not-for-profit (Timor-Leste) from 2002 to 2005.
- Military Officer in the Australian Army, Timor-Leste from 2005 to 2008.
- Founder of the Remote Area Health Corps, 2008.
- Advisor to the President of Timor-Leste from 2008 to 2010.
- Chief Executive Officer of the St Vincent de Paul Society from 2010 to 2011.
- Advisor to the Senator for the Northern Territory and Member for Lingiari (NT), from 2011 to 2016.

Military Service

- Parachute Infantry, Commandos, Defence Cooperation Programs, Norforce and overseas service in Malaysia and Timor-Leste.
- Australian Army 1990-2001.

Electorate

- Name: Solomon
- Location: Solomon covers the Darwin Municipality, the Palmerston Municipality (with the exception of the suburbs of Farrar, Johnston, Mitchell, Yarrowonga and Zuccoli), and the unincorporated areas of the Darwin Rates Act Area and East Arm.
- Area: 191 Sq km
- Electors enrolled: 69,336 (at 4.6.2019)
- Industries: Tourism, mining, horticulture, fishing and light industry.

Honours

- Awarded the Presidential Medal of Merit (Timor-Leste), 2006.

- Awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia, 26.1.2006.

Newnham plans

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Tue 27/02/2024 2:08 PM

To Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>; Josh Willie <Josh.Willie@parliament.tas.gov.au>

[Transforming our Newnham campus | University of Tasmania \(utas.edu.au\)](#)

<https://www.utas.edu.au/about/news-and-stories/articles/2020/newnham-masterplan-will-deliver-a-vibrant-future>

https://www.examiner.com.au/story/7652783/housing_plan-revealed-for-newnham-utas-campus/

Kate Huntington

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I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.

Proposed Senate motion

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Thu 8/08/2024 3:11 PM

To McCarthy, Lachlan (Sen C. Brown) <Lachlan.McCarthy@aph.gov.au>

 1 attachment (229 KB)

Pages from HA-Wednesday-7-August-2024 (Sandy Bay legislation motion).pdf;

Hi Lachlan

Great to see you today. As discussed, here's the proposed motion that Senator McKim will put forward – let me know of any concerns.

- That the Senate notes that:
 - Tasmania's productivity rate is 26% below the national average and the state has a shortage of workers with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) skills which are vital to economic development
 - The future STEM student pipeline in Tasmania is at crisis point, with declining enrolments in STEM school subjects
 - Tasmanian STEM teaching enrolments are insufficient to replace existing teachers as they exit the school system, let alone fill current gaps
 - Tasmanian STEM undergraduate enrolments are declining and won't maintain current workforce levels, resulting in an increasing shortage
 - The University of Tasmania's STEM infrastructure is aged and in desperate need of renewal to meet Tasmania's future educational, industry and research needs
- That the Senate resolves that there is an urgent need for the Australian Government to work with the Tasmanian Government to develop measures to address this educational crisis, including contributing to a new STEM precinct for the University of Tasmania in Southern Tasmania with opportunities for community, industry and other education providers to be welcomed into the precinct.

Also attached is the Hansard of last night's debate. We're not expecting much to come from the tabling of documents this afternoon because we don't think they have had much advice on it.

I'll come back to you re the rPPP grant amount for Newnham and let me know if there's anything further you need from me.

Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications

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Ms Haddad
Ms Howlett
Mr Jaensch
Mr O'Byrne
Ms Ogilvie
Mrs Petrusma
Mr Rockliff
Mr Shelton
Mr Street
Ms White
Mr Willie
Mr Winter
Mr Wood

Motion negated.

MOTION

UTAS

[5.03 p.m.]

Mr WINTER (Franklin - Leader of the Opposition) - I move -

That the House:

(1) Recognises:

- (a) the significance of housing in Tasmania and the negative impact this has on rental affordability, home ownership and Tasmania's ability to recruit and retain key workers; and
- (b) the vacant University of Tasmania (UTAS) land in Sandy Bay could provide nearly 2000 new homes, close to existing infrastructure, public transport routes and community facilities such as schools.

(2) Expresses its concern about:

- (a) the falling number of Year 11 and 12 STEM students in Tasmania;
- (b) the programs being run by Victorian universities to poach Tasmania's top STEM students, which include flying students to Melbourne to view their superior STEM facilities;
- (c) the inability of UTAS to fund a new, state of the art STEM facility, currently estimated to cost \$500 million, because of the Liberal's policy; and
- (d) the harmful signal the Liberal's policy sends to investors across Tasmania, by effectively blocking a development process that has been underway for more than a decade.

- (3) Further recognises that constructing 2000 new homes at Sandy Bay and a \$500 million STEM facility would create thousands of safe, secure, well-paid jobs, and hundreds of apprenticeships.
- (4) Orders the Premier, the Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP, to table copies of all advice received from relevant departments regarding the University of Tasmania (Protection of Land) Bill' by 5pm Thursday 8 August 2024

Honourable Speaker, I rise today to talk about something really important for the Tasmanian community: the future of the University of Tasmania.

The University of Tasmania is Tasmania's only tertiary education institution, and it has been steadily working to revolutionise and modernise its facilities right across Tasmania. I have had the great fortune of seeing the facilities that it has updated - the new facilities at Burnie, which have been a massive success, and then more recently the shed in Launceston, seeing the work that is now almost complete in the city move into Launceston, which was supported by federal, state and local governments.

In Hobart, the university has also been undertaking its city move for a very long time, as it turns out - a very long time in which they have been supported by the Australian Government, the Tasmanian government, the Hobart City Council as well as the other city councils and the southern councils.

There was great endorsement of the city move, of building new STEM facilities, of making the University of Tasmania easier to get to, and that has been happening over a long period of time. Once the new forestry building has been completed, about 70 per cent of students and staff will already be in the city. I noted an interjection from the Leader of the House last week, he said, 'What do you mean by reverse?', or words to that effect. The university's move is already well underway. Most staff and students will already be in the city. However, we have a government that is looking to take the university back into the past through its policies, standing with people who are desperate to make the university something that it was a long time ago, but not something designed for the future. Education in this state needs to be ready for the future, not planning for the past.

In Tasmania, our education results have been letting Tasmanian students down. We have had NAPLAN results that were worse in 2021 than in 2008. We have had huge issues not just with retention of year 11 and 12 students, but also attainment, which I would argue is more important. Attainment for young Tasmanians leaving our education system has not been what we would like it to be. That has had flow-on impacts into the university. The university is dealing with a number of challenges at the moment. One of them is that there are fewer STEM students coming out of year 11 and 12 looking to study, and those students are choosing to travel interstate to Melbourne more and more.

Over the last few weeks, perhaps because I have been talking about UTAS a lot, I have been bombarded with ads from the University of Melbourne encouraging young Tasmanians to go to their expo in Hobart and then go to the University of Melbourne to study STEM. They are doing this not only through what they are doing here in Hobart, but they are also literally paying young Tasmanians to get on a plane and fly to Melbourne, putting them up in accommodation and then showcasing brand-new, modern STEM facilities for Victorian students.

What we have here in Tasmania are university facilities that desperately need updating. The University of Tasmania outlined a plan for the Tasmanian government, the Australian Government and for local government over many years where they explain exactly what they wanted to do. They wanted to move the university into the city for a number of reasons, most of which were to create modern facilities that were ready for modern learning for students. We have encountered resistance to that from people who, perhaps, have a more traditional view of learning, to put it politely, who want to see the university stick to a more traditional path. The University of Tasmania needs to accept that we are moving into the future, and young people certainly are.

Unfortunately, in Tasmania in 2024 it is very different to when I started university at the Sandy Bay campus in 2004. Twenty years ago, the rent I paid was \$90 a week. I had to work one shift at Woolies to pay the rent, another shift at Woolies to pay for the food, and another shift to pay for a couple of drinks with my mates. It was a pretty easy lifestyle compared with what students are dealing with now. There was time to sit around the university and chat to people, have a coffee or a beer at the Uni Bar.

These days things are really different and that is a real-life consequence of the cost-of-living crisis. Students today are paying massively more in rent. If I told a student today that I was paying \$90 a week in rent, they would scoff and be, well, presumably jealous. It is not the reality they are living in. They are having to work longer hours to make ends meet. We heard from the university only last year - one of the reasons for our policy around scholarships was that there are about 1000 young Tasmanians every year who are choosing not to study at university because they simply cannot afford it. They cannot afford the cost of living, they cannot find enough hours to work and study, and they just cannot make it work anymore. This is the reality they are facing. Students are not able to sit around like they did 20, 30, 40 years ago, 50 years ago some people remember right back to. They need to work and change the way they work. Having a university in the city is more accessible for the vast majority of students. It is one bus ride away from places like Sorell, New Norfolk, Bridgewater, the Huon Valley, rather than Sandy Bay, which is difficult.

It was Kerry Vincent, the member for Prosser in the other place, who summed it up really well in his comments a couple of years ago, when he talked about how important it was for young people in his area at Sorell that the university moved into the city to make it more accessible. He talked about students saving up to 40 minutes a day if the university was in the city rather than in Sandy Bay. There is someone representing his community who stood up for the city move. When I was the mayor of Kingborough I also backed the city move. I signed up to support it through the City Deal process and in other forums. Based on my own experience of living in Kingston and studying, I thought it would be much easier to get to a university in the city than in Sandy Bay for many thousands of students like me.

Today's motion recognises that the university move is, fundamentally, a good thing. The motion recognises that this is also about housing. It expresses concerns about STEM facilities and the university's ability to fund that \$500 million potential cost for new STEM facilities.

We have made sure not to refer to legislation that is coming up, and I will not any further than that. What we do understand is that the University of Tasmania needs certainty for its plan. It is a very long-term plan because when the university started moving its assets into the city, it received support from the Australian and Tasmanian governments, and from the local council.

UNCORRECTED PROOF

To stop it from doing what it is doing now would put severe financial strain on the university and impact its operations right across Tasmania. This is the concern it continues to raise.

The motion also recognises the significant shortage of housing in Tasmania and the negative impact this has on rental affordability, home ownership and Tasmania's ability to recruit and retain key workers. It recognises that the university's land in Sandy Bay could provide nearly 2000 new homes close to existing infrastructure, public transport routes and community facilities such as schools.

I accept that our decision to back the university move has not been universally popular. One person who spoke to me the other day said, 'What a silly place to build homes. Why would you want to build homes there?' I was on a local planning authority for seven years and I do not think there is a better opportunity to build housing in greater Hobart than on that site above Churchill Avenue. I am getting scoffs from the member for Clark as I say that, but there really is not. No, not Mr Behrakis.

Ms Ogilvie - I did not scoff.

Mr WINTER - My apologies if that offends you.

Ms Ogilvie - I did not. You have offended me.

Mr WINTER - I apologise if I have offended, honourable Speaker.

It is an opportunity to build housing. It is a 100-hectare site and it is underutilised. When we were there, we saw the Medical Science building, which is completely unused at the moment. It could be retrofitted for housing pretty quickly if the zoning was changed. It is close to public services. It is close to a very regular bus route along Churchill Avenue, close to shops through the local Hill Street Store and Sandy Bay, great schools. Some of Tasmania's best schools are in Sandy Bay. It is close to health care. This is an opportunity not in the outer reaches of Hobart.

For planning, you want to do infill housing, and this is an opportunity to build more housing. The only reason you would not do so is if you did not support development or if you wanted to listen to loud voices that say no. Let us be very honest about it, that is what we have seen here. There are people who do not want to see more housing in the suburb of Sandy Bay and some of them are in the Chamber today.

I have a long record of supporting more housing in infill areas. When I was mayor down in Kingborough, we supported the Maryknoll development, which was very controversial at that time. It was an old nunnery and the nuns there wanted to convert the land they held. They were retiring from active work, and active work in the church, and they wanted to convert that to housing in a housing crisis. We received a lot of pushback from locals there who were concerned about some of the same issues in Sandy Bay. We held firm at our council and supported development.

That is why I have been surprised to see that some of the biggest proponents for development in the city of Hobart are sitting on the wrong side of this issue. Mr Behrakis, as a former alderman, initially strongly supported the City Deal. He endorsed the master plan around the Sandy Bay campus, if I recall correctly, and has also had such a crack at the Greens on council for not supporting development, relentlessly attacking the Greens for knocking back

development. I do not know if a single Green on that council has ever knocked back 2000 homes though, like the former alderman and now member for Clark, Mr Behrakis, is proposing to do. Knocking back 2000 homes is an awful lot of homes to knock back during a housing crisis, because that is a real proposal. The University of Tasmania went to the City of Hobart with its plan. It has withdrawn the plan for now, but it still wants to build those houses because that is the plan that it embarked upon many years ago.

You have the Labor Party, which is supporting more housing and better education facilities in supporting a future for education. You have a Liberal Party, that has now decided it is against development in our city and in our state, and that wants to stand with those who oppose development to oppose more housing during a housing crisis. The housing crisis is not just about people sleeping in tents. It is not just about people who are homeless. It is about the cost-of-living crisis and rents that continue to grow and put more and more pressure on people in our state

Adding additional housing to greater Hobart in Sandy Bay will add to supply, and the basic economics of this means that it will take pressure off rents. It will be a good thing for the entirety of greater Hobart to have additional housing in that area, and through the motion before the House we have an opportunity today to support that.

The motion also recognises the falling number of Year 11 and 12 STEM students in Tasmania and the programs being run by Victorian universities to poach our best and brightest young people. We have seen this through anecdotal examples. I spoke to a young man who is currently studying at Hobart College last week. He tells me that he is interviewing and going through a process to be accepted into a Melbourne university. I asked him and spoke to him about the reasons for that, and he just did not feel like the University of Tasmania was for him.

I despair at that, because we need to make sure that our best and brightest young Tasmanians stay here, and that they feel like they have the best possible facilities to operate from. Young Tasmanians want a university which is modern and has outstanding facilities, but they are not going to get that by using the existing facilities at the University of Tasmania. They have served us well for decades, but it is time for a change and time for a move into better facilities in the city. In the motion we have also talked about the inability of UTAS to fund a new state-of-the-art STEM facility currently estimated to cost \$500 million because of the Liberals' policy.

The university has a plan. The plan went through and was endorsed through the City Deal for a \$500 million STEM facility. What an opportunity for us to work together with the university around that. For them, part of that discussion around their ability to finance that is through divestment of land through sale or lease at Sandy Bay so that they can continue to invest more into the city and into their new STEM facilities.

The STEM facility might be in the city. They might choose - they are going through a process at the moment - to build it on that part of the Sandy Bay campus closer to Sandy Bay Road or below Churchill Avenue, and that is a decision for the university, which is our point. Labor believes that the University of Tasmania should be making decisions for the University of Tasmania. They have their own governance structure, and this place and the other place have largely decided to keep out of the weeds of what the university is doing until the government's recent policy announcement.

We do not believe that we should be getting in the way. We do not think we should be freezing the assets of our only university. We do not believe that we should be attacking them through the policies of this place. We think this place should be getting out of their way and letting them do what they have been doing.

They have either invested or are currently investing \$700 million worth of new facilities across greater Hobart. It has been part of the amount of construction work that has been going to support our economy over the last few years. I had a tour of the forestry building; there are 200 workers there on site most days at the moment constructing what will be a state-of-the-art facility. The artist impressions of what this will look like are extraordinary. This will be a place that I would love to study at, frankly, a place that far surpasses the experience that I had at the University of Tasmania Sandy Bay campus, regarding the facilities, layout, and the technology associated with a brand-new building.

When I went to university, some of us were still attending lectures, but we were just starting to get tape recordings and downloads of audio from lectures, and people were just starting to transition from the very traditional learning of everyone turning up to a 101 lecture in the Stanley Burbury lecture theatre to people starting to migrate back to spending more time at home and less time at work. This university must be allowed to continue to modernise its facilities. It should not be sent back to the past by policies of this Liberal government.

The motion also recognises that the construction of the new STEM facility would create thousands of safe, secure, well-paid jobs. Like those 200 Tasmanians that have been working at the University of Tasmania's forestry building, there is an ability for the university to continue to invest and continue to create jobs across Tasmania as it has been doing for a long time.

The Medical Sciences building was built back in 2009-11 in the city, which was a \$58-million development. The second development was \$90 million between 2011 and 2013. The IMAS at Salamanca - an incredible building - between 2012 and 2014. This is how long this has been going on for. The Centenary Building at the Domain was a \$17-million build. The Hobart Apartments, where the university has been building more housing in the city, helping to create better accommodation for their students.

The Podium Building fit out, a \$2.7 million build. The Hedberg, an absolutely incredible investment by a federal Labor government in that facility. The Philip Smith Centre, which I and other Labor members were able to go to recently to have a look at what they have done - absolutely incredible development. You also have what has happened down at Taroona with IMAS, and what is happening at the moment with IMAS, with those investments there. As I said, the Forestry building in the city, which will be an incredible place to learn and to teach.

The University of Tasmania has been on this path since at least 2009. The university move is not new. The university move is something that has been happening, and you cannot have your cake and eat it too. You cannot say that you support those investments in the city but say that you want to keep 100 hectares at the Sandy Bay campus. Everyone knew when they were doing this that as they invested more and moved more into the city that the university's footprint at Sandy Bay was going to be reduced. It had to be.

Everyone knew, including the Liberal members for Clark. They knew that this was happening and, as I said, we had all kept away from this until the politics of an election got in the way of that. We have had a very unfortunate situation where we have a government now that is intent on completely changing the sovereign risk profile of investing in this state with this decision. The decisions that they are making around the University of Tasmania's campus, as outlined by our business community here in Tasmania by the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce, the Master Builders, HIA and the Property Council, are creating sovereign risk.

The message they are sending to anyone who invests here is that even if you have been investing in a move that has been going on for nearly 15 years, the government might decide to pull the rug out from under you and try to legislate to stop you in your tracks. That is what their legislation does and why it is so dangerous. It is a dangerous approach to policy that is going to put enhanced and increased pressure on the university's finances and, in fact, could lead to pressure that impacts not just study in the south of the state, but study right across Tasmania.

It is bad policy. It is a bad approach and that is why paragraph (4) orders the Premier to table copies of all advice received from the relevant departments regarding the University of Tasmania's protection bill by 5.00 p.m. tomorrow. I want to know what sort of advice they got from this, or whether this was another trick pulled out of the Liberal Party playbook during an election, because that is certainly what it looks like. You have a member for Clark, Ms Ogilvie, out there saying that they were going to save the University of Tasmania, and then later on saying, 'Actually, it does not really do anything', and 'Actually, nobody is stopping anything.' That is what this legislation does and that is what we need to see the advice about. We need to see what advice this government received about this absolutely reckless approach to housing, education and investment in our state.

Where else but in Tasmania would a government - this Liberal government - try and freeze the assets of its only university? What other government would have such a lack of regard for the education institution of the university that it decides to attack it by freezing its assets? I want to know what advice the government got around that, if they got any advice whatsoever. This House should demand that we see the advice to understand exactly where this reckless approach came from.

I am deeply concerned about the message this sends to every Tasmanian young person about the future of education in this state and about this government's commitment to housing during the housing crisis, which has been neglectful to say the absolute best. They declared a housing crisis in 2018, and since then have done almost nothing to resolve it, and things have got worse.

I also wanted to say two things. The first is that I have been critical of the Jacqui Lambie Network, but on this issue they have formulated a policy to support the University of Tasmania's move and I believe that is a good thing. It is a good thing that Tasmanians can see what they stand for, and on this occasion I believe they are standing up for what is right, which is a modern university, with modern learning in this state. This demonstrates that they have seen the arguments, and have seen through the ridiculous arguments of the Liberal Party on this. The arguments are incoherent and make no sense. Freezing assets is something that world leaders do to foreign dictators, to oligarchs in Russia. They have their assets frozen. Who would ever do it to their university? That is what this Liberal government is doing.

UNCORRECTED PROOF

I am also looking forward to the Greens' contribution today. The Greens have been talking about housing federally and at a state level for a long time. We know what their record is at local councils. I have been on the local council with the Greens and listened to the arguments as they oppose housing. They oppose things like the Mary Knoll development that I referred to earlier. We have seen what they did. We have seen what Mr Behrakis, the member for Clark, used to believe. He used to believe in development in this city. He does not anymore, he now opposes 2000 homes. I want to know what the Greens think about this, because there is a 100-hectare site available there at Sandy Bay.

It is close to services, public transport, shops and health care. It has fantastic education services there. There is really no reason that I can think of to prevent development of housing particularly on that part of the site north of Churchill Avenue.

If the Greens want to have any credibility when they talk about housing in this state, it is important that they do support 2000 new homes. To say something positive, the Greens have now backtracked slightly and are saying they have not made their final decision on whether they are going to support the government's ridiculous bill, and that is good.

The Greens should oppose the government's ridiculous bill, because if they care about tertiary education in this state, and if they care about housing in this state, they should stop the government from freezing the assets of our only university. They absolutely should. The Greens have a responsibility here to protect Tasmanians from the diabolically bad policies of the government on this matter, and to protect our university from those who would freeze its assets during a period of significant change.

We are concerned, and I am concerned. This is one of those occasions in politics where you can back something that you passionately believe. I do passionately believe in the university's move. I am proud of the work that they have done in Launceston, impressed with the work that they have done in Burnie, and I am excited about them completing the university move in the city.

The worst thing that we could do to this university is freeze their assets. The worst thing we could do is enact the Liberals' policy, which might have made a few people happy during an election, but surely they understand how bad this will be.

The motion today gives the House the opportunity to send a message to the government that we are not going to tolerate policies like this. They are populist in a small section of the community, but do the complete opposite to what this state wants. The university's proposal gives us the best of both worlds. It offers us an opportunity to build 2000 new homes during an education crisis, and generate the funds that we need to upgrade and build great brand-new education facilities. I think those things are worth recognising and worth supporting. I am a passionate supporter of the University of Tasmania's move to the city. I wholly commend the motion to the House and I hope that the House will support this today.

[5.30 p.m.]

Ms OGILVIE (Clark - Minister for Small Business and Consumer Affairs) - Gosh, that was a lot of words. It is very interesting to see how you can not only try to walk both sides of the street but all sides of all streets at the same time. Let me just unpack a little bit of what is going on here.

Firstly, we are all agreed that the university is marvellous. We want to look after it and support it. I have been well on the record for a very long time, particularly around ICT and the STEM and tech sector, saying that a STEM refit of the Sandy Bay campus is a great idea. It has been on Infrastructure Australia's radar since 2017, which is where the \$500-million figure that Mr Winter keeps latching onto comes from. Since 2017 there would have been an increase in the cost value of that proposal, and I note also that the Universities Accord has recently been published, so one of the questions that I ask Mr Winter is: has he picked up the phone to his colleagues in Canberra to seek the funding that is necessary for our beautiful university?

You know and we know that the Universities Accord talks about regional universities and talks about the sort of investment we need, not just the University of Tasmania, being the one university that we have in this state, but right across Australia for those regional communities that need more investment in education. I am pretty sure you have not picked up the phone, so that is fairly disappointing.

I want to talk about the political games that Mr Winter and his team are playing over there. He talked at some length about the experience he had at university. I will too. I was very fortunate to be able to attend the University of Melbourne as a Tasmanian student, luckily before HECS, so it was free to study arts there. Then I chose to come back home to the University of Tasmania where I studied law. As a third-generation law graduate of that university, we love it as a family and as a community. There are members of our family currently there. I say that by way of full disclosure so that people understand my passion and perspective on this.

The University of Tasmania is an iconic Tasmanian institution. It has educated generations of Tasmanians, and our Sandy Bay campus is an integral part of the university's appeal and offering. We support it. As the only university in our state, UTAS has an important role to play in the economic, social and cultural development of our state. Yes, there has been a concerted effort by the community to ensure the site's future is secure.

By way of background, let us remember that in October 2022, 74.38 per cent of respondents voted 'No' in the City of Hobart elector poll regarding the university's relocation from Sandy Bay into the Hobart CBD. These are the people the opposition claims to represent, but when they get their opportunity, they turn their back on them. Surprising? I think not.

Those opposite must remember that the land in question was gifted by the people of Tasmania to the university in 1951. The university is committed to ensuring that the University of Tasmania delivers positive outcomes for students, staff and the broader Tasmanian community and our very economy. It is very important. Through our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, our government committed that within the first 100 days we would introduce enabling legislation to prevent the disposal of land at the University Sandy Bay campus without the support of both Houses of parliament. We made an election commitment. We followed through on our election commitment. We tabled the bill within the first 100 days.

I will read you the operational clause so you can see that what we are doing is pretty straightforward and is about ensuring transparency. We say:

On and after the commencement day, the university must not dispose of all or any part of the vested land unless the disposal has been first approved by each House of parliament.

It is pretty straightforward; it is pretty simple.

The SPEAKER - Sorry, minister, are you referring to the detail of the bill? You cannot refer to the detail of the bill without pre-empting debate.

Ms OGILVIE - No problem.

The SPEAKER - The motion is permitted because it speaks broadly about the issue.

Ms OGILVIE - Okay, I can speak more broadly about the issue. What the people I have spoken to want is discussion in this place, and that is good. They want to know that our MPs from every part of Tasmania, from every electorate, are part of the discussion about this very important matter.

The Tasmanian government has kept our promise. The bill - hopefully I am getting it right?

The SPEAKER - You can speak about the bill broadly; you cannot go through any of the clauses.

Ms OGILVIE - The bill is not about whether the university should have a presence in the Hobart CBD, despite what Mr Winter has said and the opaqueness with which he has made his argument. We note that the university already has a presence in the CBD, including its Creative Arts precinct across the waterfront, the Hedberg facility and the Menzies Institute for Medical Research. We welcome all of this.

We note our policy is not that UTAS cannot dispose of this land. The question must come through parliament. I am not surprised Labor does not understand. Labor does not understand transparency, clearly. Our bill simply ensures there is transparency and an opportunity for Tasmanians' views to be represented through their elected members before a final decision is made. It is pretty straightforward.

The fact is that Labor refused to state a position on UTAS during the campaign because they were fearful of the electoral backlash. Only now, comfortable in opposition with four years until they face the voters, have they revealed that they will defy the will of the overwhelming majority of residents of Hobart, which is very wishy-washy and reeks of the same old Labor nonsense that we are used to.

As I mentioned previously, Mr Greg Barnes put it perfectly in his 22 July *Mercury* piece when he said -

Mr Winter seems not to care for the fact that the university is not a private institution but is one that must be held accountable for its expenditure of taxpayer funds, and that it is not a property developer. Labor clearly does not care about UTAS students or residents, and their enthusiasm for this project is purely about votes.

Mr Barnes then goes on to say -

The Opposition Leader's rhetoric on this issue is overblown and even comic.

Then there is the recent commentary of Mr Barry Prismall:

Opposition Leader, Dean Winter, who so far in the new parliament reminds me of a limp whinger with no presence or stature.

Oh dear. Perhaps you will have to do some work on that. It remains to see that we are merely introducing an important check and balance for a vital community asset, nothing more. If the opposition leader is seeking - as I think he is - to stir up a storm in a teacup, then Tasmanians should think twice about this opposition's legitimacy and the legitimacy of their arguments. If Labor were supportive of Tasmanians then they would back our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future and advocate to their federal counterparts - pick up that phone for the \$500 plus million required to bring world-class STEM facilities to UTAS in Sandy Bay. Just pick up the phone. As each day passes without advocacy to their federal counterparts, the whinging continues and the Labor team are robbing Tasmania of our STEM future.

Our work with the university on a STEM-led plan for the Sandy Bay campus is practical, prudent and measured and will ensure that the site has a future ready to support and drive the careers of Tasmanians and attract investment and industry. The Tasmanian government understands that our important science and technology sectors offer great potential for economic growth together with global work opportunities, and that the ICT leadership is essential to bridge the digital divide for all Tasmanians.

We all want Tasmanian students to have access to the most contemporary tertiary education opportunities, and, equally, we understand the need to meet workforce demands in the STEM sector both now and into the future. This is precisely why we are acting to address this issue, and that is why I continue to have ongoing dialogue with the university and with STEM industry leaders and continue to work with our Commonwealth counterparts to support UTAS's enhancement and STEM-led plan. The University of Tasmania are also consulting with their expert STEM staff to understand how to deliver the best possible STEM education experience for our students, teachers, and broader community to ensure we cater for our future needs.

This idea of upgraded STEM facilities is not new. They have been on Infrastructure Australia's radar since 2017. Given that seven years have now elapsed, I look forward to working with UTAS to update the business case to pursue a Commonwealth investment for some \$500 million-plus into revamped STEM facilities at Sandy Bay. While Labor purports that UTAS was going to be funding this \$500 million project itself, I am advised that this is simply not true. Our bill in no way limits the advocacy for the university's fair share of funding to support its STEM future.

Perhaps the opposition leader should divert his attention to advocating to his federal counterparts rather than constant whingeing. We all know Labor cannot tell the truth and does not let that get in the way of a good story. When it comes to their aspirations about declining rates of enrolment in STEM subjects, let us remember that this is not just a Tasmanian issue. I am also advised that STEM enrolments have recently increased. Data on year 12 subject enrolments from the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) show a national decline of enrolments in maths and science subjects when comparing 2018 to 2022 figures. It is in all of our interests to arrest that decline and get our kids learning STEM,

and showing them the opportunities both in further study, tertiary education and jobs that they can have globally.

We know that having specialist teachers has a positive impact on enrolments. That is why our government has committed to recruit an extra 25 full-time-equivalent maths and science teachers as part of our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future. After all, this is Tasmania's education future and it is why STEM is so important.

I will turn to housing, a topic our government is addressing for Tasmanians now and into the future. Before I do, I feel I need to address the Leader of the Opposition's misleading comments about 2000 homes. I am not aware of a current proposal for 2000 homes to be developed on that site.

Mr Winter - Pick up the phone to the University of Tasmania, minister.

Ms OGILVIE - Perhaps you would like to table it, Mr Winter. Fundamentally, there is nothing stopping UTAS disposing of the land that was gifted to them by the government. What we are doing is introducing an important check and balance for a vital community asset.

We are delivering on our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future commitments to provide more housing options for Tasmanians, to bring more housing supply online and to allow more Tasmanians to realise their dreams of home ownership. In our first 100 days we have expanded our MyHome shared equity scheme, helping even more Tasmanians to buy or build a house, joining the more than 1000 Tasmanians who have already been supported into home ownership through the program.

We have increased our highly successful Residential Land Rebate program, offering eligible applicants a rebate of up to \$15,000 per lot to bring more affordable residential land to market for home ownership, bringing hundreds more lots to market over the next two years. A request for tender is now registered for our Apartment Development Purchase Program to support a suite of initiatives to stimulate housing supply, increase medium-density apartments and deliver more affordable rentals. We have expanded our Private Rental Incentive scheme to bring on an additional 200 homes into this highly successful scheme.

From October 2020 to June 2024, our government has delivered a total of 3620 social and affordable homes towards our goal of 10,000 social and affordable homes by 2032. That is a key part of our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future. That is because our government recognises that every Tasmanian deserves a roof over their head, which is precisely why our 20-year Tasmanian Housing Strategy and Housing Action Plan 2023 to 202 sets out our plan for safe, appropriate and affordable housing for our state.

Labor's implications that we are somehow stopping the development of the Sandy Bay campus site is false. Tasmanians expect checks and balances, and that is exactly what we are doing.

Mr Winter - What is the point in what you are doing if you are not stopping anything?

The SPEAKER - Leader of the Opposition.

Ms OGILVIE - The opposition ought to stop playing politics with the lives of Tasmanians. They should respect the some 74 per cent of respondents who voted no in the City of Hobart's electoral poll. Those opposite should be offering their full support for Tasmania's STEM future, for the future of our young people, the attraction of new and innovative industries which create jobs and people. The negativity and rhetoric we are hearing from the other side and the conflation of separate issues - it never ceases to amaze us over here how opaque you can be. Tasmanians do not deserve the negativity of Mr Winter and his crew of anti-Tasmania's future people. That is why only our government has a 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, a future that sees this great state as the best place to live, work, raise a family and study.

[5.46 p.m.]

Mr BAYLEY (Clark) - Honourable Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for bringing this motion forward. It is good to have an opportunity to discuss these issues ahead of future debates, including public debates and debates in this House. The Tasmanian Greens have significant concerns about the state of the university which go above and beyond the issue of the move. Yes, we are concerned about the move and have a position on it. We also have concerns around the university's accessibility for students, the decisions and accountability of the university itself and, of course, the concerns of the community.

We have a clear position statement: we believe that the University of Tasmania, as Tasmania's only university, must be a leader in tertiary education, community standing and transparent decision-making. The *University of Tasmania Act 1992* needs to be reviewed and amended to improve governance, accountability, decision-making and academic outcomes. There are deliberations in the other place looking into that.

The state government should use opportunities to ensure that UTAS halts the relocation to the CBD and confirms an ongoing commitment to the maintenance of the Sandy Bay campus for educational purposes. This commitment must respect the built heritage, public open space and natural environment of the site. The concerns of academic staff, students and the broader community must be genuinely considered and addressed by the University Council. All UTAS decisions must be based on credible public engagement and accountable decision-making processes, and any statutory planning approvals provide for third-party rights of appeal.

That is our position on the university. It is a clear position, founded on the fact that the university is our only tertiary education facility. It needs to succeed; it needs to be focused on academic outcomes and academic excellence.

There are also principles about the land and the site. This is public land that was gifted to the university in 1944, 1951, ultimately. There are significant amounts of taxpayer's money that shift across to the university every single year and the *University of Tasmania Act* is a statute that arises from this place. There are significant issues which drive a lot of the public concerns about the institution - not just the move but the performance of the institution, full stop.

We support the order contained in this motion to increase transparency, and I will talk a little bit more about the motion itself. We certainly support more transparency. We would welcome the opportunity for more information to be put on the table, but we do not support the move as it stands at the moment. We want the Sandy Bay site retained for educational purposes. That does not mean we give blanket support to the Liberals' legislation as it is drafted at the moment. We do not automatically think that is the answer. I am sure all members have received

the same correspondence I have had from the university that flags some initial legal advice around its concerns about the effect of this legislation. I will read it into *Hansard* for the benefit of those reading this in the future. This is a letter from Pro Vice-Chancellor Nicholas Farrelly to, I think, all members:

Our initial legal advice is this bill looks to be inconsistent with the fundamental principles of land ownership in Tasmania, amounting to a reverse compulsory acquisition that effectively prohibits the sale in order to force land use which the University Council would otherwise have decided is not in the best interest of the university, deprives the university of the value of the land, imposes an ongoing cost burden on the university through ongoing holding and upkeeping costs of the land and buildings which it is prohibited from disposing, and inhibits the council's long-term planning for the university to achieve the objective set out under the act.

I have not seen that legal advice and we have not sought our own legal advice. I am unsure whether the government has legal advice about the legalities and implications of this legislation regarding the responsibilities of University Council members and other issues. The Greens certainly do not want to be involved in anything that cuts across any legal responsibilities or any other issues about other of statutes or the responsibilities of the university. We broadly support the intent of the legislation, but we have significant concerns that we will need to see addressed.

From the Greens' perspective, the UTAS move into the city looks completely untenable at the moment for a range of different reasons. It looks like the Labor Party has jumped on a horse that has already bolted.

Mr Winter - Yes, because it is already there, it is already in the city.

Mr BAYLEY - We will get to that, Mr Winter. I will anchor back to 74 per cent of Hobart residents who voted no to this in the elector poll. This is not every council in the state, it was not a plebiscite of every single person in the state, but both the Sandy Bay site and the city are in the Hobart municipality. By any measure, 74 per cent is an unequivocal result, an unequivocal condemnation of this as an approach. We do not understand the motives, and people will cast pejoratives as to why a lot of people voted that way. However, the reality is that 74 per cent of people did not support this and that needs to earn an element of respect from this House and the University of Tasmania.

There are also the financial issues. Mr Winter raised the finances. I will read into *Hansard* some commentary from Mr John Lawrence. He is a well-respected retired economist and accountant. On 5 July he wrote:

The primary focus should be on arresting the decline in earnings from core operations. Moving to Hobart will only defer and exacerbate the problem. Building STEM facilities with a sale-and-leaseback arrangement will not fix negative earnings from the core activities of teaching and research. It will make it worse, as any investor lessor will want a rate of return well in excess of the rate at which UTAS could borrow, if only Treasurer Ferguson will approve an increase in UTAS's borrowing limit. UTAS knows this but its sheer bloody-mindedness has led it to deliberately pursue the reckless course

of taking UTAS to the brink of insolvency by trying to force the hand of parliament and the government to allow it to sell parts of Sandy Bay so that it continues with its vanity project whilst ignoring the wishes of most other stakeholders.

That is the view of an eminent economist and accountant who has been tracking this and reading annual reports closely. He believes the financial landscape that sits underneath the university has fundamentally changed, and we know that is the case. This decision was made many years ago, prior to any level of consultation, at a time when the university landscape was very different. It is anchored in a business model that is reliant on international students, and international students, theoretically, want a city-based campus. However, the era of Australian universities, including the University of Tasmania, relying on international students has changed.

Whether that be through COVID, the trade wars with China, the federal caps that the federal government is currently considering on international students to universities, the landscape has changed and by any measure, whether it be community support, financial realisation or the future prospects, this move is now fundamentally untenable. Yes, students are getting courted by other universities, of course they are, it is a business, now a corporate business. When Keating and the federal government started to change the structure around the university model, when it started to charge students HECs and withdraw public support for education. It forced them into a business model and yes, they are competitive. This comes back to one of the challenges with UTAS. UTAS has effectively moved its entire course offerings online, barely offers face to face engagement with students, certainly not in a lecture context.

Mr Winter - Why do you think that is?

Mr BAYLEY - That is because it is cheaper to do. It is cheaper. They can recycle the same lecture that's been recorded by a lecturer. It is not necessarily what kids want to do. I can speak from my own experience, my daughter. My daughter went through the last couple of years of her school in the COVID period. My daughter could think of nothing worse than doing an entire university degree in her bedroom. She chose to go to Sydney University. She had an early offer from UTAS and she ultimately got an offer from University of Sydney. She chose to go to University in Sydney because she wanted to interact with human beings face to face. That is a reality. That is one challenge.

If UTAS wants to start to become more attractive to students and academics, if it wants to up the level of academic offering that it is putting out there, it really needs to have a look again at the decision to rationalise learning, put most of it online and bring into place on face-to-face learning again. That, in my view and of lot of the young people that I talk to, is one of the key reasons that people are looking interstate or overseas for their support. Indeed, if you wanted to do a degree -

Mr Winter - Why do you think it is cheaper to teach online?

Mr BAYLEY - If you were happy to do an online degree, many people would potentially be better off looking at universities overseas.

The Leader of the Opposition flagged that UTAS has been moving for 15 years. Yes, some elements of it have been. Menzies, the Conservatorium and Hedberg, the art school,

IMAS and Tarooma, all of these are largely on uncontroversial moves. They are either already in the city and have been for a long time, or they were uncontroversial. Putting Menzies near the hospital makes logical sense. We did not see pushback on that. Then it comes to the Philip Smith Centre, introducing a new outdoor education faculty or course offering running out of the Philip Smith Centre on the domain makes perfect sense. We welcome that and celebrate it.

It is well beyond time that Tasmania had a Bachelor of Education with a focus on outdoor education. It is one of those niche areas that we should be offering here in this state. Most of that move has largely been uncontroversial and is replicating facilities that were already in the city. The big challenge came with a whole scale move into the city, paid for by a rationalisation of the University of Campus site at Sandy Bay, paid for by selling off that with the kind of developments that were put on the table represented a complete overreach for a whole range of people

Mr Winter - What sort of developments are you talking about? Housing?

Mr BAYLEY - Housing and a whole range of things. Look onto your motion.

The SPEAKER - I do ask that the interjections cease, you can keep it for the summing up.

Mr BAYLEY - Onto housing, Mr Winter, look at the day that the Labor Party supports the Greens in its efforts to rein in short stay accommodation to manage rentals, excessive rents to any no cause evictions to deliver minimum standards is the day we are happy to be lectured by you about housing, Mr Winter.

Just because there is a site - 100 hectares, as you say, I am not sure that it is 100 hectares because a whole lot of that is currently bush. I do not know whether you are proposing to clear all that bush and just have a wall-to-wall suburb up towards Mount Nelson, but the day you support those initiatives that we bring into this House is the day I am happy to be lectured by you.

It is not vacant land. Your motion reads as if this is vacant land - as if it is just some vacant block with birds nesting in it and so forth. It is not; it is a university campus. It is zoned for education. It has a bushland reserve. This is not your average piece of vacant land. If you were going mount an argument that this is vacant land, we should just as well mount an argument that we can build housing on Parliament House lawns or St Davids Park. It is a ridiculous argument that this is vacant land.

It is not vacant land. This is university land used for educational purposes. It has teaching on it. It has people living on it already in student housing, and it has community interest that is anchored there. There is no guarantee whatsoever that any planning authority - the Tasmanian Planning Commission - would agree to it being rezoned. There are no guarantees whatsoever. To claim that it is vacant land and that you can suddenly start turning a sod and building houses there is utterly ridiculous.

There may well be a future vision for the site. There may well be a landing point for this site that does include student housing. The Greens can totally see a vision where there is a whole lot of student housing built around that campus. Then, do you know what? No one will

be able to argue that there is not a community of interest that wants a central hub on the university.

Mr Winter - You are happy if it is students living in the housing, so why are you not happy with other housing?

Mr BAYLEY - There are students living there already, Mr Winter.

Mr Winter - Why is it okay if the students live there?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER - Order. I do ask that the member is allowed to make his contribution without interjections.

Mr BAYLEY - When it comes to STEM, everyone knows there is tripartisan support. I sure there is support across this Chamber for a new STEM facility but, again, it is untenable in the city.

It is very clear that the university should and can anchor back to the Sandy Bay campus, sell its surplus facilities and land here in the city and go, cap in hand, together with tripartisan support, to the federal government and others looking for funding for a STEM facility at Sandy Bay. That is clearly a vision and part of the solution in this debate. It is about anchoring back to Sandy Bay and making sure that the facilities are there.

The reality is some of the science facilities are there already - the science labs, the geology stores and so forth. They cannot be moved anywhere. They are so big and extensive.

Mr Winter - What is your proposal for the forestry building? What a great relationship.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER - Order, I can hardly hear the member speaking. I ask members on both sides to allow the member to make his contribution.

Mr Winter - Furious agreement. It is like the same policy.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER - All interjections will stop. Thank you.

Mr BAYLEY - That is where the solution lies, with STEM in Sandy Bay. If this House and the university made a commitment back to Sandy Bay - gave a commitment to retaining Sandy Bay's site and to building STEM in Sandy Bay - a lot of the heat would disappear out of this debate. There would be a lot of support for the university and its future anchored back to that site, and there would be a good prospect of going to the federal government and others to get the money and build the facility there.

I know we all have different positions on these different things and maybe you have had a road to Damascus moment, Mr Winter, but you have commented about this in the past. Correct me if I am wrong, but this is a comment from you from some time back:

It's not UTAS's role to inflate CBD numbers. It's not UTAS's role to fix the housing crisis. It's not UTAS's role to create construction jobs.

Mr Winter - No, that is not me. That is incorrect.

Mr BAYLEY - Are you happy to record that?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER - Order.

Mr WINTER - Point of order, that is not me. That is not a comment from me. You have misinterpreted a social - that is not what I have ever said.

Mr BAYLEY - It has your name on it, Mr Winter.

Mr Winter - It is incorrect.

Mr BAYLEY - Was it fabricated by a third party?

Mr Winter - No. I have never said that.

Mr BAYLEY - Fabricated?

Mr Winter - Yes.

Mr BAYLEY - By a third party, or a staff member?

Mr Winter - A staff member? What are you talking about?

Mr BAYLEY - So, someone -

The DEPUTY SPEAKER - All comments through the chair, please.

Mr Winter - No, it is not me.

Mr BAYLEY - I will continue to read this in, and Mr Winter, you are welcome to correct it.

UTAS's role is to provide world-class student education outcomes and research facilities for their academics and industry partners. Cross-disciplinary STEM that requires shared resources - central science laboratories, super computing power, libraries, controlled environments, teaching resources and tools, specimen depositories - fragmented over the city is totally unviable.

Shrink Sandy Bay shore, sell the condemned buildings above Churchill Avenue and put housing on its shore, but keep the campus and take the opportunity to build it out to a STEM hub that is the envy of the nation. The solution is moving students to the classroom, not the other way around. Fix public transport. Agreed. It is three kilometres from the CBD.

Mr Winter - I have never said any of that. I would ask you to stop because I have not said this at any point.

Mr BAYLEY - Okay, I am happy to withdraw that. I will listen to your summing up.

UNCORRECTED PROOF

I will not talk any further. We absolutely support paragraph (5) of this motion. We would like to see paragraph (4) of this motion; we would like to see additional transparency. I would like to move an amendment that strikes out clauses 1, 2 and 3. I move:

That the motion be amended by omitting clauses 1, 2 and 3.

The SPEAKER - I call Mr Bayley on the amendment.

Mr BAYLEY - On the amendment, I will be really quick because I do not need to say any more. This basically removes the preamble and a whole range of statements that we contest or do not believe are necessarily helpful in the context of this debate. It retains the substantive element of this motion, which is ordering the government to release a range of documentation. We certainly support that.

We have concerns about the legislation. We would be fascinated to see if there is any legal advice. We are looking forward to continuing conversations with the university about its advice and thoughts. We are all for transparency, but, as it stands, we would like to amend the motion to take out the hyperbole and the preamble and just anchor back to paragraph (4).

Ms OGILVIE - Point of order. Just so I understand, are we on the amendment or -

The SPEAKER - Yes, we are on the amendment. We are definitely debating the amendment.

[6.08 p.m.]

Mr O'BYRNE (Franklin) - What a mess. What an awful mess this University of Tasmania debate has become. What has been lost is its fundamental role to give Tasmanians a tertiary education and to conduct research through cooperative research centres, partner with industry and business and communities, and lift the overall debate, intellect and educational outcomes in Tasmania.

That is what has been lost in this debate. The university's act of parliament establishes its public character but it also enshrines its autonomy. It is a universally recognised cornerstone of university governance to ensure universities remains free from political interference. It is not an unfettered autonomy; it is a responsibility that they must maintain the goodwill and the support of the Tasmanian community in the decisions that they make.

We have a university that has completely bungled the move, the debate around it, the challenge and the argument about the delivery of modern universities and the environment in which they compete. They have completely struggled to explain that, not only to their staff but to the broader community. We have the politics of the three parties cherry-picking stats, information and data to create a political outcome.

It is a disappointing outcome overall and I am reflecting on everyone. I am sorry. The University of Tasmania is such an important institution in Tasmania and to have the level of debate that we have seen over the last 6 to 12 months on this matter has diminished all of Tasmania.

I will wait until I see the final version of the bill in terms of the proposal from the government and make my position clear leading into it.

This is such a low point in terms of a higher education institution in Tasmania. It seems that anyone who has an axe to grind with the university over the last 50 years, this is their time to jump in and have a real crack. The debate is murky; the debate is turgid.

In terms of the motion and the amendment, there is a fair bit of cherry-picking and political posturing around points 1, 2 and 3 which are being proposed to be moved. However, at the end of the day, point 4 is the nub. It is important for transparency that the government produces the advice they received as a government regarding the decision to force both Houses of parliament to approve any major change in real estate or ownership or use of university property, which is something that challenges the original underpinning concept of the act that established the university - the parliament's act, the parliament's process of establishing the University Act and its autonomy. As I said though, that autonomy is not without a responsibility to the Tasmanian people.

I support the intent of the motion in point 4. I will see where the numbers lie on the amendment. The entire debate around the future of the university and the politics that have been played over the last 12 months or so has diminished everyone and has diminished the institution of University of Tasmania.

[6.12 p.m.]

Mr BEHRAKIS (Clark) - Honourable Speaker, I would like to speak on this issue and indicate that the Liberal Party will be supporting the amendment, and to just talk about this issue and call out some of the misrepresentations that are being peddled by the Labor Party -

The SPEAKER - You do need to address the amendment. I am happy to give you a call if the amendment is going to be supported. I am always happy to put that vote and move back to the substantial motion.

Mr BEHRAKIS - I will stick to it. I know the amendment. I know those clauses that are being removed do touch on the policy, do touch on the UTAS issue, so I will try my best.

We can all agree that the university is an iconic Tasmanian institution, has educated generations of Tasmanians, including many of us here. What Labor fails to realise, and I am speaking to particularly paragraph 2, which is being proposed to be removed, the Sandy Bay campus is an integral, critical part of the university's appeal and offering in southern Tasmania. There has been a very clear and a very concerted effort and message by the community to ensure the site's future is secure.

Contrast with we have listened to the community which is why we brought this policy to the election. It is interesting that Labor had no policy on this until after the election. What is being proposed, what is being talked about, our policy does not prevent the university from investing in accommodation, does not prevent them from developing elsewhere, selling or leasing parts of the campus. It literally means that we are proposing that any disposal of land specifically on that site, that there is a consideration of the community and the approval of parliament. That is all it does. It is about striking the right balance between protecting the public interest and the huge level of public concern, and allowing the university to get on with their core business, which is educating Tasmanians.

I will highlight some of the points that have been raised in regard to our policy, and I have to say that it is the first time in my life I have been accused of being anti-development as

I have by the Leader of the Opposition. There is a first time for everything. I am disappointed that the other Greens member for Clark was not in the room. I am sure she would have had interesting response to that. The reality is nothing can be further from the truth. It is funny coming from the same opposition who spent their election making their core platform opposition to a development, being the stadium, only to realise after the fact that they got it wrong. They changed their position and flipped. Now they have this policy that they have they have picked on and they have decided to get onto it and now call themselves pro development. I welcome it. It is great to see Labor trying to turn over a new leaf and call themselves pro development like I have been for years.

I am glad Mr Winter was able to acknowledge on Twitter a few weeks ago, but they have been radio silent on this issue right up until the election. Afterwards, they have tried to label everyone who does not agree as a vocal minority. Seventy-four per cent of the council voters in the first ever election that had compulsory voting - I would hardly call that a vocal minority. I can get behind the statement itself that too often we get developments that get held up by a couple of really vocal people. I have seen it a million times on council. But 74 per cent is not a vocal minority. That includes the broad cross-section of the community. It includes people who also vote Labor. It involves people who vote Greens, and it involves people who vote Liberal. It also includes the student body of the university and a huge number of staff.

I am happy to be corrected, but I am pretty sure the NTEU also has a position against the UTAS move. I am trying to whittle down what it is. What is the vocal minority that the Labor Party is talking about here? They have tried to have it each way. They remain silent on the issue and they come out afterwards. They were very quiet on this because given the clear feedback from the community in Clark, this would have given them a huge electoral backlash if they came out with it and they were honest about it before the election. They waited until it was safe to do so without consequence. They are happy to come out on this and act strong and say that we are pro-development. They can sit here and wait four years until they have to test what the people of Clark say about this.

Let us be very clear about what has been proposed here and what we are talking about. No-one is talking about stopping development on the Sandy Bay campus. No-one is talking about forcing or ceasing or reversing the development or the CBD campus locations. No-one is talking about blocking housing from being built. That is what Labor thinks is being discussed, or what they are purporting is being propose, but it is not.

What this side is doing through our policy is acknowledging that the land on which the Sandy Bay campus resides is public land. It was gifted to the university with the intention of it being for an educational purpose. That is the history of the place. We are ensuring that any development that occurs on that site, and we do we think development should occur on that site, should be in line with the broad community expectations.

Mr Winter - Do you support 2000 homes on the site? You just said you support development.

Mr BEHRAKIS - I will get to that, Mr Winter. I love that Labor is trying to reinvent themselves and they are trying to be supportive and trying to be pro-development. I know that is a novel concept for them but I have been there for some time, as Mr Winter has acknowledged.

UNCORRECTED PROOF

Being pro-development does not mean every single development without question. It does not mean that. It does not mean rubber stamping things. It does not mean that development that occurs should not have checks and balances.

Dr Broad - That is what the Hobart City Council does. You just came from there.

Mr BEHRAKIS - No, that is not what that is. There are many developers building homes in our state. We are committed to continuing to facilitate that development. It is why we are doing things like the development assessment panels and taking politics out of council planning, which I hope Mr Winter supports.

The reality is that there is only one university in Tasmania. It is important that the state's only tertiary education institute remains focused on providing the world-class education that they are known for, and letting those who specialised in developing the housing that Tasmania needs to focus on that.

I will also add, this whole talk about 2000 homes and opposing it, and blocking 2000 homes, completely pre-empts the Mount Nelson/Sandy Bay Neighbourhood Plan that the council has embarked on. The fact the university has actually withdrawn their planning applications for it in anticipation of the neighbourhood plan -

Mr Winter - Do you support it or not?

Mr BEHRAKIS - Well, there is no plan at the moment. There is no plan for 2000 homes. That is the fallacy of this whole conversation. The university withdrew their application to see what comes out of this neighbourhood plan. To suggest that we are even talking about 2000 homes completely assumes that nothing is going to come out of it.

Mr Winter - They do want to build 2000 homes there.

Mr BEHRAKIS - Why did they withdraw the application?

Mr Winter - Because of your council.

The SPEAKER - Order, members on my left, just because the member asked you a question does not mean that you are entitled to answer it.

Mr BEHRAKIS - Our apologies for inciting.

Further to that point, the argument that we are going to provide 2000 homes in that area, we do have to wait and see. The university has not come back saying they are definitely going to build these 2000 homes. They have withdrawn that application. They are waiting to see what happens. We cannot now act like this is what is going to occur.

Another policy that we took to an election, were brave enough to take to an election, the university will still be able to present whatever plans they want for the site, including the need to rezone, but these will be up for the consideration of the community, the council and, if necessary, the Planning Commission and the parliament, which, in most circumstances, would be fair and reasonable.

I do not know why the Labor Party thinks they can hoodwink Tasmania by continuing to push this rhetoric of 2000 houses. Any attempt to have checks and balances, any attempt to make sure that what is being built does align with broad community expectations, is blocking. I am not sure what they are trying to achieve other than trying to claim a little election win and trying to rebrand themselves as pro-development. I know they have a fair bit of rebranding to do, but we have been very clear. We took our policy to an election.

Mr Winter - There is nothing clear about your policy.

Mr BEHRAKIS - We were very open about it. Labor was very quiet at the time, very quiet. What we are talking about doing will respect the right of the university to establish new facilities in the Hobart CBD. We are not stopping that. We recognise the importance of, as has been discussed, our STEM sector potential for economic growth, and the global work opportunities and ICT leadership. We are working to make sure the university has a STEM-led plan for the Sandy Bay campus. We are listening to the students, we are listening to the teachers, and we are listening to the 74 per cent of people in the council area who want to make sure that this campus represents the best educational purpose as it historically has.

It does not mean that we cannot have housing development occur on that site. It does not mean we cannot have all sorts of development happening. All it is saying is if the university wants to dispose of land, public land gifted to them by the people of Tasmania, there has to be some sort of check and balance -

Mr Winter - Called the planning scheme.

Mr BEHRAKIS - No, we are talking about public land. It still has to go through a planning scheme.

On the issue of the university's move into the CBD, Mr Winter can check my record as far as how I voted on all of those and my position has not changed ever.

Let us talk about housing. Where do we want those houses to be?

The SPEAKER - Let us talk about the motion before the House. If you are talking about those houses that you say do not exist, you are okay.

Mr BEHRAKIS - Those houses and the fact that the motion is referring to 2000 houses that are not going to be built, this is the best place to build these 2000 homes. Just up the road on Argyle Street and Campbell Street, the same council that is embarking on the Mount Nelson/Sandy Bay plan has identified the easy development potential of over 5000 properties in areas where there are private owners who will not talk about developing public land and are talking about doing it with their own money. That is where our focus is, on facilitating those kinds of developments in the inner city, which has a much lower impact on infrastructure and much higher amenity for those who are living in the inner city and access to services. It is not in those areas where the broad community in the entire city is against it.

To talk about the suggestion that this is a very localised opposition of people outside of Hobart who do not care. I know the attention on this was very much focused on Hobart. I still drive around in Clarence and see signs with the Save UTAS move. Let us not pretend that this is something that is just -

Mr Winter - It is going to be driven by signs. It is sign-led policy, is it?

Mr BEHRAKIS - Let us not talk - no, it is a reflection on the 'Oh, this is just some NIMBYs in Sandy Bay' and that is not true. It is untrue, it is a mistruth. It completely minimises how big an issue this is for many people in the community. As I said, we are not just talking about people who vote Liberal or people who vote Green, but also Labor voters, which is why you did not make this your key policy during the election, but it is your key policy now.

Mr Winter - We have had the same policy on this for a decade.

Mr BEHRAKIS - You were very quiet in this sitting during the last election, were you not? With that, Speaker -

Members interjecting.

The SPEAKER - I am attempting to hear Mr Behrakis, the member for Clark, in peace, thank you.

Mr BEHRAKIS - I could talk about this for hours, Honourable Speaker, but I will not. I will leave it there. I indicate that we will be supporting that amendment.

[6.26 p.m.]

Mr WINTER (Franklin - Leader of the Opposition) - Honourable Speaker, we will be opposing the amendment. I know that there is not much time left to debate, but on the amendment in particular, and listening to the arguments on the amendment, some of the contributions were quite extraordinary.

The most interesting one was the other member for Clark, though, Mr Bayley, who said that they would be okay with student accommodation on the site at Sandy Bay, which made me wonder what sort of housing they would not want on the site. The Greens are happy with students to live at the University of Tasmania, homes, presumably, so why is it they do not want anyone else living there? Why is it that they will not allow for social or affordable housing to go there? Why is it only students that are allowed to live in Sandy Bay?

Mr Bayley - Because it is a university campus.

The SPEAKER - Sorry, I remind the Deputy Leader of the Greens that, (a), he should not be interjecting and, (b), he is certainly not allowed to do it while he is standing in the corridor. You will be asked to leave if you do it again.

Mr WINTER - The member for Clark, Mr Bayley, really exposed the Greens when he said that they might be okay with student accommodation, presumably, but not okay with other types of housing on that site, which speaks to the sort of position that they are now holding on this position - adverse to good outcomes for housing in this state. It is a disappointing position and they have really belled the cat in terms of what this is all about for them.

Then we had the other member for Clark, Mr Behrakis, who has talked a lot about voters, not about people. He talked about Liberal voters, Labor voters, and Green voters because that is how this government has seen this entire debate: who the voters are, who is voting for them. That is what the issue is. I have news for Mr Behrakis, former alderman Behrakis; this whole

place has had the same position on UTAS and the move for years and that has been to keep out of it. This place has refused to enter into the debate. Your Premier was education minister for years while this move was going on and kept out of it. The Greens kept out of it for a long period of time until a little bit before you, but kept out of it for a long time. We have kept out of it as well because we respect the autonomy of the university, and we respect the planning authority that exists for checks and balances. That is what your old job was, alderman Behrakis. It is not what your job is now when it comes to planning in this state.

This government's position on this is confused. We have a member for Clark who said, 'We have heard you loud and clear and listened, and UTAS will stay in Sandy Bay'. That is what he said during the election. Then we had the other Liberal member for Clark, Ms Ogilvie, who denied that the new laws were designed to prevent the sale of Sandy Bay campus land, but provide an extra layer of scrutiny over what she referred to as a vital community asset. So, what is it?

What is it? Are they supporting housing or not? The member for Clark, Mr Behrakis, said that they might support housing in the future, they might support, in fact they do, there will be development on the site. But he cannot say if they support 2000 new homes. Yes, the university withdrew their planning application and zoning changes. They did so because of the council that he was on. They did so because they have gone -

Mr Behrakis - They did so because of the election poll.

Mr WINTER - They did so because of the attitude from the council, Honourable Speaker. A council that had unanimously endorsed the city move had councillors and alderman like alderman Behrakis voting for and supporting the university move, then after more than a decade of moving, decided to change their mind. That is called sovereign risk. That is the issue with this government and with the policies.

We do not support the amendment because we support good policy. We do not support the sort of approach that is being proposed by the government. I hope that the Greens are true to their word and carefully scrutinise the proposed bill because it is a shocking thing for Tasmania, shocking thing for our education institution, the most critical education institution.

We do not support the amendment. I hope the House will not support it either.

The SPEAKER (Ms O'Byrne) The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

The House divided -

AYES 24

Mr Abetz
Ms Badger
Mr Barnett
Mr Bayley
Mr Behrakis
Ms Beswick
Ms Burnet
Mr Ellis

NOES 9

Dr Broad (Teller)
Ms Brown
Ms Butler
Ms Dow
Ms Finlay
Ms Haddad
Ms White
Mr Willie

Mr Fairs
Mr Ferguson
Mr Garland
Ms Howlett
Mr Jaensch
Ms Johnston
Mr O'Byrne
Ms Ogilvie
Mrs Pentland (Teller)
Mrs Petrusma
Mr Rockliff
Ms Rosol
Mr Shelton
Mr Street
Mr Wood
Dr Woodruff

Mr Winter

Amendment agreed to.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

MOTION

Homelessness Week

[6.36 p.m.]

Mrs PENTLAND (Bass) - Honourable Speaker, I move the motion in my name.

The SPEAKER - Is a vote required today?

Mrs PENTLAND - Yes, Speaker. I move -

That the House -

- (1) Recognises that 5-11 August 2024, being National Homelessness Week, is an opportunistic time to focus on policies and services that promotes more Tasmanians into stable and secure housing.
- (2) Further recognises that the theme for the 2024 Homelessness Week is 'Homelessness Action Now' seeking commitments from Governments across all Australian jurisdictions to act to end homelessness, which is particularly relevant to Tasmania as we continue to experience a housing crisis.
- (3) Acknowledges that the Government's proposed Residential Tenancy Amendment Bill 2024 (No. 27) has received criticism from many within our community, including from industry and landlord representative bodies, which requires further consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

Questions on the legislation

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Sun 25/08/2024 9:03 PM

To dean.winter@parliament.tas.gov.au <dean.winter@parliament.tas.gov.au>; Sarah Lovell <sarah.lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Cc Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>; Jane Beaumont <jane.beaumont@utas.edu.au>

 1 attachment (30 KB)

Questions re legislation.docx;

Hi Dean and Sarah

Ahead of your briefing tomorrow, please find attached some questions and info that you may find useful.

Please let us know if anything further would be helpful.

Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications

University of Tasmania

Admin Building | Private Bag 51

Hobart TAS 7001

0432 389 793



We acknowledge the Aboriginal people of Tasmania as Traditional Owners of the land on which this university is located.

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.

Process questions

- Why wasn't the University provided with draft legislation for consultation ahead of tabling, given the significant impact on the institution?
- Why does the Bill extend to all land owned by the University while the Government's expressed policy intent has only referred to the Sandy Bay Campus?

Note: definition of 'vested land' means – (a) the land specified in Schedule 1 that is owned by the University on the commencement day (which is the sandy bay campus land); and (b) such land as is prescribed as vested land for the purposes of this Act. Clause 7 of the Bill then provides for the regulation making power to prescribe lands other than Sandy Bay Campus as 'vested land' that would be subject to the disposal restrictions.

- How does this legislation work with the planning scheme and the role of local government, particularly in the context of the Hobart City Council's Sandy Bay and Mount Nelson Neighbourhood Plan which includes the Sandy Bay Campus?

Note: there is an interim planning scheme in place for Sandy Bay Campus. The Hobart City Council neighborhood plan would initiate an amendment to the planning scheme.

- What will be the process for proposals to come forward under the legislation?

Legal questions

- Was advice sought from Treasury in developing the Bill? How does this legislation interact with the University's existing debt approval which includes a condition relating to revenue from the development of Sandy Bay?
- Given the bill is effectively a reverse compulsory acquisition – is there a chance the University could seek compensation?
- Is there a conflict with the University Act regarding legal protections to University Council members and key decision-makers who may be put at personal risk by this legislation? Have you sought legal advice on their obligations in this regard?

Note - The common basis of landownership in Tasmania based on the common law and Tasmanian legislation is that the state cannot take ownership in whole or part of University owned land (which we have full ownership rights including sale as any other owner):

- *without paying market value and other just compensation*
- *unless there is an appropriate public purpose for the acquisition*
- *unless the land is then be used for that purpose once it is acquired.*

The Bill is inconsistent with these fundamental principles as it amounts to a reverse compulsory acquisition - as it:

- *effectively prohibits sale in order to force a use of the land where the University Council would otherwise have decided is not in the best interests of the university*
- *deprives the university of the market value*

- *imposes an ongoing cost burden on the university through ongoing holding and upkeep costs for the land which it is prohibited from disposing*
- *inhibits the council's long-term planning for the university to achieve the objectives set out under the UTAS Act.*

Comparisons across the University sector

- What review has been done of other jurisdictions regarding relevant government oversight models that propose the same mechanisms as this Bill?
- Is there a risk that this legislation could make the only University in Tasmania less competitive than other Universities?

Note – there is no other university with the model proposed in this Bill. It's a mixed bag but note that:

- *All Victorian unis import a monetary value for when Minister approval required for selling (which is at market value); and*
- *QLD universities and SA universities have no restrictions at all on real property rights.*

Federal government support for higher education

- What consultation has the Tasmanian Government undertaken with the Federal Government in relation to the impacts this legislation will have on the provision of higher education in Tasmania into the future?

There are major reforms underway across the higher education sector nationally, including changes to international students policy that are having major financial impacts and the response to the Australian University Accord, including the new Australian Tertiary Education Commission and associated funding approach which will come into effect in 2026, is still being designed and legislated.

Victoria Geason

From: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2024 3:37 PM
To: Kate Sullivan
Subject: RE: Australian Maritime College Visit

Hi Kate,

I haven't got any times confirmed yet.

I advised Mal previously that we can be at the college from around 9am-1pm on 30 July. So whatever works on your end during that time. We will be flying the night before into Launceston.

Thanks,
Frankie.

Warm regards,



Frances Kerkham

ADVISER - MEDIA & PARLIAMENT
OFFICE OF ALISON BYRNES MP

Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au
02 4228 5899
74 Crown Street Wollongong NSW 2500

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From: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 3:02 PM
To: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>
Subject: Australian Maritime College Visit

Hello Frankie,

I'm reaching out from Mal Wise's office to discuss the scheduled visit with The Hon Alison Byrnes MP on the 30th of July.

Do you have a confirmed scheduled for you visit?

Kind Regards,

If using assistive software, message ends here. Email signature below.

Kate Sullivan (*She/Her*)
Executive Officer to the Principal and AMC Board
Australian Maritime College
University of Tasmania
T: +61 3 6226 7170
Locked Bag 1398, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

CRICOS 00586B

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Victoria Geason

From: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2024 8:32 AM
To: Kate Sullivan
Cc: Gregory Truloff
Subject: Re: Australian Maritime College Visit

Hi Kate,

Thanks for letting me know!

We'll see you guys shortly.

Unfortunately Professor Ty Christopher was unable to join us for the trip, but I was wondering if the room we are having the initial discussions in is set up for Teams conferences?

If so would be great if we could set up Ty to join us online, his email address for a teams invite is tchristo@uow.edu.au

If this isn't possible I've bought my iPad which I can set up!

Thanks so much.
Frankie.

Frances Kerkham | Adviser - Media & Parliament
Office of Alison Byrnes MP | Federal Member for Cunningham
Frances.kerkham@aph.gov.au | [02 4228 5899](tel:0242285899) | 74 Crown Street, Wollongong NSW 2500

From: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 5:43:53 PM
To: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>
Cc: Gregory Truloff <gregory.truloff@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: Australian Maritime College Visit

Hi Frankie,

Apologies for the late response, I've been away sick today, I've cced in my colleague Gregory as a point of contact for tomorrow in case I'm still not well.

We're in the Swanson Building at 100 Maritime Way, Newnham.

Kind Regards,

If using assistive software, message ends here. Email signature below.

Kate Sullivan *(She/Her)*
Executive Officer to the Principal and AMC Board
Australian Maritime College
University of Tasmania
T: +61 3 6226 7170
Locked Bag 1398, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

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From: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 4:20 PM
To: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Subject: Re: Australian Maritime College Visit

Hey Kate!

Just tried giving you a call.

What address should we meet you at tomorrow?

Not quite sure where we should be going to first up, sorry!

Thanks,
Frankie.

Frances Kerkham | Adviser - Media & Parliament
Office of Alison Byrnes MP | Federal Member for Cunningham
Frances.kerkham@aph.gov.au | [02 4228 5899](tel:0242285899) | 74 Crown Street, Wollongong NSW 2500

From: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 5:18:37 PM
To: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Australian Maritime College Visit

Hi Frankie,

Sorry for the delayed response, I have updated to running schedule to include Blue Economy as well as our Underwater Collisions Research Laboratory (UCRF) in the campus tour.

09:00 – Welcome and AMC and Blue Economy presentations/discussion
10:00 – Morning Tea
10:30 – Tour

- Simulation Centre
- Tow tank
- Model Test Basin
- UCRF

12:00 – Meet with students and staff
12:30 – Lunch (*please let me know if there are any dietary requirements*)

Kind Regards,

If using assistive software, message ends here. Email signature below.

Kate Sullivan *(She/Her)*
Executive Officer to the Principal and AMC Board
Australian Maritime College
University of Tasmania
T: +61 3 6226 7170
Locked Bag 1398, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250



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From: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 9:32 AM
To: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: Australian Maritime College Visit

Hi Kate,

This sounds great, thanks so much!

When we met with Mal in Canberra, he mentioned some colleagues may join us for the tour/lunch/another session from the The Blue Economy CRC at UTAS I believe? Do you know if this is going ahead?

Thank you again!

Frankie.

Warm regards,



Frances Kerkham

ADVISER - MEDIA & PARLIAMENT
OFFICE OF ALISON BYRNES MP

Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au
02 4228 5899
74 Crown Street Wollongong NSW 2500

[Click here to follow Alison on Facebook!](#)

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From: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 12:35 PM
To: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Australian Maritime College Visit

Hello Frankie,

Below is our suggested running order for the 30th of July:

09:00 – Welcome and presentations/discussion
10:00 – Morning Tea
10:30 – Tour

- Simulation Centre
- Tow tank
- Model Test Basin

12:00 – Meet with students
12:30 – Lunch

Please let me know if the above suggests are suitable and if there are any dietary requirements for the day.

Kind Regards,

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From: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:37 PM
To: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: Australian Maritime College Visit

Hi Kate,

I haven't got any times confirmed yet.

I advised Mal previously that we can be at the college from around 9am-1pm on 30 July. So whatever works on your end during that time. We will be flying the night before into Launceston.

Thanks,
Frankie.

Warm regards,



Frances Kerkham

ADVISER - MEDIA & PARLIAMENT
OFFICE OF ALISON BYRNES MP

Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au
02 4228 5899
74 Crown Street Wollongong NSW 2500

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From: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 3:02 PM
To: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>
Subject: Australian Maritime College Visit

Hello Frankie,

I'm reaching out from Mal Wise's office to discuss the scheduled visit with The Hon Alison Byrnes MP on the 30th of July.

Do you have a confirmed scheduled for you visit?

Kind Regards,

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Kate Sullivan *(She/Her)*
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Victoria Geason

From: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2024 5:21 PM
To: Kate Sullivan
Subject: RE: Australian Maritime College Visit

Amazing Kate thank you so much!

No dietary requirements on our end.

Thanks so much.

Warm regards,



Frances Kerkham

ADVISER - MEDIA & PARLIAMENT
OFFICE OF ALISON BYRNES MP

Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au
02 4228 5899
74 Crown Street Wollongong NSW 2500

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From: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 5:19 PM
To: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Australian Maritime College Visit

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Thank you again!

Frankie.

Warm regards,



Frances Kerkham

ADVISER - MEDIA & PARLIAMENT
OFFICE OF ALISON BYRNES MP

Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au
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Kind Regards,

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Subject: RE: Australian Maritime College Visit

Hi Kate,

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I advised Mal previously that we can be at the college from around 9am-1pm on 30 July. So whatever works on your end during that time. We will be flying the night before into Launceston.

Thanks,
Frankie.

Warm regards,



Frances Kerkham

ADVISER - MEDIA & PARLIAMENT
OFFICE OF ALISON BYRNES MP

Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au
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74 Crown Street Wollongong NSW 2500

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Subject: Australian Maritime College Visit

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Do you have a confirmed scheduled for you visit?

Kind Regards,

If using assistive software, message ends here. Email signature below.

Kate Sullivan (*She/Her*)
Executive Officer to the Principal and AMC Board
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Victoria Geason

From: Nicholas Farrelly <nicholas.farrelly@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2024 9:05 AM
To: Tahnee Byas
Cc: Kate Huntington; Adam Tavas
Subject: Re: Sarah Lovell

Thanks Tahnee,

Grateful for the update. We hope she is feeling better soon.

Best wishes,

Nicholas

Nicholas Farrelly
University of Tasmania
utas.edu.au
T: +61 3 6226 2314
M: +61 427 299 733

From: Tahnee Byas <Tahnee.Byas@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Date: Wednesday, 3 July 2024 at 8:28 AM
To: Nicholas Farrelly <nicholas.farrelly@utas.edu.au>
Cc: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Subject: Sarah Lovell

Good Morning,

Unfortunately Sarah is unwell today so won't be able to attend the UTAS tour. Ella, Josh & Dean will all be there as planned.

Please accept Sarah's sincere apology.

Kind regards,
Tahnee



Tahnee Byas
Electorate Officer for Sarah Lovell MLC

Legislative Council
Parliament of Tasmania
Email: tahnee.byas@parliament.tas.gov.au
Tel: 03 6212 2330
Mail: Shop 1/33 South Arm Road, Rokeby TAS 7019

My workplace is located on the traditional homeland of the Mumirimina people of the Oyster Bay Nation who were born of, lived with, and cared for this land for many generations.

I acknowledge the deep connection to Country and Culture of the custodians of this place, the Palawa / Pakana of lutruwita. I acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community and pay my respect to Elders past and present. I am committed to learning to support the continued sharing of knowledge and Culture.

Victoria Geason

From: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 November 2024 10:24 AM
To: Rebecca Beaumont
Subject: RE: site visit AMC and meeting with the Principal

Hi Beck,

Not a problem at all on both, will anyone else be attending with Janie and do they also have dietary requirements?

Kind Regards,

If using assistive software, message ends here. Email signature below.

Kate Sullivan (*She/Her*)
Executive Officer to the Principal and AMC Board
Australian Maritime College
University of Tasmania
T: +61 3 6226 7170
Locked Bag 1398, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250



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From: Rebecca Beaumont <Rebecca.Beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 November 2024 10:19 AM
To: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: site visit AMC and meeting with the Principal

Perfect yes – can you please send the calendar invite to janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au
Janie is also low carb for catering – a salad and a protein works if that helps.
Have a great weekend Kate and thanks for your help

On behalf of Janie Finlay

Beck Beaumont
Executive Assistant
Office of Janie Finlay MP
p: 03 6324 2060

e: rebecca.beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au
www.taslabor.com

253 Wellington Street / PO Box 1813 Launceston TAS 7250

I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which I live and work.



From: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 November 2024 10:01 AM
To: Rebecca Beaumont <Rebecca.Beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: site visit AMC and meeting with the Principal

Hi Beck,

Sounds good to me.

How about we do 09:30am – 1:00pm on Friday the 24th of January and we can include lunch, would that suit?

Kind Regards,

If using assistive software, message ends here. Email signature below.

Kate Sullivan (*She/Her*)
Executive Officer to the Principal and AMC Board
Australian Maritime College
University of Tasmania
T: +61 3 6226 7170
Locked Bag 1398, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250



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From: Rebecca Beaumont <Rebecca.Beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 November 2024 9:24 AM
To: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: site visit AMC and meeting with the Principal

Yes sure can – she doesn't have anything else for the day as yet and I am holding it for you. She is often in Bell Bay and Beauty Point too – so lets do Launceston first and then we can consider those other sites further into 2025

On behalf of Janie Finlay

Beck Beaumont

Executive Assistant

Office of Janie Finlay MP

p: 03 6324 2060

e: rebecca.beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au

www.taslabor.com

253 Wellington Street / PO Box 1813 Launceston TAS 7250

I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which I live and work.



From: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>

Sent: Friday, 1 November 2024 9:22 AM

To: Rebecca Beaumont <Rebecca.Beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Subject: RE: site visit AMC and meeting with the Principal

Hi Beck,

Does Janie have more time available for the tour? We can do a tour in an hour; however, we won't get around all the sites in that time. Generally, I'd allow 2.5-3 hours which would include a bit of time for a chat beforehand.

We also have a couple of satellite sites at Beauty Point and Bell Bay, it could be an opportunity for Janie to visit those location when she's in the area at some point too.

Kind Regards,

If using assistive software, message ends here. Email signature below.

Kate Sullivan *(She/Her)*

Executive Officer to the Principal and AMC Board

Australian Maritime College

University of Tasmania

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From: Rebecca Beaumont <Rebecca.Beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 November 2024 9:18 AM
To: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: site visit AMC and meeting with the Principal

How about an hour for the tour?

On behalf of Janie Finlay

Beck Beaumont
Executive Assistant
Office of Janie Finlay MP
p: 03 6324 2060
e: rebecca.beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au
www.taslabor.com

253 Wellington Street / PO Box 1813 Launceston TAS 7250

I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which I live and work.



From: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 November 2024 8:42 AM
To: Rebecca Beaumont <Rebecca.Beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: site visit AMC and meeting with the Principal

You don't often get email from kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Beck,

I'm leaning toward the 24th of January at the moment, how long would Janie have to tour?

Kind Regards,

If using assistive software, message ends here. Email signature below.

Kate Sullivan (*She/Her*)
Executive Officer to the Principal and AMC Board
Australian Maritime College
University of Tasmania
T: +61 3 6226 7170
Locked Bag 1398, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

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From: Rebecca Beaumont <Rebecca.Beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 November 2024 8:03 AM
To: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: site visit AMC and meeting with the Principal

Hi Kate

Thanks for helping Janie – she enjoyed the event and the photos looked good.

She has time on Monday 20th Jan either 9-11 or from 1.30pm and is also free all day Friday 24th at this stage.

Then we have from 12pm free on Thursday 6 Feb.

Would any of those work?

Regards Beck

On behalf of Janie Finlay

Beck Beaumont

Executive Assistant

Office of Janie Finlay MP

p: 03 6324 2060

e: rebecca.beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au

www.taslabor.com

253 Wellington Street / PO Box 1813 Launceston TAS 7250

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From: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Thursday, 31 October 2024 4:06 PM
To: Rebecca Beaumont <Rebecca.Beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: site visit AMC and meeting with the Principal

You don't often get email from kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Beck,

Thanks for reaching out. I was with Gregory at Sen Vineyard this morning and took some photos for Janie on her phone. I hope they turned out well.

We have some flexibility in late January/February. Does Janie have a preferred date?

Kind Regards,

If using assistive software, message ends here. Email signature below.

Kate Sullivan (She/Her)

Executive Officer to the Principal and AMC Board
Australian Maritime College
University of Tasmania
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From: Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Thursday, 31 October 2024 4:01 PM
To: Rebecca Beaumont <Rebecca.Beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Cc: Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: site visit AMC and meeting with the Principal

Hi Beck, my colleague Kate Sullivan (CC'd) is going to follow up on this one with some potential dates, to see what will suit Janie. She will contact you with some options.

Regards

Bonnie French
Associate Director Stakeholder Engagement
0438 385 757

From: Rebecca Beaumont <Rebecca.Beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 31 October 2024 2:18 PM
To: Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: site visit AMC and meeting with the Principal

Hi Bonnie

I believe she met Gregory Truloff at an event today who suggested she visit – so I think it’s a general meeting and visit – no agenda

On behalf of Janie Finlay

Beck Beaumont

Executive Assistant

Office of Janie Finlay MP

p: 03 6324 2060

e: rebecca.beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au

www.taslabor.com

253 Wellington Street / PO Box 1813 Launceston TAS 7250

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Putting people first

From: Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>

Sent: Thursday, 31 October 2024 2:00 PM

To: Rebecca Beaumont <Rebecca.Beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Subject: RE: site visit AMC and meeting with the Principal

Hi Beck, absolutely! Is there anything in particular Janie would like to see or discuss, or a more general tour of all AMC facilities? I'll check in with the team and come back with some potential dates for you to consider.

Regards

Bonnie French

Associate Director Stakeholder Engagement

0438 385 757

From: Rebecca Beaumont <Rebecca.Beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 31 October 2024 12:55 PM

To: Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>

Subject: site visit AMC and meeting with the Principal

Hi Bonnie

How are you?

Just following on from my previous email – Janie is keen to arrange a visit to the AMC and a meeting with the Principal.

I know the rest of the year is busy so we can also look at late Jan or Feb?

Hope to hear from you soon.

Thanks for your help.

Regards

Beck

On behalf of Janie Finlay

Beck Beaumont

Executive Assistant

Office of Janie Finlay MP

p: 03 6324 2060

e: rebecca.beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au

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RE: Accord and Tasmanian Education slides - May 2024

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Fri 3/05/2024 2:17 PM

To Janie Finlay <janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au>

 1 attachment (119 KB)

Senior leadership appointments in the Academic Division;

Oops – meant to add that we announced yesterday that Professor Natalie Brown is the new Pro Vice-Chancellor (Launceston) – more detail attached.

We'll arrange for you to meet with her when she starts in July.

Cheers, Kate

From: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 2:12 PM

To: Janie Finlay <janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Subject: Accord and Tasmanian Education slides - May 2024

Hi Janie

Great to see you yesterday – here's the data pack that Rufus was referring to yesterday. He presented it this morning to a group of Launceston stakeholders this morning and we also shared it with Minister Jason Clare and Senator Helen Polley yesterday too so feel free to share with your colleagues as you wish.

Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications

University of Tasmania

Admin Building | Private Bag 51

Hobart TAS 7001

0432 389 793

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THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS 2023

We acknowledge the Aboriginal people of Tasmania as Traditional Owners of the land on which this university is located.

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.

From: [Ella Haddad](#)
To: [Vice Chancellor](#)
Subject: RE: Letter from Professor Rufus Black
Date: Tuesday, 23 April 2024 12:52:16 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Dear Kieren

Thank you for the letter to Ella Haddad MP from Professor Rufus Black.

Ella would be delighted to meet with Professor Farrelly, if someone could contact this office next week to schedule a meeting.

Regards

Jane

Jane Atkinson (she/her)

Electorate Officer

Office of Ella Haddad MP

State Member for Clark

p: 03 6212 2286

e: jane.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au

a: 184 Collins Street, Hobart, TAS, 7000

www.taslabor.com



I acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional owners and continuing custodians of this Land, and pay respects to Elders past and present for they hold the knowledge, memories and culture of Aboriginal people as the first peoples of this island lutruwita.

My days of work are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

From: Vice Chancellor <Vice.Chancellor@utas.edu.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 17 April 2024 10:47 AM

To: Ella Haddad <Ella.Haddad@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Subject: Letter from Professor Rufus Black

You don't often get email from vice.chancellor@utas.edu.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Shadow Minister Haddad,

Please find attached a letter from Professor Rufus Black.

Kind regards,

Kieren.

Dr Kieren Rix
Senior Executive Officer

Office of the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor
Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
p. 03 6226 7424
utas.edu.au

Please refer to the [DVC Resources](#) intranet page for current versions of the templates for committee papers, presentations, briefings and correspondence.

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Ella Haddad MP
Member for Clark
Shadow Minister for Health, Mental Health & Wellbeing
Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Shadow Minister for Disability
Shadow Minister for Equality
184 Collins Street
Hobart TAS 7000

By email: ella.haddad@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Shadow Minister Haddad

Congratulations on your re-election as Member for Clark and your appointment as Shadow Minister for Health, Mental Health & Wellbeing; Multicultural Affairs; Disability; and Equality.

We very much look forward to continuing to work with you and we appreciate your ongoing support of the University's mission in Southern Tasmania which is shaping the region in positive and profound ways.

I am pleased to introduce you to my colleague Professor Nicholas Farrelly who took up the role of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Southern Tasmania) earlier this year after four years with us as the Head of School for Social Sciences.

In his new role, Nicholas is leading and coordinating the next phases of engagement around the University of Tasmania's vision and strategy for place-based education in the south of the State, working with colleagues, students and external stakeholders.

Nicholas would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the University's priorities for Southern Tasmania. We will contact your Office to schedule a meeting.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

17 April 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

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Australia

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E Vice.Chancellor@utas.edu.au

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From: [Hammond, Tom](#)
To: [Vice Chancellor](#); clare.oneil.mp@aph.gov.au
Subject: RE: Letter from Professor Rufus Black [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 15 August 2024 11:57:19 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Dear Dr Rix,

Thank you for your email.

Just writing back to you to confirm receipt of Professor Black's letter.

Kind regards,

Tom Hammond — **Caucus Liaison Officer (he/him)**

Office of the Hon Clare O'Neil MP
Minister for Housing
Minister for Homelessness
M +61 487 373 311

treasury.gov.au

Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600
[Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#)

The Treasury acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to elders both past and present.

OFFICIAL

From: Vice Chancellor <Vice.Chancellor@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 10:58 AM
To: clare.oneil.mp@aph.gov.au
Cc: Hammond, Tom <Thomas.Hammond@TREASURY.GOV.AU>
Subject: Letter from Professor Rufus Black

You don't often get email from vice.chancellor@utas.edu.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Minister O'Neil,
Please find attached a letter from Professor Rufus Black.
I am re-sending this as I believe we had the incorrect email address.

Kind regards,
Kieren.

Dr Kieren Rix

Senior Executive Officer

Office of the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor
Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
p. 03 6226 7424
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The Hon Clare O'Neil MP
Minister for Housing
Minister for Homelessness

By email: clare.oneil.mp@aph.gov.au
Copied to: Thomas.Hammond@treasury.gov.au

Dear Minister O'Neil

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Housing and Minister for Homelessness.

Housing and homelessness are pressing issues that greatly impact the wellbeing and prosperity of communities across Australia. These challenges are particularly acute in Tasmania, where the demand for affordable housing continues to be much higher than the supply and the impacts of this are experienced in communities right across the State.

Again, I extend my congratulations to you and wish you every success in this important role.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

15 August 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

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Anita Dow MP
Member for Braddon
Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Shadow Minister for Infrastructure
Shadow Minister for TAFE, Skills & Training
Shadow Minister for Industry & Regional Development
Shadow Minister for Local Government
Shadow Minister for Small Business
15 Wilson Street
Burnie TAS 7320

By email: anita.dow@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Congratulations on your re-election as Member for Braddon and your re-appointment as Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Minister for Infrastructure; TAFE, Skills & Training; Industry & Regional Development; Local Government; and Small Business.

We very much look forward to continuing to work with you. We appreciate your ongoing support of the University's mission on the Cradle Coast.

The North-West Coast is such a special and important part of the island. We feel privileged to be a part of the community in this region.

Please do not hesitate to contact my colleague Associate Professor Sonya Stanford, Pro-Vice Chancellor Cradle Coast, about anything that you need. She can be reached by email to sonya.stanford@utas.edu.au

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

17 April 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

From: [Said, Gabrielle](#)
To: [Vice Chancellor](#)
Cc: [Bell, Elliott \(Sen H. Polley\)](#)
Subject: RE: Letter from Professor Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 14 August 2024 11:32:53 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Dear Dean,

Thank you for taking the time to contact the Hon Kristy McBain, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories.

Unfortunately, due to competing commitments, the Minister is unable to accept the Vice-Chancellor's kind invitation to attend the official opening of The Shed, however Senator Helen Polley has kindly agreed to represent the Minister as the Australian Government representative at the event.

I have copied in Elliott from her office, can you please liaise with him regarding the logistics for the day.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Minister for future events or meeting opportunities.

Kind regards,

Gabrielle Said

Assistant Advisor • Office of the Hon Kristy McBain MP
Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and the Territories
P +61 2 6277 7060 E Gabrielle.Said@MO.regional.gov.au
Australian Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

OFFICIAL

From: Vice Chancellor <Vice.Chancellor@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2024 2:02 PM
To: Minister.Mcbain.MO <Minister.Mcbain@MO.regional.gov.au>
Subject: Letter from Professor Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor

Dear Minister McBain

Please find attached a letter from Professor Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor at the University of Tasmania.

Kind regards

Dean

If using assistive software, message ends here. Email signature below

Dean Munday
Senior Advisor

Office of the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor
University of Tasmania
m. 0401 309 235
utas.edu.au



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Please note that I work part-time – usually Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday – and there may be a delay in receiving emails.

I sometimes work flexibly, outside of office hours, and do not expect a response or action outside of your own working hours.

I recognise the deep history and culture of these islands and seas and acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land upon which I work and live.

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If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the Department on +61 (2) 6274 7111 and delete all copies of this transmission together with any attachments.

The Hon Kristy McBain MP
Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories

By email: Kristy.McBain.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister McBain

It is with great pleasure I invite you to the official opening of The Shed at our Inveresk Campus on Friday 18th October 2024 at 11:30am.

The University of Tasmania has reached an exciting milestone in the transformation of Inveresk into a thriving regional university campus and community precinct. The completion of The Shed this year marks the final of three new buildings at Inveresk through the \$300m Northern Transformation Program – a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve educational outcomes through the creation of a new city campus in Launceston enabled by the Launceston City Deal.

The Shed is the largest and most complex of the new buildings at Inveresk and will be the home for nursing, allied health, health sciences and natural sciences teaching and research. The \$100m building includes a variety of specialised allied health clinics, nursing simulation facilities and science laboratories.

The new building will enable community health education programs for children and older adults, professional development workshops, sports science testing and wellbeing initiatives. It also includes a fully accessible Changing Place facility available for public use, a parenting room and a nutrition bar style takeaway café, further encouraging the broader community's use of the building and new facilities.

The Inveresk Campus vision has been generously supported and realised through the contributions of the Australian Government, Tasmanian Government and the City of Launceston. The opening of The Shed will be an opportunity to gather together and recognise these important contributions and the partnership between the University and the three levels of government which has resulted in transformative outcomes for Launceston and Northern Tasmania.

The new Inveresk campus is serving an entire region, helping build a skilled workforce of graduates through interactive, regionally distinctive learning experiences that support existing and emerging industries. This will in turn positively contribute to local communities and the economy.

I hope you can join me in celebrating this important milestone for the greater Northern Tasmanian region as education becomes more visible and accessible, strengthening community and industry partnerships, and providing people at all stages of life with

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greater opportunities to pursue a journey of lifelong learning.

I look forward to hearing from you on your availability to attend the official opening of The Shed in Launceston, and I thank you for your ongoing support in bringing this regional university campus to life.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

30 July 2024

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The Hon Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: Jason.Clare.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister

As you know, the University of Tasmania strongly support the Australian Government's objectives to achieve an international migration system that is effective in achieving a manageable migration rate.

We have publicly welcomed the introduction of enrolment caps for international students through the National Planning Level (NPL), and individual limits through International Student Profiles (ISPs) proposed in the *Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment Bill 2024* (ESOS Bill). We consider the introduction of a managed market approach will restore alignment between the education and migration sectors and have positive economic and social impacts across the nation.

However, to achieve the intended policy outcomes of a high quality, smaller and more equally distributed international student market, we also consider the visa processing system needs to be more equitable, effective and transparent than it currently is. While the University of Tasmania's proposed cap for 2025 enables a sustainable level of international students for our university and for Tasmania, Ministerial Direction 107 and evidence level visa processing significantly constrain the number of students that make it through the system to reach us, therefore making it very unlikely we will be able to deliver the level of migration Tasmania needs.

While we appreciate the government's commitment to remove Ministerial Direction 107 upon passage of the legislation currently before the Parliament, we remain concerned that there is no commitment from the government to significantly improve the visa processing arrangements going forward.

My colleagues recently provided Minister Burke's Deputy Chief of Staff and departmental officials with the attached presentation setting out the substantial impact the current arrangements are having on our University and therefore Tasmania.

Our concerns have since been heightened by the advice we received last Thursday about the pausing of evidence level changes given we were well progressed in working towards a return to EL2. This decision will likely further curtail our ability to contribute to Tasmania's economy, let alone diversity.

With these settings in place, we are on track to have only 450 new international students

in 2025 against our proposed cap of 2200, a significant shortfall given international students constitute 20% of Tasmania's net migration and provide important demand to the state economy at time when that is much needed. For the University of Tasmania, it means a revenue shortfall of around \$40 million on top of the \$20 million impact Ministerial Direction 107 has had on us this year. This presents very serious financial implications for the University and will force us to consider our staffing levels.

I have written to Minister Burke seeking an opportunity to meet with him and/or senior Department of Home Affairs officials to discuss the approach the Department will be taking going forward. The University of Tasmania is keen to work with Home Affairs to ensure that the system can be improved where necessary to ensure the best economic and social outcomes are achieved for Tasmania and for Australia.

Your assistance with securing an opportunity to discuss this matter with the Minister and/or his senior department officials would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

10 October 2024

From: [Janie Finlay](#)
To: [Vice Chancellor](#)
Subject: RE: Letter from Professor Rufus Black
Date: Saturday, 20 April 2024 12:30:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thank you Rufus – looking forward to meeting the new PVC – Janie

From: Vice Chancellor <Vice.Chancellor@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 11:18 AM
To: Janie Finlay <Janie.Finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Letter from Professor Rufus Black

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Dear Shadow Minister Finlay,
Please find attached a letter from Professor Rufus Black.
Kind regards,
Kieren.

Dr Kieren Rix
Senior Executive Officer

Office of the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor
Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
p. 03 6226 7424
utas.edu.au

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Janie Finlay MP
Member for Bass
Shadow Minister for Energy and Renewables
Shadow Minister for Parks, Environment and Climate Change
Shadow Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Shadow Minister for Science and Technology
PO Box 1813
Launceston TAS 7250

By email: janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Shadow Minister Finlay

Congratulations on your re-election as Member for Bass and your appointment as Shadow Minister for Energy and Renewables; Parks, Environment and Climate Change; Primary Industries and Water; and Science and Technology.

We appreciate your ongoing support of the University's mission in Launceston which is in exciting and profound ways shaping and being shaped by the region.

I look forward to introducing you to the new Pro Vice-Chancellor Launceston (PVC-L), who will be commencing in this role in mid-2024.

Should you have any matters relevant to the University in Launceston in the near future, please do not hesitate to contact my colleague Associate Professor Sonya Stanford, Interim PVC-L. She can be reached by email to sonya.stanford@utas.edu.au

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

17 April 2024

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RE: Philip Smith Centre reopening

From Marcus Atkinson <Marcus.Atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Date Mon 29/07/2024 1:18 PM
To Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Thanks – will get something out in support tomorrow.

From: Kate Huntington <Kate.Huntington@UTAS.EDU.AU>
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2024 1:14 PM
To: Marcus Atkinson <Marcus.Atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Philip Smith Centre reopening

FYI – staff message out below and pic op with the Merc and Glebe Residents underway atm with a tour for TV cameras planned for tomorrow morning

From: Professor Nicholas Farrelly <listserv@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 1:10 PM
To: Kate Huntington <Kate.Huntington@UTAS.EDU.AU>
Subject: Philip Smith Centre reopening

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Philip Smith Centre reopening

Dear colleagues,

The University has reached an exciting milestone in our Southern Transformation activity with the upcoming community reopening of the Philip Smith Centre on Hobart's Domain, the site of the University's original home.

Earlier this year, we completed a \$13.5 million restoration of the building, bringing it up to contemporary standards so educational activities could continue being delivered inside for future generations.

Originally built in 1910 as the State's first facility to train teachers, the University took responsibility for teacher training at the Philip Smith Centre after World War II, and the Faculty of Education was later established there in 1962.

The building was reacquired by the University in 2020 from a group of Glebe residents as

part of ongoing efforts to create central and accessible learning spaces and provide a green heart for our Hobart City campus.

I am delighted to share that during Semester 2 this year, the International School will move to the space where it will continue delivering programs that support people to improve their English language skills.

From next year, the building will become home to new courses – a **Diploma of Nature-Based Guiding** and **Bachelor of Outdoor and Environmental Education** – which will help provide pathways towards outdoor and environmental-related employment.

We are the only university in Australia offering the Bachelor's course with a combined **Master of Teaching**, which will be important for training local and national educators in these disciplines and can be completed in four years.

The neighbouring School of Nursing at The Domain will also utilise the Philip Smith Centre for its classes from 2025, and all staff and students can enjoy the spaces and amenities including a dedicated student lounge and end-of-trip facilities featuring secure bike storage and showers that support active transport.

The building's proximity to bushland reserve and expansive recreational spaces, the Medical Sciences Precinct and the CBD have made it possible to bring these important functions of the University together in this historic location.

A special thanks to Campus Services, Campus Futures, ITS and other University teams which have worked together to deliver the project alongside specialist heritage architects Lovell Chen, construction firm Hansen Yuncken and Glebe residents – through Hobart Discovery Inc (HDI) which were previous stewards of the building – reinstating the building to its original intent and ensuring the upgrades have delivered the best outcomes for the community.

A special reopening event will be held for the Glebe community later this week before the staff transition to the building begins.

The building is already open and available for any staff wishing to use the spaces for meetings or activities until timetabling is scheduled and reservations can be made through the University's **web room booking system**. **Monthly community tours** will be hosted for the remainder of this year which everyone is welcome to attend.

As the home of the State's first teacher training facility, the Philip Smith Centre has an unbroken link to education and the community in Tasmania, and as such, is a model for the interaction we want to create between the University and the city in the future.

Regards,

Nicholas



Professor Nicholas Farrelly

Pro Vice-Chancellor – Campus Life (Southern Tasmania)
University of Tasmania
CRICOS 00586B



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RE: Podium availability

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Date Tue 16/07/2024 8:38 AM
To Stuart Benson <Stuart.Benson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Also Professor Andrea Carr, Principal of University College (our pathways program based in the city)

From: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 5:59 PM
To: Stuart Benson <Stuart.Benson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Podium availability

Sure:

James Brann, Pro Vice-Chancellor Student Equity and Success
Brendan Parnell, Associate Director, Strategic Property Development
Adam Tavasz, Transformation Lead, Data Analytics
Rob Hortle, Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Director, Tasmanian Policy Exchange
Michelle Weir, Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Student Services and Operations
Angela Wilson, Communications Manager
Corey Peterson, Chief Sustainability Officer
Sally Paynter, University Secretary
Nicky Bawle, Executive Officer
Meghan Munday, Operations Manager
Miranda Harman, Communications Team Manager
Kate Huntington, Executive Director, Strategic Communications

From: Stuart Benson <Stuart.Benson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 5:36 PM
To: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Subject: Re: Podium availability

Fantastic.

When you have a moment can you send me their names and titles so I can pass onto Dean? I sending him the list of all guests.

Thanks again.

Stu

From: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Sent: 15 July 2024 17:19
To: Stuart Benson <Stuart.Benson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Podium availability

Hiya - I have 10 takers including me

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Stuart Benson <Stuart.Benson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 5:18 PM
To: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Subject: Re: Podium availability

Thanks Kate - how did you go?

From: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Sent: 15 July 2024 10:14
To: Stuart Benson <Stuart.Benson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Podium availability

Hi Stuart

I've invited 17 (incl me and Miranda) – just waiting for RSVPs – will get back to you later today with a better estimate.

Cheers, Kate

From: Stuart Benson <Stuart.Benson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 10:13 AM
To: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: Podium availability

Thanks Kate.

Can you also email how many from your end will be attending the speech?

Regards,

Stu

From: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2024 10:12 AM
To: Sarah Springer <sarah.springer@utas.edu.au>; Stuart Benson <Stuart.Benson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Cc: Miranda Harman <miranda.harman@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: Podium availability

Morning Stuart

Sarah has also extended the booking to start at 9 am so you can set up the urn and start setting up the room in the way you want it.

See you there about 8:45?

Cheers, Kate

From: Sarah Springer <sarah.springer@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Friday, July 12, 2024 4:55 PM
To: Stuart Benson <Stuart.Benson@parliament.tas.gov.au>; Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Subject: Re: Podium availability

Hi Stuart

We will ensure that a lectern is in the room ready for you as well as additional bins for the morning tea.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you need anything else.

Kind regards

If using assistive software, message ends here. Email signature below.

Sarah Springer

Acting Associate Director Campus Operations

Student Services and Operations

University of Tasmania

Phone: 03 6324 3289

utas.edu.au



CRICOS 00586B

From: Stuart Benson <Stuart.Benson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2024 3:01 PM
To: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Cc: Sarah Springer <sarah.springer@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: Podium availability

Thanks Kate.

I will have the catering inside the room thank you.

Can I also confirm there is lectern available.

Thanks for your help.

Kind regards,

Stuart

From: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2024 2:05 PM
To: Stuart Benson <Stuart.Benson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Cc: Sarah Springer <sarah.springer@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: Podium availability

Hi Stuart

Copying Sarah here to confirm a booking for the room from 10 am next Tuesday to 12 noon and what, if any, further details she needs for the booking.

[@Sarah](#) – we'll need about 50 seats and we'll set it up theatre style – are there enough seats or do we need to have some brought in?

Stuart – did you want to serve the morning tea in the foyer area or in the room?

Let me know of any questions.

Cheers, Kate

From: Stuart Benson <Stuart.Benson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 9:40 AM

To: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Subject: RE: Podium availability

Hi Kate,

Can we book, Tuesday, 16 July at 10:30am.

Instead of a lunch we are going to do a morning tea.

Regards,

Stuart

From: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Sent: Monday, 8 July 2024 11:18 AM

To: Stuart Benson <Stuart.Benson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Subject: Podium availability

Hi Stuart

So next week we can do any day except Wednesday but the following week classes start so there are clashes.

Let me know if you can make it work next week so we can grab a tentative booking before someone else jumps in.

Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications

University of Tasmania

Admin Building | Private Bag 51

Hobart TAS 7001

0432 389 793

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I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.

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From: [Vice Chancellor](#)
To: [Rebecca Beaumont](#)
Cc: [Bonnie French](#)
Bcc: [VC TrimProcess](#); [Natalie Brown](#); [Kate Huntington](#)
Subject: RE: Site visit - Anita Dow and Janie Finlay
Date: Friday, 31 May 2024 3:38:34 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Dear Beck,

Thanks very much for your message and for letting us know about Anita and Janie's availability for a site visit at the Inveresk campus.

Professor Natalie Brown, incoming Pro Vice-Chancellor, Launceston and Executive Dean, Regional Education would be delighted to host the visit on the 2nd July.

I have copied my colleague Bonnie French who will be in touch to confirm arrangements.

Kind regards,

Kieren

Dr Kieren Rix

Senior Executive Officer

Office of the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor
Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
p. 03 6226 7424
utas.edu.au

Please refer to the [DVC Resources](#) intranet page for current versions of the templates for committee papers, presentations, briefings and correspondence.



CRICOS 00586B

From: Rebecca Beaumont <Rebecca.Beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2024 12:00 PM
To: Vice Chancellor <Vice.Chancellor@utas.edu.au>
Subject: Site visit - Anita Dow and Janie Finlay

Good afternoon Kieren

Anita Dow has provided me with your contact details and asked me to reach out to you.

Anita and Janie Finlay are doing some site visits together in Launceston on 2nd and 3rd of July and would love to take the opportunity to visit the new UTAS campus at Inveresk if possible? We have space in their schedule on 2nd at 11am -1pm or at 3.30pm.

Please let me know if a site visit may be possible during those times at all?

Many thanks

Beck

On behalf of Janie Finlay

Beck Beaumont
Executive Assistant
Office of Janie Finlay MP
p: 03 6324 2060
e: rebecca.beaumont@parliament.tas.gov.au
www.taslabor.com

253 Wellington Street / PO Box 1813 Launceston TAS 7250
I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which I live and work.



RE: Speech

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Date Fri 1/03/2024 10:21 AM
To Marcus Atkinson <Marcus.Atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Thanks

From: Marcus Atkinson <Marcus.Atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 10:14 AM
To: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Subject: Speech

Extract as discussed – not for distribution obviously.

Marcus

Speaking of certainty, a number of you have told me you're concerned about the potential uncertainty following the decision to increase the size of Parliament.

That's why I've made it clear that we won't be doing any deals with the Greens or any other party.

If Labor forms the next government, there will only be Labor ministers.

The government will only be putting forward Labor policy to the Parliament.

And we won't be supporting anything that goes against our platform.

In other words, we'll govern in the same way whether it's in majority or not.

But as much as it takes up the media focus, the main issue is not really the stability of the government's political position.

The main issue is the stability of the government's decision making – because that's what matters for you and the broader community.

No one likes to be surprised by an out of the blue announcement.

And what this government has done to the University in recent days is nothing short of a disgrace.

The Liberals have supported their move for nearly 10 years, and signed off on the borrowings needed to finance it.

They have supported the expenditure of those borrowings.

Now, three weeks out from an election, they have removed the university's means of repaying those borrowings.

Whatever you think of the city move, this is one of the most reckless, irresponsible and weakest decisions I have ever seen from a Premier of this state.

If the Parliament were to block the city move—and who knows what the Legislative Council will do—the University would face severe financial distress.

As the one responsible for effectively freezing the University's assets, the state government would likely be liable for nearly half a billion dollars in compensation.

The damage to our state's reputation would be unbelievable.

If we're to succeed as a state, we cannot possibly have a situation where a development of this scale has the rug pulled out from under it when it's already well and truly underway.

Because if the Liberals are willing to sell out the state's only university, the capital city's biggest transformation project and the opportunity to develop 2,000 new houses, what won't they sell out if they think there's a few votes in it for Madeleine Ogilvie?

Because let's be honest, that is what this is about.

Who'll be thrown under the bus next?

Will it be a controversial tourism project? The salmon industry? Racing? Forestry? Mining?

Because that's the problem with sovereign risk – once you open the door to decisions like this, it's impossible for anyone to be sure where it ends.

So when you think about stability, think very carefully about who you really trust to make adult decisions with the state's best interests in mind.

RE: Still for speech

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Mon 15/07/2024 2:57 PM

To Stuart Benson <Stuart.Benson@parliament.tas.gov.au>; Sarah Springer <sarah.springer@utas.edu.au>

Hi Stuart

I can sort that out for you in the morning.

Cheers, Kate

From: Stuart Benson <Stuart.Benson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 2:37 PM

To: Sarah Springer <sarah.springer@utas.edu.au>

Cc: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Subject: Still for speech

Hi Sarah,

Please see the still for the two screens that are behind Dean for when he gives his speech.

Thanks

Stuart

Stuart Benson | Director of Communications

Dean Winter MP Tasmanian Labor Leader

(03) 6212 22612 | 0438 502 342

taslabor.com

 **Labor**

RE: UTAS GBV Report

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Thu 6/06/2024 2:36 PM

To Sarah Lovell <Sarah.Lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Cc Meg Brown <Meg.Brown@parliament.tas.gov.au>; James Brann <james.brann@utas.edu.au>; Nicola Moles <nicola.moles@utas.edu.au>

 1 attachment (91 KB)

Report now available: preventing and responding to sexual assault and sexual harassment on our campuses;

Hi Sarah

Absolutely – we'd be very keen to provide you with this briefing. You may already have seen it but here is the [Review of University of Tasmania Activity in Addressing Gender Based Violence \(utas.edu.au\)](https://www.utas.edu.au) and attached as announcement for background.

I'll ask our Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Equity and Success) Dr James Brann to join us for this discussion – he is leading our implementation plan. Would you prefer to do this online or in person and what is your preferred timeframe?

I look forward to meeting you Meg and introducing you both to James.

Kind regards, Kate

From: Sarah Lovell <Sarah.Lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2024 12:15 PM

To: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Cc: Meg Brown <Meg.Brown@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Subject: UTAS GBV Report

Hi Kate,

I was wondering if it would be possible please to get a briefing from the relevant people on the Review of UTAS Activity in Addressing Gender Based Violence, with a particular focus on the plan from here to implement the recommendations of the report?

Meg Brown, as Labor's Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence would also be very interested in such a briefing.

Many thanks

Sarah

Sarah Lovell

Member for Rumney

Shadow Minister for Education and the Early Years

Shadow Minister for Children and Youth

Leader of Opposition Business in the Legislative Council

P: (03) 6212 2330

M: 0499 550 234

E: sarah.lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au

From: Professor Rufus Black <listserv@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 May 2024 2:30 PM
To: Kate Huntington
Subject: Report now available: preventing and responding to sexual assault and sexual harassment on our campuses

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it in your browser](#)



Report now available – preventing and responding to sexual assault and sexual harassment on our campuses

Please note: This email will discuss gender-based violence.

Dear colleagues,

Discussing gender-based violence can be disruptive and triggering - especially for those directly impacted. We want our students and staff to know that in coming forward to discuss your story, you will be believed and supported.

We have zero tolerance for gender-based violence, or any form of violence and discrimination at the University of Tasmania. The safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and community will always be our highest priority and we are constantly working to ensure our campuses are places where people feel safe, included and respected.

To ensure we are doing all we can to create safe and supportive campuses for staff, students and visitors, we commissioned an external review of our governance, processes and procedures in preventing and responding to sexual assault and sexual harassment by Lyn Walker, a highly regarded leader in this field. The **final report is now available**. It provides a clear set of recommendations to strengthen our approach.

University Council and our University Executive Team fully support and endorse all the recommendations. They provide an important roadmap for the University to meet the obligations of the **National Action Plan Addressing Gender-based Violence in Higher Education** and to improve the experience of our community.

A newly created Safety Taskforce comprising of students and staff will develop a Safety Action Plan to address all the recommendations in the report. They will prepare the draft plan and share it with our community in semester two for input and feedback.

Staff drop-in sessions will run from the week of 20 May in Launceston, Burnie, Hobart and Rozelle hosted by our regional Pro-Vice Chancellors and our Associate Dean Rozelle Precinct to discuss the recommendations from the report and seek feedback on the proposed action plan. Invitations for these meetings will be sent out in the next week.

If you need support, or if you need to report something that has happened to you or that you have seen, you will find the appropriate contact details and resources on the **Safe and Fair Community Unit's website**.

If you would like to discuss the review or our next steps, please get in touch with Dr James Brann, Pro Vice- Chancellor (Student Equity and Success) at **pvc.student.equity.success@utas.edu.au**.

Regards,

Rufus



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor
Office of the Vice-Chancellor
University of Tasmania
T: +61 3 6226 2002
E: **vice.chancellor@utas.edu.au**
CRICOS 00586B



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Sandy Bay tour

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Mon 24/06/2024 12:55 PM

To Sarah Lovell <sarah.lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Cc Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>; Nicholas Farrelly <nicholas.farrelly@utas.edu.au>

Hi Sarah

Thanks for your time this morning. It would be good to schedule that tour of our Sandy Bay facilities with Nicholas over the parliamentary recess, noting that he is in Canberra from 8-19 July.

Is there a day early next week that works for you? We've got a senior leadership get together in Launceston next Thursday and Friday so that's out.

Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications

University of Tasmania

Admin Building | Private Bag 51

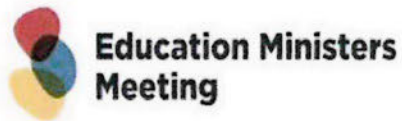
Hobart TAS 7001

0432 389 793



We acknowledge the Aboriginal people of Tasmania as Traditional Owners of the land on which this university is located.

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.



EMM Secretariat
50 Marcus Clarke St
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

6 March 2024

Dear Vice-Chancellors

A Standard Approach to Early University Offers

In October last year the Education Ministers' Meeting resolved to ask the Universities Accord Panel for advice regarding a national approach to the early offer of university places provided to Year 11 and 12 students studying for their Senior Secondary Certificate of Education.

We did this because we are concerned about reports from schools and school regulators about the impact that receiving an early offer may have on an individual student's attendance, application and results. Students who receive an early offer may change their study habits, with effects not only on their own achievement but which could also affect their peers', and their school's, overall results.

We believe that part of preparing school students for further study is ensuring that they apply themselves fully in their final years of secondary education.

Professor Mary O'Kane AC wrote to Education Ministers to provide the Panel's advice and recommendations so that it could be considered at our first meeting of 2024.

As you would now be aware, in their final report, the Australian Universities Accord Panel found that the issuing of early offers may create an environment that undermines the integrity and transparency of learning outcomes for students, as well as university admissions practices.

Further, the use of early offers could reduce confidence in the Senior Secondary Certificate of Education, and increase the risk of inequality and student disengagement, which may lead to a decline in educational attainment. Administration required to support early offer applications also places additional workload on school staff at a time of significant workforce challenge.

The Panel recommends that early at-school offers for university admission in 2025 and 2026 should not be issued before September the year prior, and that stakeholders should develop a national, cross-jurisdictional approach to at-school offers in time for 2027.

Education Ministers agreed with this recommendation. Offers to school students for university commencement in 2025 and 2026 should not be issued before September in the preceding year.

We ask that you take immediate steps within your organisation to implement this national approach and note that the Australian Government Department of Education will update relevant funding agreements to reflect this agreement.

Education Ministers also agreed that officials will undertake further work during 2024 on a national, evidence-based approach to the broader admissions process, including the impact of early offers. Officials will consult with you, and with relevant school stakeholders, and provide advice back to Education Ministers to inform an ongoing approach, in time for suitable communication to schools and students, and before 2027 commencements.

We have a shared aim of lifting aspiration for tertiary study, particularly for school students from groups that are underrepresented in further education and training, and we recognise the important role that you and your institutions play in achieving that aim. We encourage you to continue to engage with students throughout the school year, to build aspiration for higher education and to help them to transition into further education opportunities.

For further questions on this and other recommendations from the Final report please contact Ms Danielle Donegan, First Assistant Secretary, at Danielle.Donegan@education.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



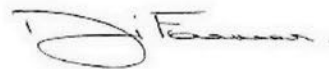
The Hon Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education



The Hon Prue Car MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education and Early Learning



The Hon Ben Carroll MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education



The Hon Di Farmer MP
Minister for Education



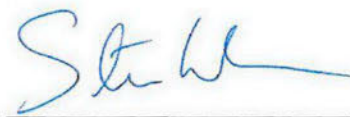
The Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA
Minister for Education



Mc Yvette Berry MLA
Deputy Chief Minister
Minister for Education



The Hon Mark Monaghan MLA
Minister for Education



The Hon Steve Whan MP
Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary
Education



The Hon Gayle Tierney MP
Minister for Skills and TAFE
Minister for Regional Development



The Hon Dr Susan Close MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Industry, Innovation and
Science



Ms Tara Cheyne MLA
A/g Minister for Economic Development

Speech

From Marcus Atkinson <Marcus.Atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Date Tue 16/07/2024 12:27 PM

To Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

 1 attachment (125 KB)

UTAS16072024.pdf;

Hi Kate – thanks again for your help this morning.

Speech attached as requested.

Marcus

UTAS and Tasmania's future

Introduction

Good morning and thank you everyone for joining us here today.

Can I begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we gather, and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

And can I also say thank you to the University for hosting us in this beautiful new space – just one small part of the enormous contribution you've made, and continue to make, to the growth and transformation of Hobart.

And I don't just mean university buildings, as fantastic as they are.

Look down to Elizabeth Street. The uni move has so reinvigorated this part of town it's now got its own name: Midtown.

Cafes, bars, restaurants – all servicing a vibrant student population and highly-skilled university workforce.

New businesses, new jobs, and a livelier city. It's fantastic.

And it's what I want to see more of right around Tasmania.

Dean's vision/Labor stands for jobs

Because I want Tasmania to be the easiest place to do business, and the best place to grow up, work and retire.

Which is why, under my leadership, Labor stands for jobs.

Safe, secure, well-paying jobs.

It's what Labor's stood for, for more than 120 years, and it's what I've been absolutely clear we're going to stand for under my leadership as well.

You might have heard me say it once or twice already – but I mean it.

We want more Tasmanians in work – secure work.

We want to see incomes rising across the board.

We want businesses to be profitable—the more profitable the better—and we want better opportunities for Tasmania's young people.

We want to shake off the challenges that have long held Tasmania back – poor education outcomes, low workforce participation, below average incomes.

Enabling the next generation to have opportunities ours didn't.

To build secure, well-paid, rewarding careers and businesses right here in Tasmania.

And to contribute to the economic future our state deserves.

Opposition to the bill

Which brings me to what I want to speak with you about today.

An issue I believe will cause significant damage to Tasmania's economic future.

That has arisen because a desperate government called an early election, and was willing to do anything to cling to power.

Because the Premier, weakened and now governing in minority, is focused only on his political survival.

Putting his political self-interest ahead of Tasmania's best interests.

Unable to lead his government – and instead being led by it.

Letting a noisy minority group dictate government policy.

(And no, I'm not talking about his coalition with the Lambies – though that's a worry too.)

No, I'm talking about his government's legislation to effectively freeze the university's assets, and prevent any development on its vacant land in Sandy Bay.

This will have no effect on the university's move into the city, which has been underway for 15 years and will soon be nearly two-thirds complete.

But it will prevent the construction of nearly 2,000 new houses, in the middle of an unprecedented period of housing unaffordability.

It will mean the university can't fund its new \$500 million STEM facility, at a time when young people are leaving for the mainland in numbers not seen since the nineties.

It's a plan that will do serious damage to the finances and long-term viability of the university—our state's only university—in an era where young people will need degrees in unprecedented numbers.

And it will irreparably harm Tasmania's reputation as an investment destination, by pulling the rug out from under a development process the government has supported for the best part of a decade.

The Labor Party wants more housing.

We want the jobs that come with new construction – including apprenticeships for our young people.

We want world-class educational facilities, run by a strong university.

We want a thriving capital city.

We want our best and brightest to stay here in Tasmania, to contribute to our industries, our businesses, our construction industry and our science, technology and research sectors.

We want Tasmanians to be able to invest with certainty.

We want Tasmanians to have safe, secure, well-paid jobs, as the foundation of a strong economic future for Tasmania.

Which is why we'll be standing strongly against the Liberals' bill.

Progress

I know there will be opposition to this decision – just as there has been with some of the other decisions I've made so far.

I fully expect I'll be getting quite a few letters this week.

But I also know Tasmania will not make the progress we need if our political leaders allow the state's best interests to be constantly overridden by a vocal minority.

If we're too cowardly to say what we think, or to be clear about what we stand for, then we let them win before they've even started.

If we're too weak to make a tough decision, we'll end up being led by those who want to hold our state back.

By people who are perfectly comfortable if nothing changes, because they're already perfectly comfortable.

The Liberals might be ok with this – they're the conservative party after all.

The Greens might be pleased by it – they're conservationists above all, remember.

The Lambies? Well I'm not sure what they think, but I'm not sure they do either, to be honest.

But I do know Labor, when we're at our best, has always been the party that stands for progress.

We're the ones who bring about the big changes that leave us all better off in the long run.

The last Labor government built Basslink. They built the gas pipeline, the first windfarms, and the irrigation schemes.

They dragged the retail sector into the twenty first century, with seven-day trading.

Because it's Labor who's always stood for building a better future, even when it's tough.

And that's what we'll do under my leadership, too.

I want Tasmania to be the easiest place to do business, and the best place to grow up, work and retire.

I want to build a stronger economy, driven by, and delivering, safe, secure, well-paid jobs.

And I'm not going to sit on the sidelines and allow this government to kill off one of the most exciting economic development opportunities this state has seen in decades.

Housing

Even if it was only a housing project—and it's much more than that—it would be an important project for Tasmania.

Nearly 2,000 new homes, close to the city, serviced by existing transport routes, and close to public amenities.

A mix of apartments, medium density units and stand-alone housing.

Housing that would be ideal for teachers, nurses, engineers – all the workers we're struggling to find enough of.

Opportunities for affordable housing to be included too, to provide more options for renters and first home buyers.

A step-change in housing supply in our city – when housing has never been further out of reach for Tasmanians.

When rents are up more than \$200 a week compared to 2014, and when home ownership feels impossible for a whole generation.

When homelessness is now an accepted part of our cities and towns – even though it never used to be.

When the government's signature housing policy—establishing Homes Tasmania—has been a complete failure.

When in six years, they've built just six homes on the thousand "fast-tracked" blocks the Parliament has rezoned.

When their signature planning policy—a "cheaper, faster, fairer, simpler" single statewide planning scheme—still hasn't been implemented more than a decade after it was promised.

I refuse to accept we can't do better.

But we have to acknowledge the only serious answer to Tasmania's housing challenge is to build more homes, and to build them faster.

To welcome new development.

Approve new projects.

Embrace higher density.

Build apartment blocks.

And stop saying no.

Yet that's exactly what the Liberals plan to do.

That's what the Greens and Kristie Johnston plan to support.

They plan to block the biggest single housing project in Tasmania.

They want to see unused land above Churchill Avenue, and buildings that have long been vacated, remain vacant indefinitely.

Make no mistake: saying no to this development means saying no to addressing the housing crisis.

Keeping Tasmania stuck in the past means leaving Tasmania stuck with all its longstanding problems.

It means accepting things can't ever be better – when they most definitely can.

And it means saying no to thousands safe, secure, well-paid jobs.

Jobs/brain drain

When right now—especially right now—we need to be supporting jobs in our building and construction sector.

Not only because our building sector, like many other industries, is starting to feel the effects of Tasmania's economic slowdown.

And not just because we need to keep training more skilled tradespeople, more engineers and more architects to deliver the housing and other projects our state needs.

But because we need to be providing our young people with as many opportunities as possible.

This project alone will create hundreds of apprenticeships, at a time when young Tasmanians are currently leaving the state in record numbers.

A planeload every four days – more than any time since the nineties.

A brain drain that will hold our state back.

And another area in which I refuse to accept we can't do better.

Of course we can do better.

But we need to give our young people a reason to stay in Tasmania.

They need to see a future for themselves here.

A secure job, with good pay, and good career prospects.

A capital city that's alive, not always afraid to change.

Real hope of home ownership.

That's what will keep our young people here.

That's what this project offers.

And that's why we're backing it.

STEM

But those aren't the only reasons.

The Liberals' plan to freeze the university's biggest asset—its vacant, unused land above Churchill Avenue—will leave the uni unable to fund its \$500 million STEM facility.

A huge project in itself, that will create hundreds of secure, well-paid jobs in construction.

But more importantly, an investment that will be an economic driver for our state for decades.

Look at what our world-leading Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies contributes to Tasmania.

That's what this new STEM facility will deliver for our state too.

It'll take our STEM facilities from some of the oldest in the country, to among the best.

There are plans for industry co-location, which will see the commercialisation of research like never before.

Creating hundreds of exciting new career options for Tasmanians.

It'll give our best and brightest a reason to stay in Tasmania – not because they have to, but because they want to.

Which right now – they don't.

Did you know the University of Melbourne and Monash University currently fly our leading STEM students to Melbourne, all expenses paid, and provide them tours of their top STEM facilities?

Why is the government just letting this happen?

Worse, why do they have a policy that will make it impossible to resolve?

Why are they stripping the university of the means to invest in world-leading STEM facilities?

Why do they think the Federal Government will pay for it, with taxpayer money, when the state government could just get out of the way?

Can you think of anything more short-sighted, more economically irresponsible, than blocking a generational investment in science, technology, engineering and maths?

Can you believe that in 2024, when technology will define our economic fortunes more than anything else this century, the Liberals have a policy that will prevent the university from investing half a billion dollars in STEM?

They're putting their political self-interest above Tasmania's interest.

Survival of their minority government ahead of the state's future.

It's a complete failure of leadership from the Premier.

And it's something, under my leadership, Labor will play no part in.

Investment signal

Because this isn't just a housing issue, as important as that is.

It's not just about jobs, opportunity and ending the brain drain.

It's not just about STEM and our economic future.

It's also about the terrible signal the Liberals' policy sends to anyone planning to invest in Tasmania.

This development has been underway for the best part of a decade, and the city move is already nearly two-thirds complete.

A business case was approved by Infrastructure Australia way back in 2017.

Eric Abetz said he'd been "privately advocating" for the project to ministers for several years, and said the Liberals would "actively seek funding in an effort to get the project off the ground".

In 2018, the State Government entered an MOU for the Hobart City Deal, which included an expansion of Antarctic Science facilities and the STEM proposal.

Will Hodgman said the developments would maximise job opportunities for Tasmanians.

The City Deal was signed in 2019.

Helen Burnett, now a Greens MP, ran for Hobart City Council in 2022 pledging to support the city move.

Jeremy Rockliff said "the decision to relocate the southern UTAS campus... is a matter for the University of Tasmania."

Now, after all these years, after his government has approved the university's borrowings, after the university has expended the bulk of those loans, he wants to strip them of their ability to repay those borrowings and invest in the new facilities they need.

To complete the development his government once supported.

Effectively freezing their assets with an Act of Parliament.

I started my career in Treasury, and I know this bill will send a chill down the spine of every investor in Tasmania.

Because if the Premier's willing to do this to the university—Tasmania's only university—who can have confidence they won't have the rug pulled out from underneath them, too?

Who will feel confident the government will have their back, even if a vocal minority decides to train their guns on their industry?

How will he handle local opposition to windfarms, or transmission infrastructure?

Will he put local politics ahead of Tasmania's interests?

Will he legislate them away too?

How will the Premier respond to the Lambies' opposition to salmon, forestry, and who knows what else?

Will he put the survival of his government ahead of the survival of Tasmania's regional towns?

And what about the next tourism project the Greens decide they don't like?

Will he let his local members tell him what to do with that project as well?

Because that's the issue with sovereign risk.

One you open the door to decisions like this, it's impossible for anyone to be sure where it ends.

Conclusion

But I'll tell you where I think it should end.

With this bill being resoundingly rejected.

Because while I'm originally from the west coast, I also lived in Hobart in the nineties and early 2000s.

I remember the "Slowbart" jibes.

I remember my friends moving to the mainland to pursue opportunities they couldn't get here.

I remember what Jim Bacon's government did to turn this state around.

And I don't want us to go back to where we once were.

I also know how access to a good education can change someone's life.

You probably don't know this, but school wasn't easy for me when I was little.

But because of the extra help I got, from my family and from my school, I was able to overcome those challenges and go to have the fulfilling, diverse career I've had so far.

So I don't want any young Tasmanian to miss out on a great education, or to feel like they have to go to the mainland to have an exciting career.

I want Tasmania to be the easiest place to do business, and the best place to grow up, work and retire.

I want to see 2,000 new homes built.

I want thousands of safe, secure, well-paying jobs for Tasmanians, and hundreds of apprenticeships for our young people.

I want a \$500 million, world-leading STEM facility.

I want to stop mainland unis poaching our top students – by making sure they actually want to stay here in the first place.

I want a facility that drives research and innovation across industry for the next 50 years.

I want a vibrant capital city, where people can invest with confidence.

And above all, I want a government that isn't afraid to make the tough decisions.

That will put its neck on the line for the sake of our state.

And which that has the strength of leadership to always put Tasmania's interests ahead of its political self-interest.

Thank you.

STEM education presentation

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Date Fri 28/06/2024 11:36 AM
To Sarah Lovell <sarah.lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Cc Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>; Nicholas Farrelly <nicholas.farrelly@utas.edu.au>

 1 attachment (803 KB)

Uni Council Stakeholder Presentation - June 2024 Hobart event.pdf;

Hi Sarah

Please find attached a presentation Rufus made to University Council and a range of stakeholders this morning – let us know of any questions it raises for you and feel free to circulate to colleagues.

Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications
University of Tasmania
Admin Building | Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
0432 389 793



We acknowledge the Aboriginal people of Tasmania as Traditional Owners of the land on which this university is located.

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.

STEM stats

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Tue 28/05/2024 4:15 PM

To Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Last year in Tasmania only 179 students in year 12 studied specialist mathematics, only 299 studied physics, and 456 studied chemistry. Participation levels in pre-tertiary level STEM have been in decline, with student enrolments in these subjects falling 14% since 2018. These numbers are too low to sustain a STEM workforce in Tasmania or even to renew STEM teaching in the schools.

New STEM facilities need to be designed to engage school students in a state with no science museum, to educate primary and secondary teachers in STEM, to develop STEM curriculum for schools, and to provide compelling tertiary STEM education opportunities to attract students and staff.

It will be very difficult to meet the Australian University Accord objectives of closing skills gaps without high-quality STEM education in Tasmania or even to close the 25% productivity gap that already exists with the rest of the nation. Urgent attention is needed to begin closing these gaps.

The University is the only place in the state with the critical mass of STEM capability to turn this situation around but its major southern campus is in urgent need of infrastructure renewal. The existing Sandy Bay buildings are aged, with 75% over 48 years old, in poor condition and ill-suited for contemporary teaching, which results in very low utilisation and poor accessibility, coupled with high running costs. Buildings are now being closed on the Sandy Bay campus as they are not viable to continue using.

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications

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Victoria Geason

From: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 6 August 2024 6:07 PM
To: Malcolm Wise; Gregory Truloff; Kate Sullivan
Cc: Ty Christopher
Subject: Thanks and AMC x University of Wollongong follow up

Good evening Mal, Greg, and Kate,

I just wanted to follow up Alison's email and thank you all so much for hosting us at AMC last Monday.

It was an absolutely great day and has provided so much insight for us moving forward.

Just linking in Ty Christopher from the University of Wollongong who joined us via teams at the beginning of the day.

Ty is looking forward to connecting and discussing potential future partnerships especially around a developing offshore wind industry.

Thank you all again so much, and hopefully see you soon!

Many thanks,
Frankie.

Warm regards,



Frances Kerkham

ADVISER - MEDIA & PARLIAMENT
OFFICE OF ALISON BYRNES MP

Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au
02 4228 5899
74 Crown Street Wollongong NSW 2500

[Click here to follow Alison on Facebook!](#)

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The education crisis imperilling Tasmania's future and what we can do about it

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Wed 29/05/2024 9:24 PM

To sarah.lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au <sarah.lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Hi Sarah

Great to hear that you're in touch with Korena in Jason Clare's office – here's a summary of Rufus' views on what we could do about education in Tasmania that he shared with you yesterday and with Minister Palmer today and will likely share with Vica when we meet him next week:

[The education crisis imperilling Tasmania's future and what we can do about it | University of Tasmania \(utas.edu.au\)](https://www.utas.edu.au/news/the-education-crisis-imperilling-tasmania-s-future-and-what-we-can-do-about-it)

This is also what he shared with Minister Clare and Korena when we met them in Launceston earlier this month. At that time we discussed the \$1 billion he had just committed to the Northern Territory education system and the fact that Tasmania is not that far behind and that with this new State Parliament and the feds keen to lock down school funding negotiations before the next federal election, we might have a window this year in which to secure some much needed education reform for Tasmania with support from across the political spectrum.

Please let us know if we can do anything to assist with that project.

Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications

University of Tasmania

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The Shed photos and info

From Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>

Date Mon 22/07/2024 11:39 AM

To David Abbott <David.Abbott@parliament.tas.gov.au>; Kate.Rainbird@parliament.tas.gov.au
<Kate.Rainbird@parliament.tas.gov.au>

 3 attachments (6 MB)

CS01.246 wet lab 1-.jpg; CS01.101 atrium from L2 lift.jpg; CS01.108 sim lab 1.jpg;

Hi Kate and Dave

Lovely to meet you both today, thanks for coordinating such a well organised media event. I hope you enjoyed checking out The Shed and got some useful photos, looking forward to seeing the stories in the media.

I've attached a couple of photos of spaces in the building if these are useful – the wet lab is one of the science labs which we were going to take you into but they were doing some works in the hallway outside the door so we couldn't get everyone in there safely. This is an example of the type of contemporary STEM facility we are building that will be mostly used for Chemistry but will also be used by other teaching disciplines too. I've also attached a nice photo of the atrium from the next level up and the sim lab that we had a look in today.

Let me know if you need any additional info about the Inveresk campus, The Shed, STEM education etc etc.. always happy to help! Enjoy the rest of your time up North.

Regards

Bonnie French
Associate Director Stakeholder Engagement
0438 385 757







Victoria Geason

From: Nicholas Farrelly <nicholas.farrelly@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 July 2024 6:07 PM
To: Adam Tavaszi
Cc: Poppy Fay
Subject: Tomorrow morning: Sandy Bay

Hi Adam,

Apologies for the late notice. Tomorrow at 10 am (until noon) I'm taking the State Opposition Leader and senior members of their ALP team through Sandy Bay and PSC. Should be four of them: Dean Winter, Ella Haddad, Josh Willie, Sarah Lovell.

Might you be able to join me? Apologies for the late notice but Poppy and I were discussing late today and we both thought you would make a great addition/voice.

Happy to answer any questions. Of course appreciate if you'd rather note/have other obligations in the morning.

Cheers,

Nicholas

Professor Nicholas Farrelly

utas.edu.au

T: +61 3 6226 2314

M: +61 427 299 733

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UTAS Staff Engagement Survey 2024

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Thu 30/05/2024 6:01 PM

To sarah.lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au <sarah.lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au>

 1 attachment (666 KB)

USF Presentation 2 May 2024.pdf;

Hi Sarah

Just following up on the incorrect reporting in today's media regarding the staff engagement survey to provide you with some information:

- The engagement survey launched 18 March 2024 and closed 12 April 2024.
- Whole of institution results were shared with staff through 3 drop-in sessions with opportunity for q&a and discussion directly with CPO, Kristen Derbyshire. The first session was held 15 May 2024 and the sessions were attended by a total 854 registrants.
- Whole of institution results were shared with approximately 300 of the Universities leaders at the University Strategic Forum who were encouraged to share it with their teams – the presentation is attached which shows gains have been made in most categories since 2022 (except for the question re clarity around campus moves which given the timing and events is not particularly surprising).
- Result reports including free-text comments were shared with approximately 330 leaders via the survey tool, CultureAmp.
- These whole of institution results sessions are in addition to results sharing discussions currently occurring among teams, disciplines, schools, colleges, and divisions across the University about the survey results for the area, and what we can learn from them and most importantly, what actions we can take to improve people's experience.
- Several colleges, schools, divisions and disciplines have already shared their results and are progressing to action planning in teams.

In summary, more than 1000 people have attended sessions where the survey results were shared and discussed, on top of extensive sessions at team, discipline, school, division and college levels throughout the University.

Happy to provide further context as is useful.
Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications

University of Tasmania

Admin Building | Private Bag 51

Hobart TAS 7001

0432 389 793

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University Strategic Forum

2 May 2024



Today's Agenda

2024 Staff Engagement Survey: Results and Analysis

Academic Division news

Why does engagement matter?

Engagement is a measure of people's connection and commitment to the University and its mission. By lifting it, we can increase our collective impact, performance, retention and attraction of employees.

In 2022 we conducted our first engagement survey. It helped inform a range of institutional initiatives to simplify our systems and processes throughout 2023.

Our 2024 survey result shows significant diversity in the range of people's experience across the University

When we take action and focus on things that matter, we've learned we see genuine improvement in people's experience

People feel a sense of belonging in their local workplaces, but the day to day realities are still challenging and key messages are not making it through.

In 2022, we conducted our first engagement survey. This highlighted three key focus areas at a whole of University level that were prioritised for response

Fixing our systems and processes	An organisational redesign of professional leadership and simplification of the enabling structures to support cultural change.
Connecting to our Mission and Strategy	Engaged with staff through our strategic refresh process across various forums including conversations about the state of the world today, strategy exhibition rooms and online discussion boards to explore the challenges we face, and what this might mean for the role that our University can play.
Creating People-Centred Leadership and experiences	Creating greater opportunities for people to engage in collaborative communication, problem-solving, planning and learning experiences across the University.

The 2024 engagement survey launched on 18 March to understand how people are experiencing work at the University

Survey Opened: 18 March

Survey Closed: 12 April

2024 Participation Rate: 70%

In 2022 we conducted our first engagement survey. It helped inform a range of institutional initiatives to simplify our systems and processes throughout 2023.

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People feel a sense of belonging in their local workplaces, but the day to day realities are still challenging and key messages are not making it through.

There is a significant diversity in the range of people's experiences across the University

While there are some broad themes and shared experiences, local factors play a significant role in engagement

Factor	High Score Example	Low Score Example
Engagement	76% in a department within the Research Division	23% in a discipline in the College of Health and Medicine
Line Management	96% in a school within the College of Arts Law and Education	29% in a discipline within the College of Sciences and Engineering.
Growth and Development	89% in a department within the Research Division	11% in a discipline within the College of Arts Law and Education
Teamwork and Ownership	81% in a discipline within the College of Health and Medicine	39% in a discipline within the College of Health and Medicine

Source: Engagement Survey 2024. These examples are drawn from discipline and department level cohorts with 10 or more responses to the engagement survey.

The impact of local factors is highlighted in the differing experiences between areas within each of our Colleges and Divisions

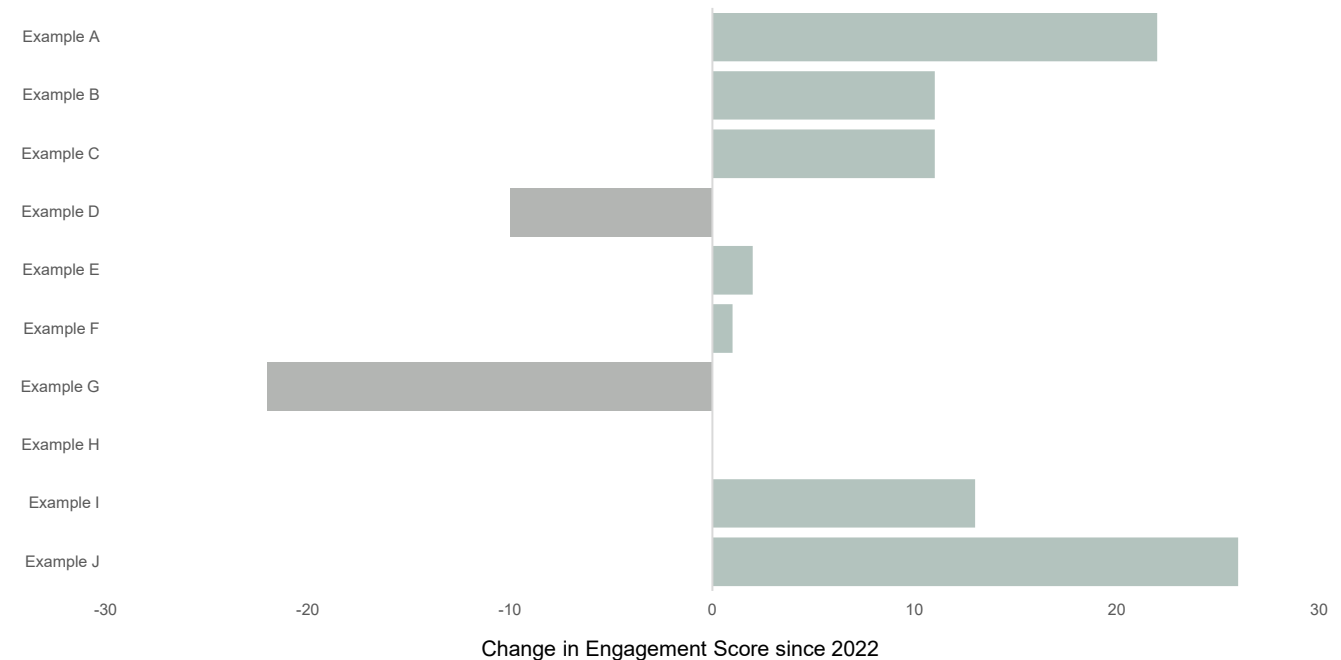
Summary of high and low factor scores for disciplines within one College

Factor	High	Low	Factor	High	Low
Engagement	67%	23%	Role Enablement	76%	43%
Line Management	86%	52%	Teamwork and Ownership	81%	33%
Growth and Development	64%	34%	Confidence in the University	56%	20%
Safety	88%	56%	Wellbeing	75%	36%

Source: Engagement Survey 2024. These examples are drawn from discipline and department level cohorts with 10 or more responses to the engagement survey.

Engagement has shifted different amounts in different places, showing that with the right action at a local level things can change

Change in engagement across 10 school / section level work units since 2022

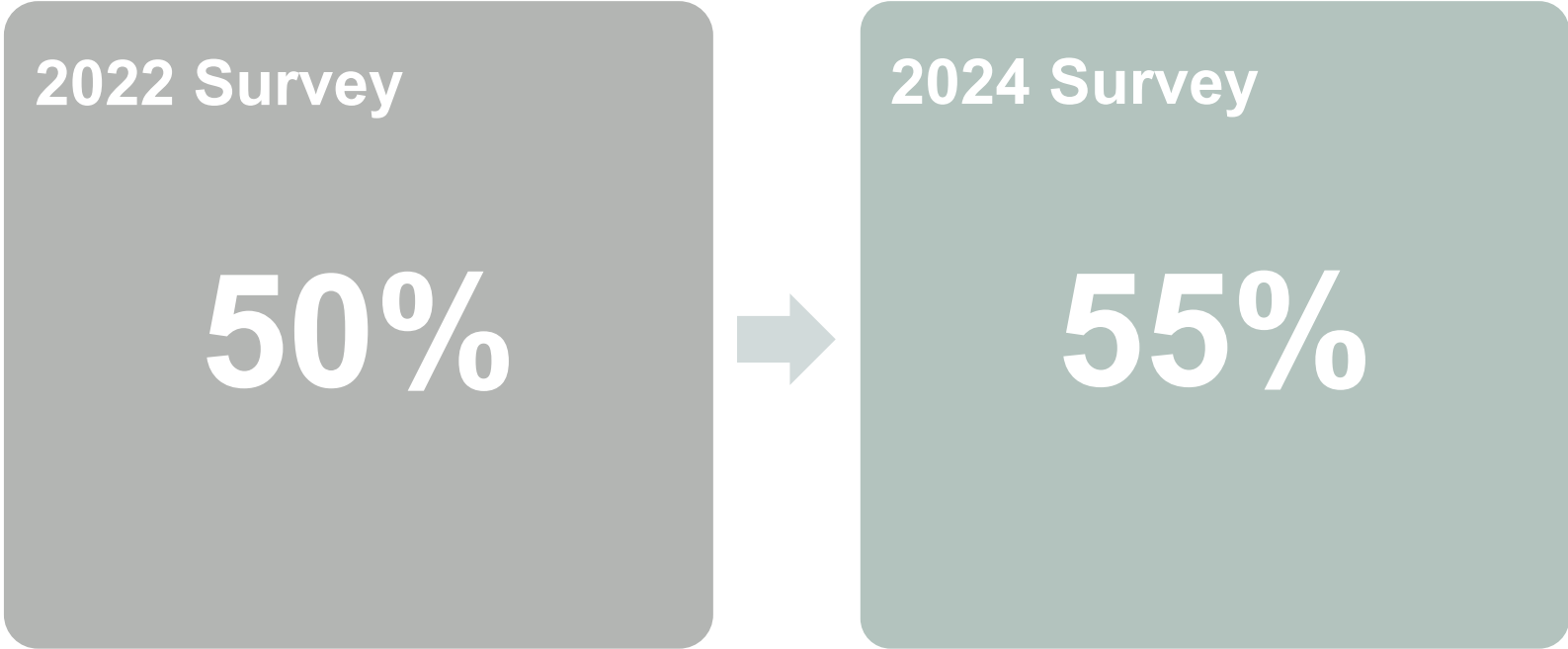


Key Insights

- People’s connection to the University has shifted different amounts in different places.
- Of 10 areas sampled, we saw shifts in engagement ranging from an increase of 26%, to a decrease of 22%.
- This variability highlights the importance of local factors and shows that with the right action at a local level, people’s experience of the University as a place to work can improve quickly.

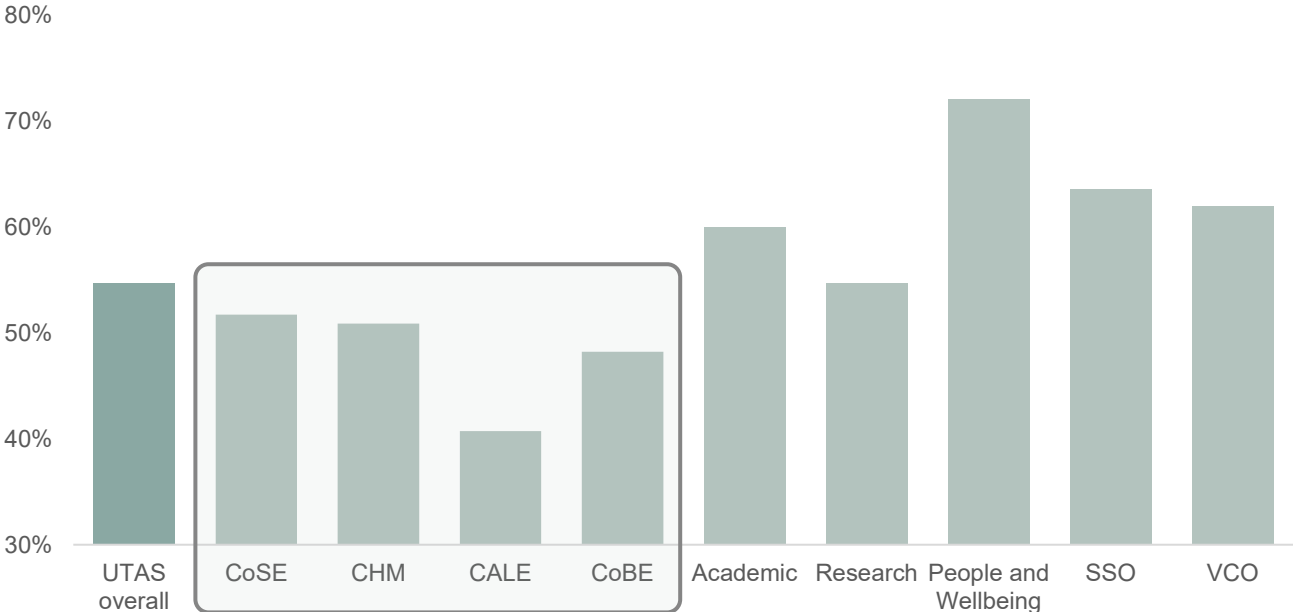
The cumulative impact of these local experiences is that people are more engaged on average across the University than in 2022

Overall Engagement has increased by 5% in the 18 months since the 2022 survey



The overall picture shows that while there are more positive experiences in parts of the University, the collective experience in our Colleges needs to improve

Engagement by College / Division



Key Insights

- There is variability in engagement between colleges and divisions
- The aggregate of college experiences is that 49% of people in colleges are engaged, compared with 62% in divisions
- There is a large difference in how people experience **Collaboration and Communication**. People in divisions rate this factor 65% favourably, compared to only 48% in colleges.

This diversity is also evident across our campuses, reflecting the role of regional factors in employee engagement

Engagement by Region



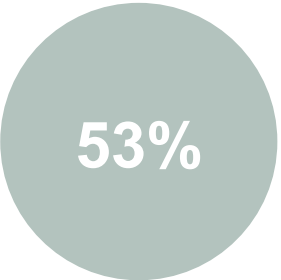
Hobart



Launceston



Cradle Coast



Sydney

In 2022 we conducted our first engagement survey. It helped inform a range of institutional initiatives to simplify our systems and processes throughout 2023.

Our 2024 survey result shows significant diversity in the range of people's experience across the University

When we take action and focus on things that matter, we've learned we see genuine improvement in people's experience

People feel a sense of belonging in their local workplaces, but the day to day realities are still challenging and key messages are not making it through.

When we focus and act on things that matter, we have learned we see genuine improvement in people’s experience, but these are areas that still clearly need a concerted effort.

Systems and Process Improvement is the factor where we made the most progress since 2022

Factor	2022	2024	Change
Systems and Process Improvement	31	39	+8

We recognised that people weren’t feeling encouraged or empowered to improve things

Question	2022	2024	Change
At the University, we continually seek ways to improve our systems and processes	35	46	+11
There are good methods in place to improve systems and processes at the University	19	28	+9
We are encouraged to be innovative even though some of our initiatives may not succeed	40	48	+8

More people feel a sense of pride in working at the University and are more connected to where we are headed

More people have a sense of pride in working for the University

Question	2022	2024	Change
I would recommend the University as a great place to work	52	62	+10
I am proud to work for the University	56	64	+8

And they are more likely to see themselves working here into the future

Question	2022	2024	Change
I see myself still working at the University in two years' time	58	63	+5

Key functions with the opportunity to influence University-wide experiences also picked up and led other enabling initiatives which will need continued and focused endeavour across the University.

More people feel that wellbeing is a priority

Question	2022	2024	Change
I believe employee wellbeing is a priority at the University	42	54	+12

And people feel more supported in balancing their work and personal lives

Question	2022	2024	Change
People here maintain a healthy balance between their work and personal lives	34	45	+11
We are genuinely supported if we choose to make use of flexible working arrangements	65	73	+8

In 2022 we conducted our first engagement survey. It helped inform a range of institutional initiatives to simplify our systems and processes throughout 2023.

Our 2024 survey result shows significant diversity in the range of people's experience across the University

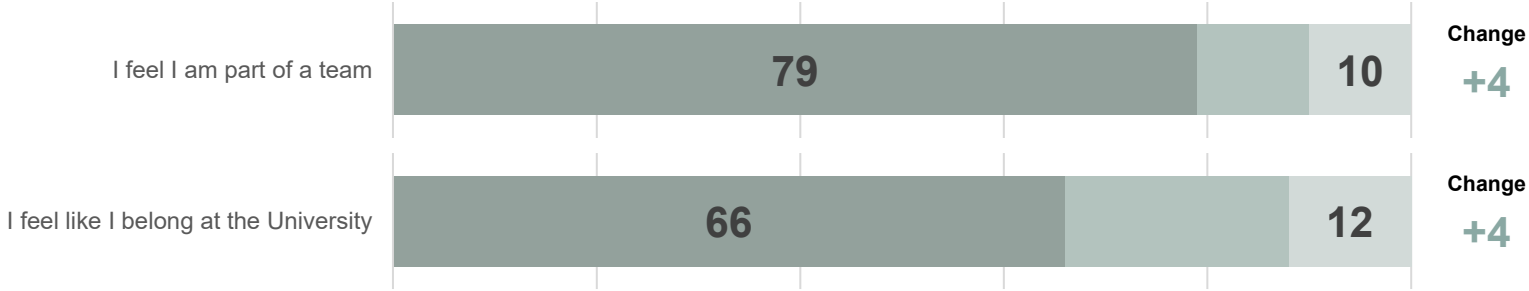
When we take action and focus on things that matter, we've learned we see genuine improvement in people's experience

People feel a sense of belonging in their local workplaces, but the day to day realities are still challenging and key messages are not making it through.

People feel a sense of belonging and that their contributions are valued

Diversity and Inclusion
Teamwork and Ownership
Line Management

People feel like they belong within their team and the broader University



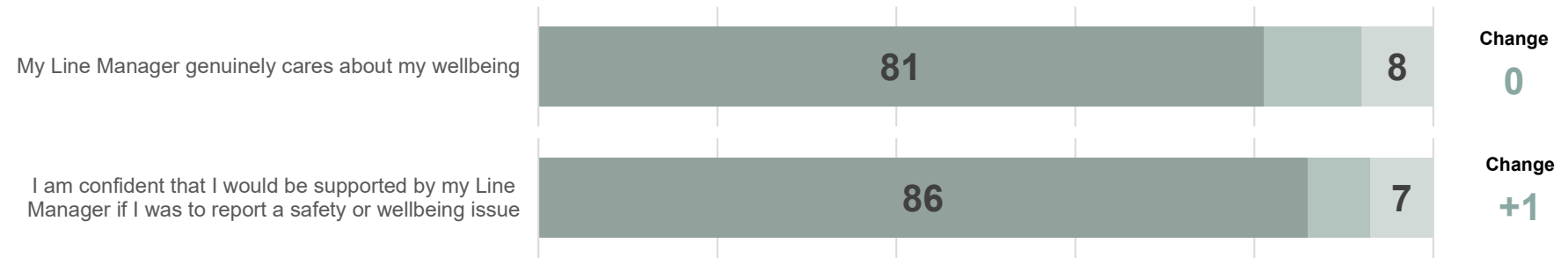
They feel their contributions are valued



They feel cared for and supported by their line manager

Line Management

People feel that their managers care about their wellbeing



They feel that they are supported to be successful



While we have made progress and learned change is possible, the day-to-day realities are still challenging for people

While we have seen some improvement, many systems and processes are still getting in the way

Most of the systems and processes here support us getting our work done effectively



Change
+6

We need to make sure that the methods we use to improve are more empowering

There are good methods in place to improve systems and processes at the University



Change
+9

I feel empowered to improve systems and processes within my role



Change
+5

I am appropriately involved in decisions that affect my work



Change
0

People still find work stressful and lack confidence in our ability to adapt to our changing environment

People find work stressful

I rarely feel overstressed by my work



Change
+5

When there are attempts to change there is a view that it is not well done

We manage change well at the University



Change
+6

And they lack confidence that we can successfully navigate our environment

The University is in a position to succeed over the next three years



Change
-1

This is reinforced when it feels like we aren't all aligned toward the same objectives

Confidence in the University
Communication and Collaboration

People feel we aren't allocating resources effectively toward our goals

The University effectively directs resources (funding, people and effort) towards our strategic goals



Change
+5

And while our communication and collaboration has improved, we still need to do better

Other work units at the University collaborate well with the work unit I belong to






Change
+6

At the University there is open and honest two-way communication



Change
+8

We are now moving into the process of results-sharing and action-planning with teams across the University

	Action	Support
 <p>Results-preparation 15 April – 26 April</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparation of results and reports• People and Wellbeing leader support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CultureAmp platform tour for leaders (50 mins) sessions via Zoom
 <p>Results-sharing 29 April – 24 May</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reports available to leaders via CultureAmp• Results debriefing for Executive Leaders and College / Division leadership teams• All leaders across the Colleges & Divisions share and discuss their results with their teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engagement Sprint for Leaders: <i>Engagement Conversation and Sharing Results</i> (90 mins) sessions via Zoom• All staff Zoom drop-in sessions for University-wide Engagement Results Sharing
 <p>Action-planning 27 May – 28 June</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All leaders across the Colleges & Divisions action plan• Local area lead action planning at School / Department and Discipline / Function team level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engagement Sprint for Leaders: <i>Facilitating Engagement Action</i> (90 mins) sessions via Zoom

Thought Starters for Breakout Discussion



1

Were there any unexpected or surprising findings? Why do you think these emerged?

2

In reviewing these results, and the diversity of local experiences, what implications do you see for the University?

3

How do you perceive the role of people leaders in building engagement and connection to the University mission within local areas?

Today's Agenda

2024 Staff Engagement Survey: Results and Analysis

Academic Division news




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Thank you

UTAS background docs

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Thu 1/08/2024 2:03 PM

To lennon.paul@

 4 attachments (1 MB)

Austarlian Universities - property restriction comparison table.docx; SB Campus overview - confidential.docx; Statewide Transformation Projects 2010 to 2030.pdf; UTas Bill V6 for tabling.pdf;

Hi Paul

Here are a few key docs for your background info - a review of other jurisdictions' legislation with respect to disposal of university landholdings and the background to the Sandy Bay campus, as well as a picture of the transformation of our campuses showing the city move has been underway for over a decade plus the bill that was tabled.

All the background on the city move is collated on this page, if you want to delve deeper: [Building our Hobart University presence since 2007 | Our campuses | University of Tasmania \(utas.edu.au\)](#).

Also worth looking at is the [Mount Nelson and Sandy Bay Neighbourhood Plan | Your Say Hobart \(hobartcity.com.au\)](#).

Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications

University of Tasmania

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#1 in climate
action globally
THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS 2023

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I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.

University	Jurisdiction	Legislation	Restriction on sale	Restriction on lease
University of Melbourne	VIC	<p>University of Melbourne Act 2009</p> <p>UM can generally deal with its property including purchase and disposal, subject to certain conditions.</p> <p>The Minister may acquire land for the purposes of the University, but to be vested in the Crown.</p> <p>NB these provisions expressly apply regardless of any common law to the contrary.</p> <p><i>Also note the University of Melbourne Land Act 2000 – purpose to revoke existing reservation and Crown grants (as they were no longer relevant to use of the land) and re-reserve the land to allow different University development and a new restricted Crown grant in favour of the University.</i></p>	<p>Land owned by the University The University must obtain the Minister’s approval to sell its land (or alienate its interest in the land) if: the sum for the transfer of conveyance exceeds \$5m (or such amount advised by Gazette);</p> <p>Land acquired by the Minister If any land has been acquired (compulsorily or otherwise) by the Minister for the purposes of the University, the University must not alienate its interest in the land without the Minister’s consent.</p>	<p>Land owned by the University The University must obtain the Minister’s approval to grant a lease in excess of 21 years</p> <p>Land acquired by the Minister The University must obtain the Minister’s approval to grant a lease in excess of 21 years.</p>
Monash	VIC	Same general position as above	Same as above	Same as above
University of Victoria	VIC	Same general position as above	Same as above but with a \$3m restriction	Same as above
Sydney University	NSW	<p>Sydney Uni has similar general position as above, these powers are executed by the University Senate.</p> <p>The minister may acquire land, either by agreement or by compulsory process. This can only happen if the Uni applies to the minister to do so and relevant payments are arranged.</p>	The Senate must not alienate, mortgage, charge or demise any lands acquired by the University from the State at nominal or less than market value except with the approval of the Minister	Minister approval not required unless lease term is more than 21 years and Senate is satisfied that it is to the benefit of the University, whether from a financial or educational standpoint or

				otherwise, that the lease be entered into.
University of NSW	NSW	Same as Uni Sydney, Council has the power to buy, etc.	As above.	As above.
Macquarie Uni	NSW	Same as above, Council to purchase etc.	As above.	As above.
UTS	NSW	Same as above, Council to purchase etc.	As above.	As above.
Newcastle	NSW	Same as above, Council to purchase etc.	As above.	As above.
Wollongong	NSW	Same as above, Council to purchase etc.	As above.	As above.
Southern Cross	NSW	Same as above, Council to purchase etc.	As above.	As above.
New England	NSW	Same as above, Council to purchase etc.	As above.	As above.
Western Sydney	NSW	Same as above, however sit with the Board.	As above.	As above.
University of Queensland	QLD	Senate has the power to manage and control University Property. The Minister does not have acquisition powers.	No clear restrictions.	No clear restrictions.
QUT	QLD	Uni Council has power to control Uni affairs / property. - Very broad. - Doesn't specify what it involves.	No minister involvement / restrictions.	No minister involvement / restrictions.
Uni Southern Queensland	QLD	Uni Council has power to control Uni affairs / property. - Very broad. Doesn't specify what it involves.	No minister involvement / restrictions.	No minister involvement / restrictions.

Uni Sunshine Coast	QLD	Uni Council has power to control Uni affairs / property. - Very broad. Doesn't specify what it involves.	No minister involvement / restrictions.	No minister involvement / restrictions.
James Cook	QLD	Senate has the power to manage and control University Property. The Minister does not have acquisition powers.	No clear restrictions.	No clear restrictions.
University of Adelaide	SA	There is no clause that expressly states how property is controlled.	NA	NA
Flinders	SA	There is no clause that expressly states how property is controlled.	NA	NA
Uni SA	SA	As above.	NA	NA
Uni of WA	WA	Senate has control and management of real property.	Governor consent required for: - any land granted or demised to or vested in the University under section 35; - any land acquired from the proceeds of the sale of that land; or - any land acquired under section 2 of the University Endowment Act Amendment Act 1927	Approval of Minister for: - grant a lease of any University lands for a term that exceeds 21 years but does not exceed 99 years; or - mortgage any University lands.
Curtin	WA	University has control of property, they can: - grant, sell, alienate, assign or demise real and personal property acquired or held by the University as it thinks fit Can lease the property subject to some conditions.	No minister involvement.	where the term exceeds 21 years, to the approval of the Minister.

Edith Cowan	WA	Same as above.	As above.	As above.
Notre Dame	WA	Board of Directors has control and management of property. Do what is fit for the University.	No minister involvement / restrictions.	No minister involvement / restrictions.
Murdoch	WA	Senate has control and management of real property.	No restrictions.	Approval of Minister for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - grant a lease of any University lands for a term that exceeds 21 years but does not exceed 99 years; or - mortgage any University lands.

Take aways:

- Victorian unis import a monetary value for when Minister approval required for selling, only unis to do this.
- Most lease restrictions are focused on terms exceeding 21 years.
 - o See particular WA Unis where there is no restrictions on sales except for Uni if WA which involves Governor consent in certain circumstances.
 - o QLD Unis also do not have restrictions on selling or leasing property. Very broad in what they can do.
- SA Uni Acts are curiously silent on property matters.
 - o Similar to UTAS Act as it currently is, which is broad (i.e. UTAS Act discusses 'powers' of the UNI, which includes acquiring property).

Licence Term	Description
<p>Background Context</p>	<p>The Sandy Bay Campus includes land that was gifted by the State Government in 1951. A summary of the relevant timeline (extracted from archived documents) is attached. In summary, in 1951 the State Government negotiated with the Commonwealth Government for the transfer of the Sandy Bay Rifle Range. The Commonwealth recognised the need for a new site for the University and agreed to transfer the Rifle Range for a University site and a public reserve, such transfer to occur after the war.</p> <p>In 1951, the Tasmanian University Act was enacted. Section 11(1) of that Act provides that the land described in the second schedule (ie the Rifle Range site that is now the Sandy Bay campus) is hereby vested in the University for the purposes of the University and for conversion into, and use as public parks or gardens under the control or management of the Council. This Act provides that the said land (SB Campus) or any part thereof shall not at any time be sold, mortgaged, or otherwise disposed of, and if the said land ceases to be used for the purposes of the University it shall revert to and revest in His Majesty.</p> <p>The current University of Tasmania Act was enacted in 1992. Section 26 of that Act provides for <u>Certain land to remain vested in the University.</u></p> <p>It provides –</p> <p>Notwithstanding the repeal by this Act of the Amalgamation Act, the land specified in Schedule 3 (<i>SB Campus</i>) remains vested in the University but free from any restrictions as to the power of the University to sell, mortgage or otherwise dispose of that land that may, but for this clause, restrict the power of the University in respect of that land.</p> <p>UTAS has received Kings Counsel advice that the 1992 Act removed the restriction not to sell or mortgage the land referred to in the 1951 Act and UTAS has the same ownership rights as any other entity.</p>
<p>Legal Issues</p>	<p>The common basis of landownership in Tasmania based on the common law and Tasmanian legislation is that the state cannot take ownership in whole or part of SB Campus (which we have full ownership rights including sale as any other owner):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • without paying market value and other just compensation • unless there is an appropriate public purpose for the acquisition • unless the land is then be used for that purpose once it is acquired. <p>The Proposal is inconsistent with these fundamental principles as it amounts to a reverse compulsory acquisition - as it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effectively prohibits sale in order to force a use of the land where the University Council would otherwise have decided is not in the best interests of the university • deprives the university of the market value • imposes an ongoing cost burden on the university through ongoing holding and upkeep costs for the land which it is prohibited from disposing • inhibits the council’s long-term planning for university to achieve the objectives set out under the UTAS Act.

<p>University governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parliament has established the university, and the council is the university’s governing body. • The UTAS Act requires the council members to make their decisions in the best interests of the university (see the "business judgement" defence in section 11A(4) UTAS Act which is same as common law director duties). • The Proposal takes away the ultimate decision-making power of the University Council in relation to a sale and instead substitutes decision making by parliament. • This could prevent or impede members of council from making decisions that they believe are in the best interest of the university, and ultimately affect the good governance of the university and expose current Council members to liability.
<p>UPPL governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UTAS Properties Pty Ltd (UPPL – wholly owned UTAS subsidiary), is responsible for masterplanning for the Sandy Bay Campus and execution of that masterplan through commercial developments. • Some of the land has already been transferred to UPPL (grace st). • The Proposal (prohibition on sale without Parliamentary consent) will be ineffective in relation to this transferred land. • To be effective, the legislation would need to direct the council to amend the constitution of UPPL to pass through the Parliamentary control provisions. • Without this, the provision would either be effective or, if UPPL did give effect to the legislative intent, may cause the directors of UPPL to be in breach of their directors duties (without the benefit of an indemnity from the university under section 22 of the UTAS Act).
<p>Financial</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our existing Treasury approval includes a condition relating to maintaining our debt maturity profile (and at the time of seeking Treasury approval we included revenues to be realised through UPPL as part of the approval process). The Proposal will likely impact our debt maturity profile given it creates uncertainty and delay for any sale and puts UTAS at risk of default. • Our green bond and corporate debt lending agreements will need to be reviewed if the Proposal looks likely to take effect (proposal may require consent from lenders/bondholders). • There is no impact to our Moody rating or our balance sheet from the Proposal.

Archive timeline – original gift of Sandy Bay title to the University

22 October 1943	Provisional statement on reconstruction extensions	Prior to the war, the State government agreed that a new site for the University was necessary, and negotiated with the Commonwealth Government for the transfer of the Sandy Bay Rifle Range to the state. The Cth govt recognised the need for a new site for the University and agreed to transfer the Rifle Range for a University site and a public reserve. The transfer is to take place after the war, and the State Govt has formed a committee to consider the allotment of the land for University buildings and other public purposes. The University requests the Universities commission to give special consideration to this present extraordinary situation, and suggests that the State and Cth governments might immediately confer on a modification of the existing agreement relating to the time of transfer of the Rifle Range in order that the site might be laid out and the erection of University buildings be advanced in readiness for demobilisation.
28 February 1947	Council minutes	The university purchased remaining buildings on the Sandy Bay site (for fit out as teaching spaces Botany / Photography / Arts Lectures 1945-05-11)
28 November 1947	Council minutes	18 Sandy Bay Site – Report of Committee. A report was received from the Sandy Bay Site Committee covering the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Parliamentary approval for commencement. (b) University Property Act – A draft bill was submitted containing the (illegible) the control of the land for use both as a University and as a public park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the piece or parcel of land described in the schedule hereto shall be vested in the University of Tasmania for the purposes of the University and for provision of a public park. (ii) the Council of the University shall have power to make bylaws regulating the use by the public of the land. The draft was approved in principle for submission to the Minister.
1951	Tasmanian University Act Restricted UTAS from selling land	Section 11 (1) provides that the land described in the second schedule is hereby vested in the University for the purposes of the University and for conversion into, and use as public parks or gardens under the control or management of the Council. (2) provides that the said land or any part thereof shall not at any time be sold, mortgaged, or otherwise disposed of, and if the said land ceases to be used for the purposes of the University it shall revert to and revest in His Majesty.
1991	University of Tasmania Act	Section 26 <u>Certain land to remain vested in the University</u> Notwithstanding the repeal by this Act of the Amalgamation Act, the land specified in Schedule 3 remains vested in the University but free from any restrictions as to the power

	Removed the restriction so that UTAS has the same rights as any other owner (including sale)	of the University to sell, mortgage or otherwise dispose of <u>that land that may, but for this clause, restrict the power of the University in respect of that land.</u>
24 November 1992	Second reading speech	No mention of section 26 or Schedule 3

TASMANIA

**UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA (PROTECTION OF
LAND) BILL 2024**

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1. Short title
 2. Commencement
 3. Interpretation
 4. Parliamentary approval required to dispose of certain University land
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 7. Regulations
 8. Administration of Act
 9. Consequential amendments
- Schedule 1 – Vested land
- Schedule 2 – Consequential amendments

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA (PROTECTION OF LAND) BILL 2024

(Brought in by the Minister for the Arts, the Honourable Madeleine Ruth Ogilvie)

A BILL FOR

An Act to ensure that certain land vested in the University of Tasmania is not disposed of without the prior approval of both Houses of Parliament and to consequentially amend the *University of Tasmania Act 1992*

Be it enacted by Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows:

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the *University of Tasmania (Protection of Land) Act 2024*.

2. Commencement

This Act is taken to have commenced on 14 May 2024.

3. Interpretation

In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears –

commencement day means the day on which this Act is taken to have commenced;

University of Tasmania (Protection of Land) Act 2024
Act No. of 2024

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dispose includes the following:

- (a) sell, barter or exchange;
- (b) deal in or agree to sell;
- (c) offer for sale;
- (d) supply for sale, or dispose of, in expectation of receiving payment or consideration for the ownership of the land;
- (e) receive for sale;
- (f) dispose of by way of raffle, lottery or other game of chance;
- (g) offer as a gift, prize or reward;
- (h) give away for any purpose;
- (i) lease for a term of not less than 99 years;

University has the same meaning as in the *University of Tasmania Act 1992*;

University land has the same meaning as in the *University of Tasmania Act 1992*;

vested land means –

- (a) the land specified in Schedule 1 that is owned by the University on the commencement day; and

- (b) such land as is prescribed as vested land for the purposes of this Act.

4. Parliamentary approval required to dispose of certain University land

- (1) On and after the commencement day, the University must not dispose of all, or any part, of the vested land unless the disposal has been first approved by each House of Parliament.
- (2) If the University wishes to dispose of all, or any part, of the vested land –
 - (a) the University –
 - (i) may request that the Minister table a motion under this section in respect of the disposal of the land; and
 - (ii) is to provide the Minister with a draft motion that meets the requirements of subsection (4); and
 - (b) if the Minister is satisfied that the motion provided under paragraph (a)(ii) meets the requirements of subsection (4), the Minister is to table the motion in each House of Parliament as soon as is practicable.
- (3) For the purposes of this section, a House of Parliament is taken to have approved the

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disposal of all, or any part, of the vested land if a motion (the *disposal motion*), that meets the requirements of subsection (4), has been laid on the table of the House and –

- (a) the disposal motion is approved by the House; or
 - (b) at the expiration of 10 sitting-days after the same motion was laid on the table of the House, no notice has been given of a motion to disallow it or, if such notice has been given, the notice has been withdrawn or the motion has been negatived; or
 - (c) if a notice of motion to disallow the disposal motion is given during that period of 10 sitting-days, the notice of motion to disallow it is, after the expiration of that period, withdrawn or the motion is negatived.
- (4) A motion to approve the disposal of vested land that is to be tabled under subsection (3) –
- (a) must include –
 - (i) a clear description, or plan, of the area of vested land that the University proposes to dispose of; and
 - (ii) if the disposal of the land is by lease, details of the term of the lease; and

- (iii) details of the amount of payment or consideration, or any other benefits, that the University is to receive if the disposal of the vested land is approved as required under this section; and
- (b) may include such other information as the University considers relevant to the disposal of the proposed area of vested land.

5. Minister may protect land with caveat

- (1) In this section –

Recorder has the same meaning as in the *Land Titles Act 1980*.

- (2) If the Minister considers it appropriate in the circumstances, the Minister may cause a notification to be lodged with the Recorder, in a form approved by the Recorder, stating that the disposal of the land specified in the notification is affected by this Act.
- (3) A notification lodged with the Recorder under subsection (2) –
- (a) operates as a caveat lodged under the *Land Titles Act 1980* forbidding the University from disposing of the land other than in accordance with this Act; and

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(b) remains in force until whichever of the following occurs first:

(i) the University provides the Recorder with evidence, to the satisfaction of the Recorder, that the proposed disposal of the land has been approved as required under this Act;

(ii) the Minister lodges a notification with the Recorder, in a form approved by the Recorder, stating that the notification lodged with the Recorder under subsection (2) is withdrawn.

(4) Sections 133(3)(b) and 136 of the *Land Titles Act 1980* do not apply to a notification lodged with the Recorder under subsection (2).

(5) No fee is payable under the *Land Titles Act 1980* in respect of a notification of the Minister lodged with the Recorder under this section.

6. Application of Act to leases and agreements for sale

(1) A transaction or agreement to lease, sell, or otherwise dispose of, vested land, other than in accordance with this Act, is void if the transaction or agreement is entered into on or after the commencement day.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, subsection (1) applies to a transaction or agreement that is entered into on or after the commencement day

but before the day on which this Act receives the Royal Assent.

- (3) If a transaction or agreement that is entered into on or after the commencement day but before the day on which this Act receives the Royal Assent is void by virtue of this section –
- (a) any deposit paid by a party to such a transaction or agreement is to be returned to that party; and
 - (b) no remedy, or breach or default of contract, may be claimed solely on the basis that the transaction or agreement is void by virtue of this section.

7. Regulations

- (1) The Governor may make regulations for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) Regulations made under this section may take effect on, and from, the commencement day or a later day as specified in the regulations.

8. Administration of Act

Until provision is made in relation to this Act by order under section 4 of the *Administrative Arrangements Act 1990* –

- (a) the administration of this Act is assigned to the Minister for Education; and

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(b) the Department responsible to the Minister for Education is the Department for Education, Children and Young People.

9. Consequential amendments

The legislation specified in Schedule 2 is amended as specified in that Schedule.

SCHEDULE 1 – VESTED LAND

Section 3

Such part of the University land that falls within the descriptions of the following folios of the Register kept under section 33 of the *Land Titles Act 1980*:

- (a) Volume 176312, Folio 1;
- (b) Volume 167420, Folio 1.

University of Tasmania (Protection of Land) Act 2024
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sch. 2

SCHEDULE 2 – CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

Section 9

University of Tasmania Act 1992

1. Section 7(1)(a) is amended by omitting “to acquire” and substituting “subject to the *University of Tasmania (Protection of Land) Act 2024*, to acquire”.
2. Section 26 is amended as follows:
 - (a) by renumbering the section as subsection (1);
 - (b) by inserting the following subsection after subsection (1):
 - (2) Subsection (1) does not prevent a restriction within the *University of Tasmania (Protection of Land) Act 2024* from applying to the lease, sale, or disposal, of land specified in Schedule 3.

From: [Kate Huntington](#)
To: stuart.benson@parliament.tas.gov.au
Subject: UTAS buildings - Podium and KPMG
Start: Wednesday, 5 June 2024 3:45:00 PM
End: Wednesday, 5 June 2024 4:45:00 PM
Location: Meet outside Biscuit Factory on Melville St near student accom building

Ok if we make it 3:45?

UTAS further discussions

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Date Fri 10/05/2024 4:49 PM
To sarah.lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au <sarah.lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Cc Nicholas Farrelly <nicholas.farrelly@utas.edu.au>

 3 attachments (1 MB)

Greens position regarding UTAS; Statewide Transformation Projects 2019 to 2026.pdf; Accord and Tasmania - May 24 Presentation.pdf;

Hi Sarah

Thanks again for your time today. Please find attached the electronic copy of the document I gave you and Dean today, as well as the Green's position and Rufus' presentation on the opportunities of the Accord and the educational situation more broadly in Tasmania that he has been sharing with a range of stakeholders, including Jason Clare.

I've also passed on your interest in a tour of Sandy Bay to Nicholas Farrelly, our Pro Vice-Chancellor (Southern Tasmania) who is copied here and who will be in touch to organise that for you and any interested colleagues. His office is still working with Josh' office on a time to view the Philip Smith building on the Domain so he'll loop you and Ella into that one too.

Let us know what else would be of assistance.
Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington
Executive Director, Strategic Communications
University of Tasmania
Admin Building | Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
0432 389 793

UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA 

#1 in climate
action globally
THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS 2023

We acknowledge the Aboriginal people of Tasmania as Traditional Owners of the land on which this university is located.

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.

Victoria Geason

From: Vica Bayley <Vica.Bayley@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 February 2024 5:45 PM
To: Kate Huntington
Cc: Alice Giblin
Subject: Greens position regarding UTAS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Important/Urgent

Dear Kate,

I hope you are well.

The Greens have published a position statement regarding UTAS that incorporates the relocation into the city, the future of the Sandy bay campus and function of the *University of Tasmania Act 1992*.

This position has been developed after discussions with members and supporters and consideration of a range of issues associated with the move and redevelopment of the Sandy Bay campus. I have copied it below.

Please pass on to relevant people within UTAS and be in touch if you would like to discuss.

I would be keen to work with UTAS on what this, and other policies released this election mean in an attempt to find a way through, where previously there appeared none.

Regards and best wishes,

Vica

Position Statement - UTAS

- **Reform the *University of Tasmania Act 1992* to improve governance, accountability and academic outcomes, informed by the final report of the Legislative Council Select Committee once it is handed down.**
- **UTAS must stop the relocation into the CBD and confirm an ongoing commitment to the maintenance of the Sandy Bay campus for educational purposes, including respecting the built heritage, public open space and natural environment of the site.**

Context:

- While the Parliament and State Government have a statutory role in the oversight of UTAS, they are not in control of commercial and operational decisions of UTAS.
- The provision of public land for the Sandy Bay campus and a \$30m annual taxpayer contribution does however provide significant responsibility for Government to ensure UTAS makes decisions in the public good.
- The October 2022 Elector poll of Hobart City Council electors must be respected. 74.38% of electors opposed the wholesale move into the city (and by extension the sale of the Sandy Bay campus).
- The Greens share concerns of numerous stakeholders, including local residents, staff and students, about decision-making by UTAS including broader staffing, management and curriculum delivery decisions.
- This includes significant public and stakeholder concerns about the shift in UTAS emphasis and priority from educational excellence to property development.

The Tasmanian Greens believe:

- The University of Tasmania, as Tasmania's only university, must be a leader in tertiary education, community standing and transparent decision making;
- The *University of Tasmania Act 1992* needs to be reviewed and amended to improve governance, accountability, decision making and academic outcomes;
- The State government should use available opportunities to ensure UTAS halts the wholesale move into the CBD and confirms an ongoing commitment to the maintenance of the Sandy Bay campus for educational purposes;
- This commitment must respect the built heritage, public open space and natural environment of the site;
- Concerns of academic staff, students and the broader community must be genuinely considered and addressed by the University Council.
- All UTAS decisions must be based on credible public engagement and accountable decision making processes and any statutory planning approvals provide for third party right of appeal.

Vica Bayley MP

Tasmanian Greens Member for Clark

A: 1 Salamanca PL, Parliament House, Hobart TAS 7000

T: 03 6212 2260

W: <http://mps.tas.greens.org.au>

RE: Follow up from today's discussion

From Dean L. Winter <Dean.L.Winter@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Date Mon 13/05/2024 11:36 AM
To Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Thanks Kate

Do you have the Greens Policy you can send to me?

From: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Friday, 10 May 2024 5:11 PM
To: Dean Winter <Dean.Winter@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Cc: Marcus Atkinson <Marcus.Atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Follow up from today's discussion

You don't often get email from kate.huntington@utas.edu.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Dean

Thanks for your time today – please find attached an electronic copy of the document I gave you this morning, as well as a presentation on education in Tasmania that Rufus will be keen to discuss when we meet with you, Sarah and Ella later this month. I've connected Sarah with Nicholas Farrelly, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Southern Tasmania), to arrange a time for a Sandy Bay tour and to look at the Philip Smith building on the Domain.

We're also putting together a list of all our questions about the legislation for you guys which I'll send through next week.

Please let me know if anything else would be useful.
Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington
Executive Director, Strategic Communications
University of Tasmania
Admin Building | Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
0432 389 793



We acknowledge the Aboriginal people of Tasmania as Traditional Owners of the land on which this university is located.

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.

This email is confidential, and is for the intended recipient only. Access, disclosure, copying, distribution, or reliance on any of it by anyone outside the intended recipient organisation is prohibited and may be a criminal offence. Please delete if obtained in error and email confirmation to the sender. The views expressed in this email are not necessarily the views of the University of Tasmania, unless clearly intended otherwise.

Victoria Geason

Subject: UTAS Tour
Location: Administration Building at Sandy Bay Campus
Start: Wed 3/07/2024 10:00 AM
End: Wed 3/07/2024 12:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Not yet responded
Organizer: Sarah Lovell

Meet at Sandy Bay, Foyer of Administration Building
Tour of Sandy Bay Campus from 10 – 11am

Travel to Phillip Smith Centre at the Domain
Tour of Building and facilities 11.15am – 12noon

Option to attend both if Member has time, or can just do the Sandy Bay Campus Tour.

Michelle O'Byrne MP
Member for Bass
Shadow Minister for Economic Development
Shadow Minister for Children and Youth
Shadow Minister for Community Services
Shadow Minister for Women
Shadow Minister for Heritage and Arts
219 Invermay Road
Invermay TAS 7248

By email: michelle.obyrne@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Shadow Minister O'Byrne

Congratulations on your re-election as member for Bass and your appointment as Shadow Minister for Economic Development; Children and Youth; Community Services; Women; and Heritage and Arts.

We very much look forward to continuing to work with you.

We appreciate your ongoing support of the University's mission in Launceston which is in exciting and profound ways shaping and being shaped by the region.

I look forward to introducing you to the new Pro Vice-Chancellor (Launceston), who is planned to commence in the role in mid-2024.

Should you have any matters relevant to the University in Launceston in the near future, please do not hesitate to contact my colleague Associate Professor Sonya Stanford. She can be reached by email to sonya.stanford@utas.edu.au

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

17 April 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

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utas.edu.au

Michelle O'Byrne MP

Labor Member for Bass

Via email: Vice.Chancellor@utas.edu.au

Professor Rufus Black
University of Tasmania
Private Bag 51
HOBART TAS 7000

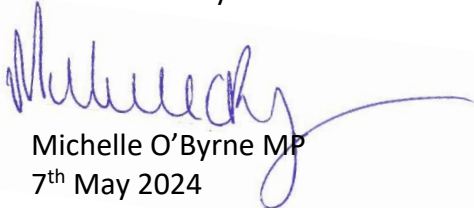
Dear Professor Black,

Thank you so much for your kind and congratulatory letter. It is an honor to serve as a Member of Parliament, and I am grateful for the support and encouragement from community colleagues like you.

I am committed to representing our community's interests and working towards a better future for all. Your words of support inspire me to continue working diligently on behalf of our community. I look forward to meeting the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Launceston) when she commences in her new role.

Thank you once again for your thoughtful message.

Yours Sincerely



Michelle O'Byrne MP
7th May 2024



Putting **people** first

■ **a:** 219 Invermay Rd
INVERMAY TAS 7248

■ **p:** 03 6324 2020

■ **e:** michelle.obyrne@parliament.tas.gov.au
www.taslabor.com



UTAS/Labor Support to Study Scholarships

From Rochelle Galloway <Rochelle.Galloway@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Date Thu 8/02/2024 4:06 PM
To Ben Wild <ben.wild@utas.edu.au>
Cc David Abbott <David.Abbott@parliament.tas.gov.au>; Marcus Atkinson <Marcus.Atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Hi Ben,

How are you? Hope you are well.

I am reaching out again to see whether we would be able to line up some UTAS students to highlight Labor's Support for Study Scholarships?

Are you able to point me in the direction of some students we could approach for media across Burnie, Launceston and Hobart?

Kind regards,
Rochelle

Rochelle Galloway

Media Advisor

Office of Rebecca White MP

Tasmanian Labor Leader

m: 0419 999 383

e: rochelle.galloway@parliament.tas.gov.au

a: 253 Wellington Street, Launceston, 7249

www.taslabor.com



Putting **people** first

The Hon Tony Burke MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Cyber Security
Minister for the Arts
Leader of the House

Dear Minister Burke

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Cyber Security in addition to your portfolios as Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and Minister for the Arts.

Your appointment to the Home Affairs portfolio comes at a critical time for our nation, with the Australian Government's Migration Strategy aiming to create a more sustainable and balanced national migration system.

Alongside this is the proposed implementation of a managed market approach for international students studying at Australian universities. At the University of Tasmania, we are supportive of this proposed approach and consider this a positive step in achieving a more equal national distribution of international students.

We have recently prepared a submission to this effect for the Draft International Education Framework consultation, [which is available on our website](#).

While we support the move towards a managed system, we are concerned about impacts to the sector, particularly for regional universities such as ours, during the period of consultation and transition to a new system.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss these potential impacts, and the opportunity for a managed system to attract international students to study in regional Australia, supporting the intent of the Australian Government's migration strategy and ensuring the financial sustainability of regional universities to continue delivering high quality, regionally accessible education.

Again, I extend my congratulations to you and wish you every success in this important role.

Yours sincerely

Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor
02 August 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

The Hon Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education

By email: Jason.Clare.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister Clare

It was wonderful to host you recently at the University of Tasmania's Inveresk Campus in Launceston, thank you again for your visit and your continued commitment to supporting access to regional education. It is with great pleasure I invite you to the official opening of The Shed at our Inveresk Campus on Friday 18th October 2024 at 11:30am.

The completion of The Shed in August this year marks an exciting milestone in the transformation of Inveresk into a thriving regional university campus and community precinct. The Shed is the final of three new buildings at Inveresk through the \$300m Northern Transformation Program – a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve educational outcomes through the creation of a new city campus in Launceston enabled by the Launceston City Deal.

The Shed is the largest and most complex of the new buildings at Inveresk and will be the home for nursing, allied health, health sciences and natural sciences teaching and research. The \$100m building includes a variety of specialised allied health clinics, nursing simulation facilities and science laboratories.

The new building will enable community health education programs for children and older adults, professional development workshops, sports science testing and wellbeing initiatives. It also includes a fully accessible Changing Place facility available for public use, a parenting room and a nutrition bar style takeaway café, further encouraging the broader community's use of the building and new facilities.

The Inveresk Campus vision has been generously supported and realised through the contributions of the Australian Government, Tasmanian Government and the City of Launceston. The opening of The Shed will be an opportunity to gather together and recognise these important contributions and the partnership between the University and the three levels of government which has resulted in transformative outcomes for Launceston and Northern Tasmania.

Further, I am writing to you following a trip to India in relation to how our University might respond to the dynamic changes captured in India's National Education Policy, and to their interest in expanding foreign cooperation through partnership and transnational education. It was a wonderful opportunity to witness the innovation and energy that drives higher education in this strategically important partner for Australia.

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During my visit, colleagues and I engaged in a series of conversations with important stakeholders across India, supported very capably by staff at the Australian High Commission. Our conversations focused on how our own strengths in health, agriculture, renewable energies and Antarctic science teaching and research can enhance Australia-India cooperation in areas of shared benefit.

I understand the annual meeting of the Australia India Education and Skills Council is due to be hosted in Australia later this year. I would like to propose that this meeting be held at the University's Inveresk Campus in Launceston. This could take place at The Shed, to showcase the world-class health and science facilities we have invested in, and/or at the River's Edge building with its impressive Tasmanian timber features and rural river views.

Tasmania provides an important setting for demonstrating to our international partners the value in a refreshed international education and skills strategic framework that will better align the sector to deliver sustainable, high-quality education from across Australia to the world. Launceston, as regional home to our teaching and research strengths in agriculture, maritime studies, education and healthcare, can provide opportunities for hands on engagement for Skills Council participants in areas of articulated research interests such as food and water security, healthcare, and environmental change.

If suitable, we could facilitate hosting the Education and Skills Council meeting adjacent to the opening of The Shed. Alternatively, we would be pleased to host the Council meeting at any other time suitable to you and your Council colleagues.

I look forward to hearing from you on your availability to attend the official opening of The Shed in Launceston, and I thank you for your ongoing support in bringing this regional university campus to life. I hope you can join me in celebrating this important milestone for the greater Northern Tasmanian region as education becomes more visible and accessible, strengthening community and industry partnerships, and providing people at all stages of life with greater opportunities to pursue a journey of lifelong learning.

I would be very pleased to further discuss how we can support the Australia India Education and Skills Council meeting and demonstrate the important opportunities we have for collaboration with our education and skills partnership with India.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

30 July 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

The Hon Julie Collins MP
Member for Franklin
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Minister for Small Business

By email: julie.collins.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister Collins

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. I am confident that your experience and the dedication you showed in this portfolio prior to the last election will greatly benefit these important sectors which hold particular importance for Tasmania, contributing significantly to our regional economic development and the sustainability of our local industries.

As you would be aware, the University of Tasmania has been transforming our Inveresk Campus in Launceston into a thriving regional university campus and community precinct through the \$300m Northern Transformation Program. This project is nearing completion and later this year will mark the conclusion of staff and students' transition from the Newnham Campus to the Inveresk Campus.

With the campus transition nearing completion we are continuing to plan for the future of the Newnham Campus.

The University will retain an education and research presence at the Newnham campus as the home base for the Australian Maritime College, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, Centre for Sustainable Architecture in Wood and Australian Forest and Wood Innovations. To support these nation leading teaching and research institutes, planning for future developments at Newnham are underway to draw together the many uses of the site, including maritime and defence education and training, timber and agricultural research and opportunities to host innovation, business and industry partnerships.

These plans involve a planned multi-million dollar investment in agriculture infrastructure at Newnham to establish the Tasmanian Agricultural Precinct.

This Precinct will enable the co-location of the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania and industry organisations at the University of Tasmania's Newnham campus. It will combine agricultural science and research, water management, industry development and biosecurity functions to create a focal point for collaboration and excellence in Tasmania.

This will strengthen our regional capacity for industry collaboration and high-impact research, delivering on the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture's mission to grow

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

Tasmania's agricultural industries while maintaining and improving our land and water quality for future generations.

The first stage of the Tasmanian Agricultural Precinct is an Agricultural Research and Development Facility, supporting research and teaching to address critical issues facing Tasmania's agriculture industry. The Facility includes a glasshouse, headhouse and multipurpose research and education centre and will be accessible for students, researchers, government and industry partners to enable the application of research knowledge and capabilities to industry projects and on-farm improvements.

The University is preparing to submit an application to the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (rPPP) seeking capital funding of \$40m to enable the delivery of this important facility which will be central to the revitalisation of the University's Newnham campus.

Our Pro Vice-Chancellor (Launceston) Professor Natalie Brown would be very pleased to meet with you and discuss our application and schedule a tour of the future site for this facility at the Newnham campus in Launceston. She would welcome the opportunity to discuss this important project, and our vision for the Tasmanian Agricultural Precinct, with you as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Congratulations again on your appointment and leadership of this important portfolio.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

30 July 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

The Hon Catherine King MP
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

By email: Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister King

It is with great pleasure I invite you to the official opening of The Shed at the University of Tasmania's Inveresk Campus in Launceston on Friday 18th October 2024 at 11:30am.

The University of Tasmania has reached an exciting milestone in the transformation of Inveresk into a thriving regional university campus and community precinct. The completion of The Shed this year marks the final of three new buildings at Inveresk through the \$300m Northern Transformation Program – a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve educational outcomes through the creation of a new city campus in Launceston enabled by the Launceston City Deal.

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The new Inveresk campus is serving an entire region, helping build a skilled workforce of graduates through interactive, regionally distinctive learning experiences that support existing and emerging industries. This will in turn positively contribute to local communities and the economy.

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Office of the Vice-Chancellor

I would be very pleased to meet with you and discuss our application and schedule a tour of the future site for this facility while you are in Launceston.

I look forward to hearing from you on your availability to attend the official opening of The Shed in Launceston, and I thank you for your ongoing support for our thriving regional university campuses.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

30 July 2024

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Dr Shane Broad MP
Member for Braddon
Shadow Minister for Housing
Shadow Minister for Planning
Shadow Minister for Building and Construction
Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs
Shadow Minister for Resources
2/9 Oldaker Street
Devonport TAS 7310

By email: Shane.Broad@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Shadow Minister Dr Broad

Congratulations on your re-election as Member for Braddon and your appointment as Shadow Minister for Housing; Planning; Building and Construction; Consumer Affairs; and Resources.

We very much look forward to continuing to work with you.

We appreciate your ongoing support of the University's mission on the Cradle Coast which as you know well is such a special part of the island.

Please do not hesitate to contact my colleague Associate Professor Sonya Stanford about anything that you need. She can be reached by email to Sonya.Stanford@utas.edu.au

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

17 April 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

Jen Butler MP
Member for Lyons
Shadow Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Shadow Minister for Corrections and Rehabilitation
Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs

By email: jen.butler@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Shadow Minister Butler

Congratulations on your election as Member for Lyons and your appointment as Shadow Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management; Corrections and Rehabilitation; and Veterans' Affairs.

We very much look forward to continuing to work with you. We appreciate your ongoing support of the University's mission as we work to bring about positive change across the island and far beyond these shores.

We would be delighted to host a visit to the University's new campus at Inveresk so we can tell you all about what we are doing in Launceston.

In that spirit, I'm pleased to introduce you to my colleague Associate Professor Sonya Stanford as interim Pro Vice-Chancellor Launceston who would be delighted to show you around. We will be in touch to arrange this.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

17 April 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

Josh Willie MP
Member for Clark
Shadow Treasurer
Shadow Minister for Cost of Living
Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

By email: josh.willie@taslabor.org.au

Dear Shadow Minister Willie

Congratulations on your election as Member for Clark and your appointment as Shadow Treasurer, Shadow Minister for Cost of Living and for Aboriginal Affairs.

We very much look forward to continuing to work with you and we appreciate your ongoing support of the University's mission in Southern Tasmania which is shaping the region in positive and profound ways.

I am pleased to introduce you to my colleague Professor Nicholas Farrelly who took up the role of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Southern Tasmania) earlier this year after four years with us as the Head of School for Social Sciences.

In his new role, Nicholas is leading and coordinating the next phases of engagement around the University of Tasmania's vision and strategy for place-based education in the south of the State, working with colleagues, students and external stakeholders.

Nicholas would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the University's priorities for Southern Tasmania. We will contact your Office to schedule a meeting.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

17 April 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

Meg Brown
Member for Franklin
Shadow Minister for Transport
Shadow Minister for Prevention of Family & Sexual Violence

By email: meg.brown@taslabor.org.au

Dear Shadow Minister Brown

Congratulations on your election as Member for Franklin, and your appointment as Shadow Minister for Transport and for Prevention of Family & Sexual Violence.

It is a great honour indeed to be elected to represent your community and you have my best wishes as you take on that role.

The University has a mission to serve the island and its people.

I am pleased to introduce you to my colleague Professor Nicholas Farrelly who took up the role of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Southern Tasmania) earlier this year after four years with us as the Head of School for Social Sciences.

In his new role, Nicholas is leading and coordinating the next phases of engagement around the University of Tasmania's vision and strategy for place-based education in the south of the State, working with colleagues, students and external stakeholders.

Nicholas would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the University's priorities for Southern Tasmania. We will contact your Office to schedule a meeting.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

17 April 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

The Hon Catherine King MP
Member for Ballarat
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
PO Box 719
Ballarat VIC 3353

By email: Minister.King@mo.infrastructure.gov.au

Copy to: Senator the Hon Carol Brown
By email: senator.carol.brown@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister King

I trust you are well. I am writing to seek your advice.

The State Government have announced today that they are wanting to refresh the Infrastructure Australia Business Case for STEM facilities in southern Tasmania, which was approved in 2017.

They would like to see the renewal as an integral part of the development of the Sandy Bay STEM precinct on our current campus.

We are very keen to explore that opportunity and would value your advice on how best to work with your Department as we engage with the State Government.

It would look to us to be a similarly transformative opportunity to the one we have been working with your Department on in Launceston and Burnie.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

9 May 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

The Hon Clare O'Neil MP
Member for Hotham
Minister for Home Affairs
Minister for Cyber Security
PO Box 56
Oakleigh VIC 3166

By email: clare.oneil.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister O'Neil

I am writing to request consideration of a temporary adjustment to the University of Tasmania's visa processing settings, while we continue to work towards a lower risk rating alongside a period of new policy development for the International Education sector.

At the University of Tasmania, we support the Australian Government's objective of creating a migration system that is effective in achieving a manageable migration rate, while supporting Australia's economic growth and maintaining our global competitiveness. A managed market approach to international students can deliver on the Government's aims of achieving a manageable migration rate, while supporting a more equally distributed cohort of international students across the Nation for maximum economic benefit. It will be important that visa reforms are also considered alongside the implementation of a managed market approach to enable this national distribution.

We have recently prepared a submission to this effect for the Draft International Education Framework consultation, [which is available on our website](#).

While we support the move towards a managed system, we are concerned about impacts to the sector, particularly for regional universities such as ours, during the period of consultation and transition to a new system.

The implementation timeline for the Framework will be important to manage a significant period of change in international education policy without further detriment to universities such as ours. The University of Tasmania has been particularly impacted as a regional university with a small international footprint in terms of both the numbers of international students and the risks that come from operating in new and high-risk markets.

At the University of Tasmania, we were expecting to teach over 4,000 international students and had budgeted for \$95M in revenue from overseas students in 2024. In the lead up to December 2023, we received approximately 99 visa rejections in 3 months for full-time taught students studying at our Tasmanian based campuses. In the first three months of 2024 we received 247 rejections. This is without changing our internal processes and in addition, a large majority of applicants processed before the December changes. This is more than double the previous three months and has resulted in

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approximately \$6M of lost fee revenue. While we have reduced our rejection rate in the short-term, the slower processing means we expect approximately 400 fewer students joining us in July 2024 increasing losses to approximately \$20M below budget.

Maintaining an appropriate level of international students studying in Tasmania is critical for our State - in 2023 Tasmania had the lowest natural increase of any state in Australia with a natural net increase of just 523 people. When migration is included the population growth rate was also the lowest at 0.4% overall. In addition to the lowest percentage, the total net migration was also the lowest at 2,400, matched only by the Northern Territory.

The impacts of high visa rejections reach beyond our university's student numbers and revenue. As the State's only university, we play a vital role in supporting the population and economic growth of Tasmania. In Tasmania 60% of economic migration is through international students in higher education. In addition, the number of visa rejections in the first quarter of 2024 (247) would account for 10% of Tasmania's annual migration.

The University of Tasmania is currently an Evidence Level 3 institution and is subject to the slowest level of visa processing. Therefore, we are requesting an adjustment to Level 2 that will be announced in September 2024 to enable the University and state to more quickly align our operating model to the future policy. A temporary adjustment to our visa processing level could be achieved by:

1. The Minister to exercise their discretion to grant a temporary adjustment to the visa processing for the State of Tasmania while the transition to the new system is put into place. Alternatively:
2. A Ministerial direction to the relevant decision maker within the Department of Home Affairs to consider whether the University of Tasmania should be allocated Evidence Level 2 processing for an interim period while the transition to the new system is put into place.

I would welcome the opportunity to provide a further briefing on our context and the proposed temporary adjustments, to ensure our university can continue to attract quality international students to Tasmania, support our State's economy, and continue delivering quality regional education across the State.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

9 July 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

The Hon Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: Jason.Clare.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister

Thank you very much for the terrific speech you gave at the opening of the Shed.

Your words were delivered with great passion and the authenticity and conviction in what you said was so evident and very much appreciated by us all.

Thank you for acknowledging the efforts of my team and many colleagues who have been so committed to this important project for the region and indeed the island.

I particularly liked the way you spoke about the power of education. I could not agree more.

Your warmth and enthusiasm for our mission and who we are at the University of Tasmania was very much noticed and made a real difference to what was a special moment to be part of.

I felt privileged to share this important new chapter for the University with you.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

25 October 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

The Hon Matt Keogh MP
Minister for Defence Personnel
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

By email: minister@dva.gov.au

Dear Minister Keogh

It is with great pleasure I invite you to visit the Newnham Campus of the University of Tasmania, to officially open our recently upgraded Underwater Collision Research Facility (UCRF) as part of the Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct (DMIDP).

This is an important milestone celebration of the DMIDP which we are keen to have your involvement with, in recognition of the agreement between the University and the Australian Government, and the long-standing relationship between the University's Australian Maritime College (AMC) and DSTG.

By way of background, in July 2020, the University signed a Defence Science Partnerships - Bilateral Collaborative Project Agreement with the Australian Government for the establishment of the DMIDP at the AMC in Launceston. The Agreement included Stage 1 funding of \$30 million provided through Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG) for agreed priorities focused on developing capability to establish a multi-disciplinary National Centre of Excellence in hydrodynamic research for Defence and the defence industry.

As part of the DMIDP Stage 1 funding, resources were allocated to expand the unique capabilities of the UCRF. The \$3.6 million UCRF upgrades are now complete, and the facility is fully operational.

If you can attend, we would be delighted to also offer you a tour of the extensive research facilities housed at the AMC, and to further discuss with you:

- The status of the DMIDP and opportunities for the precinct in the future.
- Sovereign capabilities in Maritime Engineering (especially Naval Architecture).
- Progress towards 2+2 Engineering programs in support of AUKUS.
- Pathways for Australian students into a Masters of Nuclear Engineering programs at Virginia Tech (US) and University of Rhode Island (US).

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There is some flexibility around the timing of the official opening of the UCRF and we can work with your office on confirming a date that is suitable for you.

I very much look forward to hearing from you on your availability for the official opening of the UCRF.

I have written in similar terms to Minister Pat Conroy as Minister for Defence Industry and Capability Delivery.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

23 August 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

The Hon Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education
Member for Blaxland
PO Box 589
Plumpton NSW 2761

By email: minister.clare@education.gov.au

Dear Minister Clare

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the *Action Plan Addressing Gender-based Violence in Higher Education* and for sharing a copy of the Action Plan with me.

The University of Tasmania very much welcomes the introduction of a National Student Ombudsman and any further initiatives to ensure students are feeling supported and safe.

In line with the Action Plan, the University commissioned the work of prominent researcher Lyn Walker to review our current response and provide a set of recommendations to ensure greater safety for our students, staff and the local community.

The Walker Review will be released in June of this year. It will inform future best practice in partnership with our community and make sure we meet the expectations of the Action Plan.

Thank you again for writing to me about this important matter.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

26 March 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

The Hon Pat Conroy MP
Minister for Defence Industry and Capability Delivery
Minister for International Development and the Pacific

By email: Minister.Conroy@dfat.gov.au

Dear Minister Conroy

It is with great pleasure I invite you to visit the Newnham Campus of the University of Tasmania, to officially open our recently upgraded Underwater Collision Research Facility (UCRF) as part of the Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct (DMIDP).

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I have written in similar terms to Minister Matt Keogh as Minister for Defence Personnel.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

23 August 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

The Hon Tony Burke MP
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister,

The University of Tasmania strongly support the Australian Government's objectives to achieve an international migration system that is effective in achieving a manageable migration rate.

We have publicly welcomed the introduction of enrolment caps for international students through the National Planning Level (NPL), and individual limits through International Student Profiles (ISPs) proposed in the *Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment Bill 2024* (ESOS Bill). We consider that the introduction of a managed market approach will restore alignment between the education and migration sectors and have positive economic and social impacts across the nation.

However, to achieve the intended policy outcomes of a high quality, smaller and more equally distributed international student market, we also consider the visa processing system needs to be more equitable, effective and transparent than it currently is. While the University of Tasmania's proposed cap for 2025 would enable a sustainable level of international students for our university and for Tasmania, Ministerial Direction 107 and evidence level visa processing significantly constrain the number of students that make it through the system to reach us, therefore making it very unlikely we will be able to deliver the level of migration Tasmania needs.

While we appreciate the government's commitment to remove Ministerial Direction 107 upon passage of the legislation currently before the Parliament, we remain concerned that there is no commitment from the government to significantly improve the visa processing arrangements going forward.

My colleagues last week provided your Deputy Chief of Staff and a departmental representative with the attached presentation setting out the substantial impact the current arrangements are having on our University and therefore Tasmania.

Our concerns have since been heightened by the advice we received last Thursday about the pausing of evidence level changes given we were well progressed in working towards a return to EL2. This decision will likely further curtail our ability to contribute to Tasmania's economy, let alone diversity.

With these settings in place, we are on track to have only 450 new international students in 2025 against our proposed cap of 2200, a significant shortfall given international students constitute 20% of Tasmania's net migration and provide important demand to the state economy at time when that is much needed. For the University of Tasmania, it means a revenue shortfall of around \$40 million on top of the \$20 million impact Ministerial Direction 107 has had on us this year. This presents very serious financial implications for the University and will force us to consider our staffing levels.

I would very much appreciate an opportunity to meet with you and/or a senior official from the Department of Home Affairs to discuss our concerns. We are also keen to work in a collaborative way with your Department to ensure that the system can be improved where necessary to ensure the best economic and social outcomes are achieved for Tasmania and for Australia.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

10 October 2024

Cc Office of the Minister for Education, the Hon Jason Clare MP

The Honourable Dean Winter MP
Member for Franklin
Leader of the Opposition
Shadow Minister for Jobs, Workplace Relations and Safety
Shadow Minister for Trade and Major Investment
Shadow Minister for Tourism and Hospitality
Shop 86, Channel Court Shopping Centre
Kingston TAS 7050

By email: dean.winter@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Leader of the Opposition

Congratulations on your re-election as Member for Franklin, your appointment as Leader of the Tasmanian Labor Party and as Shadow Minister for Jobs, Workplace Relations and Safety; Trade and Major Investment; and Tourism and Hospitality.

It is a great honour indeed to be given the opportunity to lead the party and you have my best wishes as you take on that role.

The University has a mission to serve the island and its people. I would very much welcome the opportunity to meet to discuss our priorities. My Office will make contact shortly to arrange a time for us to meet.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

17 April 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

Venue hire & caterers

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Tue 18/06/2024 12:08 PM

To stuart.benson@parliament.tas.gov.au <stuart.benson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Hi Stuart

Apologies for the delay but here are some details about the two spaces we saw for consideration.

Podium (the first one near the student accom)

- Is approx. 118 sqm - the calculation for capacity of spaces is approx. 2sqm per person to cover OHS, fire regulation etc, so we'd be looking at a capacity of no more than 60 pax seated theatre style in this space
- We don't have that many chairs in the space so chair hire may be necessary – for discussion depending on dates too
- We own this space so venue hire is pretty straightforward – you will need to complete the requisite paper work tho
- Semester 2 commences on 22/07 so availability is easier before that date – we can take a look and see what's possible after that date

KPMG (the second one up the hill past K&D)

- Is approx. 217 sqm so we'd be looking at a capacity of 110 pax seated theatre style in this space and we may have enough chairs across that floor to be able to use the chairs there
- As this is hired space and its not a University event, as part of the venue hire process we will have to clear the event with the landlord (which I assume is KPMG but would have to confirm)
- As per the above, availability is more straightforward before Semester 2 commences on 22/07

Potential caterers:

- We find the quality of Food to You to be good: <https://www.food2u.com.au/>
- Bille and Brie is great but a bit pricier: <https://www.billeandbrie.com.au/>
- We like to support Hamlet [Catering Hobart - Hamlet](#) for internal events wherever we can and have found the quality of the food to be very good too
- We have also had some great catering from the Migrant Resource Centre too but their website doesn't provide much info at the moment:- [Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania \(mrctas.org.au\)](http://Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania (mrctas.org.au))

Hope that helps – let me know of any developments in your planning.

Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications

University of Tasmania

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Hobart TAS 7001

0432 389 793

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.

Rebecca White MP
Member for Lyons
Shadow Attorney-General
Shadow Minister for Justice
Shadow Minister for Integrity
33 Cole St
Sorell TAS 7172

By email: rebecca.white@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Shadow Attorney-General

Congratulations on your re-election as Member for Lyons and your appointment as Shadow Attorney-General and Shadow Minister for Justice and for Integrity.

I extend my sincere thanks for your service as leader of the Tasmanian Labor Party since 2017.

It calls for a special kind of person to lead others in that kind of role. I have noticed and appreciated the committed and selfless way you have approached that task.

We very much appreciate your ongoing support of the University's mission and we look forward to continuing to work with you in your new shadow portfolios.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

17 April 2024

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REBECCA WHITE MP

LABOR MEMBER FOR LYONS



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor
University of Tasmania
Via email: vice.chancellor@utas.edu.au

Dear Professor Black

Thank you for your kind words.

It has been an enormous privilege to hold this position and I am appreciative of the University's support.

I am grateful for the engagement we have had and look forward to continuing to work with you and the University of Tasmania as we approach a fresh parliamentary year.

Thanks for reaching out.

Kind regards

Rebecca White MP
MEMBER FOR LYONS

29 April 2024

FW: Alina Bain on Northern Drive

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Date Thu 29/02/2024 10:36 AM
To Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

 1 attachment (27 KB)

Alina Bain on Northern Drive - 28.2.24.docx;

From: Ben Wild <ben.wild@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 9:53 AM
To: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Subject: Alina Bain on Northern Drive

Hi Kate,

Transcript attached.

Cheers,
Ben

Ben Wild
Director, Media

Strategic Communications
University of Tasmania
03 6324 3218 or 0438 510 616
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UNIVERSITY of 
TASMANIA

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ANDRE LESLIE:

Up next, after years of staying out of the debate, the Tasmanian Liberals have come out in opposition to the University of Tasmania's planned move from its Sandy Bay campus in Hobart into town. We're going to get a local perspective on this saga in just a moments time.

Text 046792917 or call one 303 6168 Andre Leslie on ABC Northern Tasmania.

Well, in the lead up to the state elections on March 23rd, the Tasmanian Liberals have promised to work to keep the University of Tasmania in Sandy Bay if elected in majority at next month's election. Now, I know this is a southern Tasmanian issue, but it does have repercussions for us here in the North because in 2021, the university released the first detailed concept plans for its move into central Hobart. The plans actually included the building of over 2000 homes on the old Sandy Bay campus, as well as a tourism precinct and new sporting facilities. It all sounds very exciting for a university, but is it the right thing to do? Well, Alina Bain is the CEO of the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, and she joins me now to talk about this issue and give us a northern perspective. Alina, welcome to the drive show for the first time

ALINA BAIN:

Thank you. Andre Lovely to be here.

ANDRE LESLIE:

how is it? How is what the Tasmanian Liberals are proposing here different to what has happened here in the north in Inveresk?

ALINA BAIN:

Um, look, what we're concerned about is that the move of Utas to Inveresk up here in the north has been an enormous success for the North, for our businesses, for our students and for our community. So we're somewhat surprised at the statement by the Liberal Party in relation to Hobart.

ANDRE LESLIE:

Yes. So this move that has happened infrared from Inveresk or into Inveresk. Just remind listeners how is University of Tasmania set up then here in Launceston before.

ALINA BAIN:

Um, well before Andre. It was located at the Newnham campus, but through cooperation with the three levels of government, which we love to see as the business community. Uh, the three levels of government came together for the northern transformation project. Now, this wasn't an easy project by any means. There was a large number of voices in opposition to the move. The parties held town halls. They looked at these serious questions, and when they were really in the thick of it in 2015, there were a large number of people, as I said, who weren't particularly a fan of the project, but to the credit of the three levels of government and of course, Utas they came together, they looked at the plan, they looked at people's comments and concerns. They improved the plan and they put in the hard work. And that's what we do here in the North. And as we can see now in Inveresk, what a thriving, vibrant centre it's become. Um, I often have meetings out there. You see everybody that you know and that you need to know. The students are there. It's really a terrific precinct. It's a credit to three levels of government. It's a credit to Utas. And it's a sign of what can happen when people come together.

ANDRE LESLIE:

But it is a precinct, as you say. It's not just 1 or 2 buildings dotted on street corners where you have to jump in off the pavement. I mean, it's got a real vibe to it, hasn't it? Because it's got some size. I don't think that's what's ever going to be possible in Hobart, is it?

ALINA BAIN:

Look, I think there's a lot that is possible down south and that's really a matter for them in terms of how they organise as their structures and whatnot are in, Hobart, what works for their city. But it certainly worked up here and it worked because everybody came together to do it. And we are very different cities. Certainly up here in the North, we see people very keen to roll up their sleeves, very keen to put in the hard work, and it was a lot of hard work.

ANDRE LESLIE:

When we look at this situation with the Hobart campus issue, can you imagine any situation

where parts of University of Tasmania may actually end up moving north to Launceston or elsewhere? Out of all of this?

ALINA BAIN:

We would love to see some of the schools move up here. Andre wouldn't it be terrific if the School of Engineering moved north to the Inveresk campus, for example? We know that engineers are really terrific problem solvers. We're going to see a large amount of activity up here in the North with our construction projects, with our work at Bell Bay, where the Unesco city of Gastronomy and where's that going to take us in terms of food manufacturing, agriculture, we'd like to see tech and entrepreneurship brought up here in earnest a deliberate focus on entrepreneurship. And with our again, with our Unesco designation, City of Gastronomy. Really, the sky's the limit but we're looking for innovation and tech to move us to that next level. So we say, I've said it and we say it again, send it north, we'll make things happen.

ANDRE LESLIE:

It's also about getting access for students, isn't it? Because not all of them can leave home and move to Hobart just quickly, especially if they come from across the north west, perhaps. What do you think about the current level of access to tertiary education in the north of the state?

ALINA BAIN:

Look, we would welcome more access. We're very committed to the tertiary system for our students. It's a way for our high school students to see what's possible And here in Launceston, they can see the campus. It's close to town. They go past it. There's a building, the new building or the last building for the precinct. Uh, the shed will be directly opposite City Park.

Now, isn't that terrific for our college students to see the university lifestyle and what's available for them? Um, so more is better in this instance? Andre. Yeah.

ANDRE LESLIE:

No, I went into the library recently, and I've waxed lyrical about it on air here before, but that new library facility in Inveresk is fantastic, and when you're whiling away some time in the city, you've got to wait for, I don't know, pick up a car from the workshop or whatever, waiting for an appointment. Going into that library and just chilling out and enjoying it as well. For the members of the public, it's pretty cool.

ALINA BAIN:

Um, it is absolutely. It's become a real meeting place in an area over there for people to gather, whether it's for business or to meet a friend for coffee. The cafes over there are often open in the afternoon, which is really terrific. And as I said, you bump into people, you can do a lot of business as you're walking around the precinct.

ANDRE LESLIE:

Yeah, not bad for the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, I'm sure. All right. Alina, well, we'll leave it there, but thanks very much for your views on this. Appreciate it.

ALINA BAIN:

Okay. Thank you. Andre.

ANDRE LESLIE:

That's Alina Bain there. She's the relatively new CEO of Launceston Chamber of Commerce. I'm sure we'll hear from her again on the show. Just commenting on the decision by the Tasmanian Liberals to keep the University of Tasmania in Sandy Bay if elected in majority at next month's election. Yes, it is mainly a southern issue, but it will have ramifications for us here up north, no doubt. What do you think about it? Send us a text 046792917.



From: Ray Murfet <ray.murfet@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 9:42 AM
To: John Manning (Ratings - Analytical) <John.Manning@moodys.com>
Cc: Jacob Hall (Ratings - Analytical) <Jacob.Hall@moodys.com>
Subject: Re: Confidential: Moody's Draft Press Release For Your Review

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Hi John and Jacob,

Could you please advise when the press release is published and send through the published version of the press release when available?

Kind regards, Ray.

Ray Murfet

Associate Director Treasury and Commercial Projects

Student Services and Operations

University of Tasmania

utas.edu.au



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MOODY'S

RATINGS

Rating Action: Moody's Ratings changes outlook on University of Tasmania to negative, affirms Aa2 rating

11 Jul 2024

Sydney, July 11, 2024 -- Moody's Ratings (Moody's) has revised the outlook on the University of Tasmania (UTAS, the University) to negative from stable.

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At the same time, we have affirmed UTAS's Aa2 long term issuer ratings (domestic and foreign), Aa2 senior unsecured rating (domestic), and (P)Aa2 senior unsecured medium term note program rating (domestic and foreign).

We have also affirmed the University's a1 Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA).

RATINGS RATIONALE

RATIONALE FOR THE NEGATIVE OUTLOOK

The negative outlook reflects a prospective structural weakening of the intrinsic financial strength of the University given the narrowing of EBIDA margins that have consequently led to a deterioration in annual debt service coverage. In particular, UTAS's EBIDA margins narrowed to 1.1% in fiscal 2023 [1] (year ended 31 December), significantly below the historical average of 9.9% recorded in the five-year period between 2018 and 2022 and insufficient to cover the University's debt servicing requirements. Its debt service coverage ratio (DSCR), as measured by EBIDA relative to interest expense and scheduled principal payments, fell to 0.5 times from an average of 9.8 times over the previous five years.

A challenging operating environment in 2023 drove the deterioration in the University's financial performance, which, if not ameliorated over the next 12 to 18 months, would result in a credit profile more consistent with a lower rating. Operating margins were squeezed by a large 6.6% decline in domestic student enrollment, reflecting low unemployment and escalated cost of living pressures that have raised

the opportunity cost of pursuing higher education in Australia, exacerbated by changes to Australia's migration policy that saw a slowdown in visa processing that led to slight 1.1% decline in international student numbers.

In addition, high inflation escalated operating costs, particularly wages and salaries (AUD460.3 million in 2023 vs AUD432.9 million in 2022), prompting the University to pursue countermeasures to limit further cost inflation. These include managing payroll through natural attrition, the sale of non-core assets, and streamlining administrative and governance processes. A substantial reduction of the University's subject offerings may provide additional cost savings, but could present inadvertent challenges to the University's appeal and enrolment numbers.

The negative outlook reflects the uncertainties surrounding the effectiveness of cost stabilization measures and the revival of enrollment trends amid a lackluster global and Australian economic outlook.

RATIONALE FOR THE AFFIRMATION OF RATINGS

The affirmation of the Aa2 senior debt ratings reflects university's relatively strong standalone credit quality, as represented by its a1 BCA, and support provided by the stable institutional framework for universities in Australia. Under this framework, UTAS receives secure and predictable grants from the Government of Australia (the Commonwealth, Aaa stable) with around 68.5% of 2023 operating revenues coming from government transfers and grants; a figure we expect to remain above 65% for the foreseeable future.

In contrast to its domestic peers, UTAS continues to benefit from a strong level of capital funding support from government, which reflects its very close ties to the Commonwealth and the state, which also incorporates the University's role in state policy implementation, including its role as the sole source of state-trained nurses, doctors and teachers.

UTAS's credit profile also incorporates relatively strong, albeit moderating, financial resources and liquidity. Total cash and investments fell to AUD526.2 million as of the end of 2023 from the peak of AUD676.5 million from the previous year, but remained well above historical levels. At the same time, the ability of these funds to cover outstanding debt has gradually eroded since its green bond issuance in 2022, and will likely be managed at around the same levels given the University's flexibility with regards to capital expenditure.

Notwithstanding the uncertainties around the effectiveness of the University's countermeasures to improve financial performance, we project EBIDA will recover to 2.8% in 2024 before increasing to 5.3% in 2025 and stabilizing in the high single digits over the medium-term. Likewise, our central scenario forecasts a consequent improvement in UTAS' annual debt service coverage ratio to 1.4 in 2024 before increasing to 2.8 in 2025, suggesting a sustained reversal of the deterioration in

intrinsic financial strength in 2023 that has driven the negative outlook.

UTAS's Aa2 issuer rating combines a BCA of a1 and a two-notch uplift to reflect our assessment of a high likelihood of extraordinary support from the Commonwealth.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

The University of Tasmania's CIS-2 ESG credit impact score indicates that ESG considerations are not material to the rating. The University's environmental issuer profile score (IPS) of E-2 reflects the absence of meaningful risks across all environmental factors that we monitor. While the S-3 social IPS reflects long-term demographic risks that are common to the Australian higher education sector, such risks are more pronounced for the University relative to its peers on the mainland given its relatively small domestic catchment that has traditionally increased its reliance on interstate and international students. Governance risks are not currently material to UTAS's rating (G-2 governance IPS), reflecting its full alignment with the general standards of governance for all Australian public universities, although the effectiveness of ongoing measures to reverse the recent deterioration in its financial performance could weigh on our assessment going forward.

FACTORS THAT COULD LEAD TO AN UPGRADE OR DOWNGRADE OF THE RATINGS

FACTORS THAT COULD LEAD TO A STABLE OUTLOOK

Notwithstanding the execution risks faced by UTAS in rebuilding its operating margins, a sustained recovery in EBIDA margins to a level above 5% by end 2025 would likely result in the outlook returning to stable.

FACTORS THAT COULD LEAD TO AN UPGRADE

While the negative outlook indicates an upgrade is unlikely in the near term, over time we could upgrade the ratings in the event we saw a material increase in UTAS' holdings of total cash and investments that bolster its liquidity profile, and a sustained improvement in the university's EBIDA margins, which could stem from effective cost controls and robust revenue growth.

FACTORS THAT COULD LEAD TO A DOWNGRADE

Downward pressure on the ratings would be driven by a significant deterioration in financial performance, reflected in: sustained lower EBIDA margins, which could arise from the ineffectiveness of efforts to control costs and recover revenue; materially higher levels of total adjusted debt beyond our projections, which could arise from delays, cost overruns or risk management practices proving less effective than assumed in delivering the Southern campus transformation plans; and/or a deterioration in UTAS' internal liquidity levels.

We could downgrade the rating if we believe there is a reduced likelihood of extraordinary financial support from the Commonwealth or if the creditworthiness of the Australian sovereign weakens.

The methodologies used in these ratings were Higher Education Methodology published in August 2021 and available at <https://ratings.moodys.com/rmc-documents/72158>, and Government-Related Issuers methodology published in January 2024 and available at <https://ratings.moodys.com/rmc-documents/406502>. Alternatively, please see the Rating Methodologies page on <https://ratings.moodys.com> for a copy of these methodologies.

COMPANY PROFILE

Founded in 1890, UTAS is the sole provider of higher education located in the state of Tasmania and was established in its current form under the University of Tasmania Act 1992 following integration with the Tasmanian State Institute of Technology in Launceston which became the Newnham Campus. In 1995, a new campus at Burnie on the North-West Coast was opened, which later became known as the Cradle Coast Campus.

The university is world renowned for its research at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) in Hobart, and the Australian Maritime College (AMC) in Launceston. UTAS' key areas of distinction are in marine and freshwater biology (ranked fourth globally) as well as fisheries and oceanography (ranked seventh globally), which are underpinned by Tasmania's geographic proximity to the Great Southern Ocean and the Antarctic. This positions UTAS as a global polar research hub.

REGULATORY DISCLOSURES

For further specification of Moody's key rating assumptions and sensitivity analysis, see the sections Methodology Assumptions and Sensitivity to Assumptions in the disclosure form. Moody's Rating Symbols and Definitions can be found on <https://ratings.moodys.com/rating-definitions>.

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REFERENCES/CITATIONS

[1] 2023 Public Audited Financial Statements 20-Jun-2024

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MJKK and MSFJ also maintain policies and procedures to address Japanese regulatory requirements.

FW: Introduction

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Thu 8/08/2024 10:10 PM

To dean.winter@parliament.tas.gov.au <dean.winter@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Hi Dean

JFYI this is [REDACTED]

Also, this is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Let me know if you want an intro to any of them.
Cheers, Kate



From: Kate Huntington
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 9:59 PM
To: Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Introduction

Hi Marcus

As discussed, I'm pleased to introduce you to [REDACTED] who was [REDACTED] and is now spending a bit of time back in Tassie in between his consulting commitments.


[REDACTED] – Marcus is Dean's CoS and I ran into them both on my way into Parliament House for dinner with Eric Abetz tonight and mentioned our chat earlier today and they're interested in hearing more.

Will leave you two to connect.

Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington
Executive Director, Strategic Communications
University of Tasmania

Admin Building | Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
0432 389 793

 BH_2023_#1 Climate Action_Email Signature_V1_@1x

We acknowledge the Aboriginal people of Tasmania as Traditional Owners of the land on which this university is located.

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.

FW: MEDIA RELEASE - Master Builders - Statement on the Sandy Bay University campus

From Marcus Atkinson <Marcus.Atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Date Wed 28/02/2024 8:08 AM

To Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

From: David Clerk <David@mbatas.org.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 27 February 2024 8:25 PM

To: Marcus Atkinson <Marcus.Atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Subject: MEDIA RELEASE - Master Builders - Statement on the Sandy Bay University campus

You don't often get email from david@mbatas.org.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Marcus

Apologies for delay – was at a function.

Dave Clerk



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 27 February 2024

Statement on the Sandy Bay University campus

Master Builders Tasmania CEO, David Clerk, has called for the Liberals to consult with key groups regarding its position on the University's Sandy Bay campus.

“There is a housing shortage in Tasmania, which is impacting Hobart in particular,” Mr Clerk said.

“We know we have to build 3,100 new houses per year just to keep pace with population growth, yet alone tackle social and affordable housing waiting lists.

“The Sandy Bay campus offers a significant opportunity to address the shortfall in housing in southern Tasmania if managed strategically.

“Master Builders encourages the Liberals to work with the University and groups like Master Builders Tasmania to develop a sustainable, long-term approach that would enable more housing to be built in Tasmania and Hobart in particular.”

FW: Op ed from the TCCI

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Date Wed 10/07/2024 4:25 PM
To Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Cc Miranda Harman <miranda.harman@utas.edu.au>; Nicholas Farrelly <nicholas.farrelly@utas.edu.au>

FYI – as discussed

From: Ben Wild <ben.wild@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 4:21 PM
To: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Subject: Fwd: Op ed from the TCCI

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brad Nowland <brad.nowland@counselhouse.com.au>
Date: 10 July 2024 at 2:45:30 PM AEST
To: Bailey Michael <michael.bailey@tcci.com.au>, Ben Wild <ben.wild@utas.edu.au>
Subject: Fwd: Op ed from the TCCI

FYI.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brad Nowland <bnowland@hotmail.com>
Subject: Op ed from the TCCI
Date: 10 July 2024 at 2:43:42 PM AEST
To: Eade Kirsty <kirsty.eade@news.com.au>, Herbert Craig <craig.herbert@news.com.au>

Hi,

Please find below an op ed for your consideration from the TCCI's Michael Bailey on the need for better STEM outcomes in Tasmania.

Cheers,
Brad

Jobs and growth in Tasmania tomorrow demands a focus on STEM education today

Here is a worrying statistic: last year in Tasmania, only 179 students across years 11 and 12 studied specialist maths.

The number of students studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects at high schools and university in Tasmania is low and falling. That is bad news for businesses and bad news for our economy.

We have to work together – schools, the University of Tasmania, all levels of government, business and industry, and the community – to stop the decline and then turn it around because lifting STEM skills benefits us all.

It matters to the TCCI and the people we represent because STEM skills are critical for any business, large or small, that wants to innovate and succeed in today's hyper-competitive world. That's true across every industry and sector of our economy.

It matters to the broader community because lifting our productivity and growing our economy creates jobs and helps fund the services we all need, from health and education to community and emergency services. Right now, Tasmania sits at the bottom of the table for productivity, 26 percent lower than the national average. STEM can help shift that.

Studies have shown that a one percent increase in high-skilled STEM workers lifts productivity by two percent. What that means for Tasmania is that just a one percent increase in STEM workers would lift our gross state product by \$1.2 billion over the next 20 years.

We need STEM skills across the economy.

Engineers are critical in delivering the infrastructure we need, whether that's housing and roads and bridges or major projects like the Green Hydrogen Hub, which is projected to inject over \$1.2 billion into the local economy and create more than 700 jobs. And yet in Tasmania, our current engineering workforce, looking at the rate of trained engineers per 1000 employees, is well behind the national average at 6.2 compared to 13.6.

If we are to meet the State Government's target of growing the farm-gate value of the Tasmanian agriculture sector to \$10 billion by 2050, we have to have a workforce skilled not just in farm management and agricultural science but also new technologies including automation, remote sensing and drones.

New and emerging technologies are changing the way we do business at incredible speed, from generative artificial intelligence and advanced data analytics to virtual worlds. We need more general and specialist technology and IT skills in businesses across the board.

STEM is also a key ingredient in creating new businesses, new ideas and new drivers of economic growth through start-ups. Sectors with strong STEM capability raise the most venture capital in Australia. Bringing Tasmania in line with the national average rate of venture capital funding would see annual investment grow by more than \$35 million.

Make no mistake, the need for STEM skills is abundantly clear.

We can't increase STEM workers and skills in Tasmania if fewer and fewer students are studying maths, physics, chemistry, computer science or biology at high school and then going on to STEM studies at the University of Tasmania or interstate.

Student enrolments in pre-tertiary STEM subjects have dropped by 14 percent since 2018. Last year in Tasmania, only 179 students in year 11 and 12 studied specialist maths, only 299 studied physics and 456 studied chemistry.

That flows through to university – UTAS saw a 27 percent decline in Tasmanian school leavers going on to commence a STEM bachelor's degree over the same period – and then into the workforce where skills shortages are made worse.

It's not just a Tasmania problem either. Last month a report in *The Australian* highlighted a 'catastrophic decline in the number of students studying physics in senior high school' with one scientist warning that if current trends continue, by 2035 there would be no school leavers qualified to study university physics.

We cannot allow these trends to continue. All levels of government have to come together and work with the community, with our schools, our VET sector and our university, and with business and industry to make STEM education a priority.

The State Government's commitment to working with UTAS on securing funding for new STEM facilities is a very positive step. We should build on it and use it as an opportunity to collaborate on a STEM strategy for Tasmania that supports business and sets our state up for success.

Michael Bailey is the chief executive of the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

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Fwd: Some thought for a statement

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Date Thu 29/02/2024 9:21 AM

To Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Ben Wild <ben.wild@utas.edu.au>

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 2:45:48 PM

To: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Subject: FW: Some thought for a statement

Hi Kate,

See LCC release below.

Cheers,
Ben

Ben Wild
Director, Media

Strategic Communications
University of Tasmania
03 6324 3218 or 0438 510 616
utas.edu.au

UNIVERSITY of 
TASMANIA

CRICOS 00586B

From: Alina Bain - CEO, Launceston Chamber of Commerce <alina@lcc.asn.au>

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 2:32 PM

To: Ben Wild <ben.wild@utas.edu.au>

Subject: Re: Some thought for a statement

Hi Ben – here is our release which I am sending now. My regards Alina

Launceston Chamber of Commerce urges forward thinking in this election

The Launceston Chamber of Commerce urges the parties and candidates to adopt a forward thinking approach to economic development in Tasmania in this State Election. This follows an announcement that the Liberal Party will revert to an 1950's and outdated approach to the University of Tasmania's location in Sandy Bay.

Alina Bain, CEO of the Launceston Chamber of Commerce said "Vision and a big picture approach to economic development and a focus on prosperity is needed to move Tasmania forward economically. We were very disappointed at Liberal's announcement regarding the University's relocation from Sandy Bay. It is short sighted and doesn't accord with the success of the UTAS relocation in the North."

"The University's campus development at Inveresk is one of the North's most significant projects and is delivering great benefits to the city and the broader region. The North has shown what can be done – we've got a new campus in the city with incredible facilities for students, it's created jobs and there are exciting plans for new development at the Newnham campus including housing, research and industry," Ms Bain said.

"It has been a 10-year project, and we are seeing the dividends for Launceston and the region. All three levels of government worked together to achieve this result – that's what business and industry, and the community, wants to see happen. Big developments are hard work, but they are vital if we want to see our communities grow and prosper in the future. We in the North are happy to work with UTAS around moving key schools to the North to our very successful Inveresk precinct." Said Ms Bain

Our members are gathering tomorrow in Launceston to discuss the Chamber's election priorities, and a key theme emerging is "if you want something done send it North".

Media Enquiries: Alina Bain, Chief Executive Officer, T: (03) 6331 9364

LAUNCESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ABN 99 727 522 452
Level 1, Suite 2, 63-65 Cameron Street (PO Box 1854) Launceston Tasmania 7250
T: 03 6331 9364 E: info@lcc.asn.au W: www.lcc.asn.au

Alina Bain **Chief Executive Officer**

Launceston Chamber of Commerce
Level 1, Suite 2, 63-65 Cameron Street,
Launceston, Tasmania 7250

T: 03 6331 9364

W: www.lcc.asn.au

Subscribe to the Chamber newsletter: [HERE](#)



LAUNCESTON
CHAMBER of COMMERCE
The Voice of Business



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Attendee responses: 1 accepted, 0 tentatively accepted, 0 declined.

External Meeting/Event

Send Update

Title **Quick discussion of TIA election priority re NW Greenhouses**

Required Janie Finlay <janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au> Michael Rose Bonnie French

Optional

Start time All day Time zones

End time [Make Recurring](#)

Location Meet in University Square outside Workshop

File Meeting **Scheduling Assistant** Tracking Help

Refresh Availability Scheduling AutoPick Add Attendees Add Rooms Options

Start time

End time

	11 AM	12 PM	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM
All Attendees						
Required Attendee						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [Redacted]						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hannah.white@defence.gov.au						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kate.Huntington						

Sat | UA Pol | Private Ap

Accepted by Kate Huntington on 26/02/2024 3:05 PM.
This meeting has been adjusted to reflect your current time zone. It was initially created in the following time zone: (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney.

External Meeting/Event

catch up with Kain from TP office

Organizer [Redacted]

Time

Location

Response Accepted [Change Response](#)

File **Appointment** Scheduling Assistant Insert Draw Format Text Review Help

Delete Copy to My Calendar Forward Teams Meeting Invite Attendees Show As: **Busy** Recurrence Private High Importance Low Importance Dictate

Actions Teams Meeting Attendees Options Tags Voice

External Meeting/Event

Save & Close

Title **Minister Clare with Rufus**

Start time **Thu 2/05/2024** **4:00 PM** **Hobart** All day Time zones

End time **Thu 2/05/2024** **5:00 PM** **Hobart** [Make Recurring](#)

Location **Bonnie handling meet & greet**

File Meeting Scheduling Assistant Tracking Help

Delete Copy to My Calendar Forward Accept Tentative Decline Propose Respond Show As: **Busy** Private High Importance Low Importance Dictate All Apps Immersive Reader New Scheduling Pad

Actions Respond Options Tags Voice Apps Immersive Find Time

Assigned by Saly Huntington on 2/05/2024 2:48 PM
 External Meeting/Event

Tour of The Shed - Minister Jason Clare

Organizer **Bonnie French**

Time **Friday, 3 May 2024 7:15 AM-8:00 AM**

Location **Met at 3 Lawrence Street (at park)**

Response Accepted [Change Response](#)

Hi everyone

See below details for the tour of The Shed tomorrow morning. **Please note the meeting point has changed - the Minister will be arriving directly to The Shed at 7:30am and you will need to meet him there (please be there around 7:20 in case he's one of those people that are early!).** The construction entry point to The Shed is on the corner of Boland and Lawrence Street. Directly across the road from the entry point is a public car park (address is 3 Lawrence Street) - this is where the Minister will be dropped to, please meet there and cross the road to the construction entry point.

Closed toe footwear and construction PPE will be required - I will organise for hard hats and high vis vests to be on site ready for you to put on when you arrive.

I have worked out a path to take for the tour, taking into account the very short timeframe and the very large building. Scott Dickson will guide the group, the tour will include the teaching space highlights: Nursing labs, Allied Health clinic space and the science teaching labs. The Minister needs to leave (from the Lawrence Street car park) at 8am for the airport.

Attending the tour:
 UTAS - Craig, Kate, Piggy, Scott
 Minister Jason Clare, Kerenza Flanagan (Chief of Staff) and Chrystanna Moran (Media Advisor)
 Senator Helen Polley (possibly +1 staff member)
 Fairbrother - Nick Freeman (Northern Construction Manager)

Thank you for getting together to make this work on short notice and early in the morning - I am sure it will be worth it!

Let me know if you have any questions or need additional info - thanks

Bonnie

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Attendee responses: 2 accepted, 0 tentatively accepted, 1 declined.

External Meeting/Event

Send Update

Title **Tour of Forestry Building with Dean Winter**

Required **Craig Barling**; **Justin Hanlon**

Optional **Nicholas Farrelly**

Start time **Fri 10/05/2024** **10:00 AM** **Hobart** All day Time zones

End time **Fri 10/05/2024** **11:00 AM** **Hobart** [Make Recurring](#)

Location

Senator Brown | UTAS Meeting - Meeting

File Meeting **Scheduling Assistant** Tracking Help

Refresh Availability AutoPick Add Attendees Add Rooms Options

Start time: Mon 20/05/2024 12:00 PM
End time: Mon 20/05/2024 12:30 PM

All Attendees

Required Attendee

- Rufus Black
- Rufus Black
- Kate Huntington
- Lawrence, Carolyn (Sen. C. Brown) - Carolyn.Lawrence@aph.gov.au
- McCarthy, Lachlan (Sen. C. Brown) - Lachlan.McCarthy@aph.gov.au

Holly at soccer laser skin

DLW/SL/EH/MA Meet with Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor (UTAS) to discuss UTAS priorities - Meeting

File Meeting **Scheduling Assistant** Tracking Help

Refresh Availability AutoPick Add Attendees Add Rooms Options

Start time: Tue 28/05/2024 10:00 AM
End time: Tue 28/05/2024 10:45 AM

All Attendees

Required Attendee

- Dean Winter - Dean.Winter@parliament.tas.gov.au
- Rufus Black
- Kate Huntington
- Vice Chancellor
- Sarah Lovell - sarah.lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au
- Ella Haggard - ella.haggard@parliament.tas.gov.au
- Marcus Atkinson - Marcus.Atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au

Ann Lan SCLT Wj Rod Private Ap

No responses have been received for this meeting.

External Meeting/Event

Send Update

Title: **UTAS buildings - Podium and KPMG**

Required: stuart.benson@parliament.tas.gov.au

Optional:

Start time: Wed 5/06/2024 3:45 PM Hobart All day Time zones

End time: Wed 5/06/2024 4:45 PM Hobart [Make Recurring](#)

Location: Meet outside Biscuit Factory on Melville St near student accom building

Ok if we make it 3:45?

Accepted by Kate Huntington on 7/06/2024 2:10 PM.

External Meeting/Event

Briefing: Review of UTAS Activity in Addressing Gender Based Violence

Organizer Sarah Lovell <Sarah.Lovell@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Time Thursday, 13 June 2024 1:00 PM-1:45 PM

Location [Parliament House - Opposition Meeting Room](#)

Response Accepted [Change Response](#)

Briefing on the Review of UTAS Activity in Addressing Gender Based Violence, with a particular focus on the plan from here to implement the recommendations of the report [Review of University of Tasmania Activity in Addressing Gender Based Violence \(utas.edu.au\)](#)

Executive Director Strategic Communications Kate Huntington
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Equity and Success) Dr James Brann

Accepted by Kate Huntington on 27/05/2024 4:06 PM.

External Meeting/Event

Josh Willie MP | Nicholas Farrelly Pro Vice-Chancellor UTAS

Organizer Nicholas Farrelly

Time Thursday, 27 June 2024 9:30 AM-10:30 AM

Location [Hobart.ExcelsiorBiscuitWorks.202](#); <https://utas.zoom.us/j/88550864465?from=addon>

Response Accepted [Change Response](#)

	Name	Attendance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Nicholas Farrelly	Meeting Organizer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Nicholas Farrelly	Required Attendee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Josh Willie <Josh.Willie@	Required Attendee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> Hobart.ExcelsiorBiscuitWo	Resource (Room or Equipment)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Poppy Fay	Optional Attendee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Kate Huntington	Optional Attendee

Attendee responses: 3 accepted, 0 tentatively accepted, 0 declined.

Title **Catch up**

Required [Nicholas Farrelly](#); [Miranda Harman](#); [Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>](#); [SandyBay.Administration.305](#)


Optional

Start time All day Time zones

End time

Location

External Meeting/Event


 Save & Close


Title IMAS Media Event

Start time Thu 18/07/2024 12:30 PM Hobart All day Time zones

End time Thu 18/07/2024 1:30 PM Hobart [Make Recurring](#)

Location Sarah Lovell attending (key points attached)

External Meeting/Event


 Save & Close

Title Lunch with Paul Lennon

Start time Thu 25/07/2024 12:30 PM Hobart All day Time zones

End time Thu 25/07/2024 1:30 PM Hobart [Make Recurring](#)

Location Island Espresso: Table booked

Accepted on 2/08/2024 4:02 PM.
This meeting has been adjusted to reflect your current time zone. It was initially created in the following time zone: (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney.

External Meeting/Event

Meeting with Minister Clare and Professor Black, University of Tasmania

Organizer EDUC - Minister.Clare <Minister.Clare@education.gov.au>

Time Thursday, 8 August 2024 1:00 PM-1:30 PM

Location Microsoft Teams Meeting: Minister Clare - Meeting Room PH (MS Teams Room); Minister Clare – Meeting Room CPO (MS Teams Room); Minister Clare – Meeting Room EO (MS Teams Room)

Response Accepted [Change Response](#)

	Name	Attendance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EDUC - Minister.Clare <Mi	Meeting Organizer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kate Huntington	Required Attendee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rufus Black	Required Attendee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hayden Sloggett <hayden	Required Attendee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Green <elizabet	Required Attendee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rose Mores <rose.mores@	Required Attendee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VC Office	Optional Attendee

Meeting with Minister Clare and Professor Black, University of Tasmania - Meeting

File Meeting **Scheduling Assistant** Tracking Help

Refresh Availability AutoPick Add Attendees Add Rooms Options

Start time: Thu 8/08/2024 1:00 PM
End time: Thu 8/08/2024 1:30 PM

10 AM 11 AM 12 PM 1 PM 2 PM 3 PM

No information. No free/busy information could be retrieved. A server error occurred.

All Attendees

- Required Attendee**
 - EDUC - Minister Clare <Minister.Clare@education.gov.au>
 - Rufus Black
 - Hayden Sloaggett <hayden.sloaggett@aph.gov.au>
 - Elizabeth Green <elizabeth.green@aph.gov.au>
 - Rose Moles <rose.moles@aph.gov.au>
- Optional Attendee**
 - VC Office
- Resource (Room or Equipment)**
 - Minister Clare - Meeting Room PH IMS Teams Room <MinisterClareMeetingRoomPH@external.dcsr.gov.au>
 - Minister Clare - Meeting Room CPD IMS Teams Room <MinisterClareMeetingRoomCPD@external.dcsr.gov.au>
 - Minister Clare - Meeting Room EO IMS Teams Room <MinisterClareMeetingRoomEO@external.dcsr.gov.au>

Accepted by Nicola Moles on 6/08/2024 4:07 PM.
This meeting has been adjusted to reflect your current time zone. It was initially created in the following time zone: (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney.

External Meeting/Event

Meeting with Senator Carol Brown, 2pm

Organizer Lawrence, Carolyn (Sen C. Brown) <Carolyn.Lawrence@aph.gov.au>

Time Thursday, 8 August 2024 2:00 PM-2:30 PM

Location Office of Senator Carol Brown, Highbury House, Lvl 1, 136 Davey Street, Hobart

Response Accepted [Change Response](#)

	Name	Attendance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lawrence, Carolyn (Sen C.)	Meeting Organizer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kate Huntington	Required Attendee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nicholas Farrelly	Required Attendee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nicola Moles	Required Attendee

Attendee responses: 1 accepted, 0 tentatively accepted, 0 declined.

External Meeting/Event

Send Update

Title: **Dean Winter and Sarah Lovell**

Required: Scott Davies <scott.davies@reign-maker.com>

Optional:

Start time: Mon 7/10/2024 11:00 AM Hobart All day Time zones

End time: Mon 7/10/2024 12:00 PM Hobart [Make Recurring](#)

Location: **Parliament House**

Nicole Webster **Sean Tracey**: These recipients are sending automatic replies.

Attendee responses: 2 accepted, 0 tentatively accepted, 0 declined.

External Meeting/Event

Send Update

Title: **Minister Pliibersek at skate hatchery 2:10 to 2:40 plus pre chat**

Required: Nicole Webster Sean Tracey

Optional:

Start time: Wed 16/10/2024 1:30 PM Hobart All day Time zones

End time: Wed 16/10/2024 3:00 PM Hobart [Make Recurring](#)

Location: **Taroona**

UTAS / AM Julian Hill - Meeting

File Meeting **Scheduling Assistant** Tracking Help

Refresh Availability AutoPark Add Attendees Add Rooms Options

Start time: Tue 22/10/2024 6:00 PM

End time: Tue 22/10/2024 6:30 PM

Tuesday, 22 October 2024

	10 PM	11 PM	12 AM	1 AM	2 AM	3 AM
All Attendees						
Required Attendee						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> McCarthy, Lachlan (Sen C, Brown) <Lachlan.McCarthy@aph.gov.au>						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kate Huntington						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hoysted, Elliot D, Collins, MP <Elliot.Hoysted@aph.gov.au>						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa GRLEN <Lisa.GRLEN@homeaffairs.gov.au>						

Introduction

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Date Thu 8/08/2024 9:59 PM
To Marcus Atkinson <marcus.atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Cc [REDACTED]

Hi Marcus

As discussed, I'm pleased to introduce you to [REDACTED] who was [REDACTED] and is now spending a bit of time back in Tassie in between his consulting commitments.

[REDACTED] – Marcus is Dean's CoS and I ran into them both on my way into Parliament House for dinner with Eric Abetz tonight and mentioned our chat earlier today and they're interested in hearing more.

Will leave you two to connect.

Cheers, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications
University of Tasmania
Admin Building | Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
0432 389 793



We acknowledge the Aboriginal people of Tasmania as Traditional Owners of the land on which this university is located.

I have sent this email at a time that is convenient for me. I do not expect a response until it is convenient for you.

OFFICIAL



Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs

MS24-000859

Professor Nicholas Farrelly



12 SEP 2024

Dear Professor Farrelly

Thank you for your service as a board member of the Australia-ASEAN Council.

At the 2024 Special Summit to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations, the Australian Government announced the establishment of the ASEAN-Australia Centre. The centre has been operational since 1 July and replaces the Australia-ASEAN Council which will be decommissioned.

The establishment of the centre signifies Australia's commitment to Southeast Asia, and builds on the council's legacy and invaluable contribution you and the board made to the relationship.

It is with great pleasure that I write to appoint you to the centre's Advisory Board for a term of two years.

Further information on the terms of your engagement will be provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through Fiona Hoggart, the Department's Head of the Centre.

I look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny Wong', written over a printed name.

PENNY WONG

MS24-000859

Victoria Geason

From: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2024 12:25 PM
To: Malcolm Wise
Cc: Gregory Truloff; Kate Sullivan
Subject: RE: Australian Maritime College Visit

No worries at al Mal, I've blocked out 4pm-5pm.

Many thanks!
Frankie.

Warm regards,



Frances Kerkham

ADVISER - MEDIA & PARLIAMENT
OFFICE OF ALISON BYRNES MP

Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au
02 4228 5899
74 Crown Street Wollongong NSW 2500

[Click here to follow Alison on Facebook!](#)

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From: Malcolm Wise <Malcolm.wise@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 11:19 PM
To: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>
Cc: Gregory Truloff <gregory.truloff@utas.edu.au>; Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: Australian Maritime College Visit

Thanks Frances,

I have just got the program – would it be possible to move to 1600 Monday? If not, I will get away from my earlier event a little early to make it by 1530.

We will also work up a program for the 30th

Regards

Mal

Mal Wise

Malcolm Wise

Principal

[Australian Maritime College](#)

University of Tasmania

+61 (0) 3 6324 9700 | +61 (0) 409 358 988 | malcolm.wise@utas.edu.au

From: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 5:42 PM
To: Malcolm Wise <Malcolm.wise@utas.edu.au>
Cc: Gregory Truloff <gregory.truloff@utas.edu.au>; Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: Australian Maritime College Visit

Hi Mal,

Thanks for your time on the phone yesterday and looking forward to catching up next week!

I have put 15:30 on Monday 1 July in Alison's diary – let me know when you get your schedule if this has to change.

With 30 July – we will fly in the night before, so we will be available about from about 9am through to 1pm-ish?

We'd love to see anything and everything you could suggest! Really looking forward to it.

Thanks everyone.

Warm regards,



Frances Kerkham

ADVISER - MEDIA & PARLIAMENT
OFFICE OF ALISON BYRNES MP

Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au
02 4228 5899
74 Crown Street Wollongong NSW 2500

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From: Malcolm Wise <Malcolm.wise@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 12:52 PM
To: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>
Cc: Gregory Truloff <gregory.truloff@utas.edu.au>; Kate Sullivan <kate.sullivan@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: Australian Maritime College Visit

Thanks Frances,

Good to chat yesterday and apologies for the delay in response. I have included Gregory who is our GM and I will ask to lead the meetings on the day and I have also included Kate our Exec Officer who will help bring it all together – that will get us started.

As discussed we will set 30 July aside for the event.

As an initial start I would suggest a 1hr meeting in our Board Room and then a 2 hr tour of our key facilities – we can adjust depending on how much time The Hon Alison Byrnes MP has available.

I am very sorry I will not be here but I hope to meet you both on Monday 1 or Tuesday 2 July at 1530 at Parliament House. I will confirm as soon as I have my program in Canberra from Tas State Growth – but please let me know which one works best.

Mant thanks

Mal

Mal Wise

Malcolm (Mal) Wise AM

Principal

[Australian Maritime College](#)

University of Tasmania

Locked Bag 1398

Launceston Tasmania 7250

Australia

+61 (0) 3 6324 9700 | +61 (0) 409 358 988 | malcolm.wise@utas.edu.au

[Home - Australian Maritime College | University of Tasmania \(amc.edu.au\)](#)

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA



Australian Maritime College

From: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP) <Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 2:24 PM

To: Malcolm Wise <Malcolm.wise@utas.edu.au>

Subject: Fwd: Australian Maritime College Visit

Frances Kerkham | Adviser - Media & Parliament

Office of Alison Byrnes MP | Federal Member for Cunningham

Frances.kerkham@aph.gov.au | 02 4228 5899 | 74 Crown Street, Wollongong NSW 2500

From: Kerkham, Frances (A. Byrnes, MP)

Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2024 8:19:51 AM

To: Malcolm.wise@utas.edu.au <Malcolm.wise@utas.edu.au>

Subject: Australian Maritime College Visit

Good morning Malcolm!

Our mutual connection [REDACTED] passed on your details, and I believe spoke with you earlier last month.

I'm just reaching out on behalf of Alison Byrnes MP to see whether you would be available to meet with Alison, myself and Ty Christopher (Director of Energy Futures Network, University of Wollongong).

Alison is keen to get a better understanding of your operations at the college, and its work in furthering the development of the nation's maritime skills, particularly as we move further down the path towards 100% decarbonisation.

We are hoping to fly over to Tasmania on the evening of Monday 29th July, and were wondering if you had any time available on Tuesday 30 July?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly on 0422 658 960.

Warm regards,



Frances Kerkham

ADVISER - MEDIA & PARLIAMENT
OFFICE OF ALISON BYRNES MP

Frances.Kerkham@aph.gov.au
02 4228 5899
74 Crown Street Wollongong NSW 2500

[Click here to follow Alison on Facebook!](#)

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RE: Good local news story

From Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>
Date Fri 19/07/2024 4:45 PM
To David Abbott <David.Abbott@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Excellent! Looking forward to it.

Regards

Bonnie French
Associate Director Stakeholder Engagement
0438 385 757

From: David Abbott <David.Abbott@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 4:03 PM
To: Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: Good local news story

Perfect – thanks Bonnie.

Both the Mayor and Alina Bain have confirmed attendance too.

Cheers

Dave

From: Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 3:09 PM
To: David Abbott <David.Abbott@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Good local news story

Yep, that sounds great - I'll let Fairbrother and my UTAS colleagues who will be assisting know that we need to be ready to sign in at 9:15.

Hopefully the instructions on where to meet are clear - directly opposite Hogs Breath is the best way I could think to explain it. It's right on the street so they will be able to see us easily on arrival. We aren't going in the main site entrance as this side one gets us in closer to where we will be setting up in the atrium.

Regards
Bonnie French
0438 385 757

On 19 Jul 2024, at 3:06 pm, David Abbott <David.Abbott@parliament.tas.gov.au> wrote:

Thanks so much for this Bonnie – looks fantastic.

Would it be possible to invite everyone for a 9.15 sign in so we can kick things off asap at about 9.30?

Cheers

Dave

From: Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 2:39 PM
To: David Abbott <David.Abbott@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Good local news story

Hi Dave

Thanks for the chat this morning. I've sent some info through to Fairbrother to confirm plans for Monday morning, they are still finalising some details for me but it sounds as though we are good to go with the plan that we have discussed for Monday in the atrium of The Shed:

1. The Shed (Willis Street Launceston) – Meeting point: please meet at the site gate on Willis Street directly opposite Hog's Breath Café at 9:30am. We will need to sign into site and enter as a group.
2. Media event location: Atrium space, ground floor inside The Shed
3. Attendees: 4x Tas Labor, 2x invited attendees (Launceston Chamber of Commerce and Launceston Mayor being invited, TBC if they will attend), 4x media outlets (7 News, WIN News, ABC, Examiner). Fairbrother and UTAS representatives in attendance.
4. As The Shed is a construction site, PPE (hard hats and high vis) will be required. This will be provided by Fairbrother and UTAS. Please ensure all attendees wear enclosed footwear.
5. Contact on the day: Bonnie French (UTAS): 0438 385 757

I still need to confirm whether Fairbrother would like to speak – I will let you know asap if they do. If they do, I have suggested they could speak to the number of workers including apprentices on the project, as well as local procurement. If they don't wish to speak, I will still ask them for data on this and share it with you as it may be useful for Dean or Sarah to reference.

I've also included below some student data and information about The Shed – noting the student data is approximates. I have also provided this data to Alina Bain from LCOC.

Please let me know if you need anything else, happy to be in contact over the weekend to finalise details.

Data: UTAS student profile and access to education.

I have prepared some high-level data on Tasmanian students currently enrolled at the University (note this is Tasmanian students only so this excludes mainland-based students in some of our online cohorts such as postgraduate nursing, as well as Interstate or International students who have relocated to Tasmania to study):

1. We have around 12,000 Tasmanian students currently enrolled in courses at the University which includes approx. 3,200 from the North of the state and 1,800 from the Northwest. This isn't necessarily the location where they are currently studying – this is the location of their original home address.

2. Our students do tend to select flexible study modes (eg online, or mixed mode which is a combination of on campus and online) where this is available, though our fully on-campus student numbers sit just under 3,000 for Launceston campuses and just over 400 for the Burnie Campus. In addition, we have approximately 1,500 students studying online/distance located in the North of the State and approx. 1,000 in the Northwest. These students also have the option to utilise our campus spaces which we know quite a few of them do, and this is an important opportunity we have to continue to ensure all of our students are having access to, and benefiting from, these new facilities – this is where our regional PVCs Sonya and Natalie play key roles in engaging with our student groups in the regions.
3. For students studying on campus in Launceston, 33% are first in family to attend university, 28% are from a low SES background, 24% are women in a non-traditional field, 4% are indigenous and 11% with disability.

Information: The Shed

The Shed at Willis Street is due for completion in the coming months, and we will transition staff and students there towards the end of 2024 with teaching to commence from 2024. The Shed is the final new build and will complete the transition of our staff and students to the Inveresk campus, as the home for nursing, allied health, health sciences and natural sciences teaching and research. The \$97m building is the largest and most complex build as it includes a variety of specialised allied health clinics and science labs. The new building will also enable community health education programs for children and older adults, professional development workshops, sports science testing and wellbeing initiatives. It also includes a fully accessible Changing Place facility available for public use, parenting room and a nutrition bar style takeaway café, further encouraging the broader community's use of the building and new facilities.

In 2025 we will be teaching approximately 1,000 on campus students from The Shed, in nursing, allied health, health sciences and natural sciences.

Regards

Bonnie French
Associate Director Stakeholder Engagement
0438 385 757

From: David Abbott <David.Abbott@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 4:58 PM
To: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>; Lachlan Allen <lachlan.allen@parliament.tas.gov.au>; Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: Good local news story

Thanks Kate – at this stage we should be pretty good for the weekend.

Planning to do investment certainty angle with Property Council on Saturday and access for students from outer suburbs on Sunday.

I'll be in touch with you and Bonnie regarding plans for Monday tomorrow.

Thanks again

Dave

From: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 1:51 PM
To: Lachlan Allen <lachlan.allen@parliament.tas.gov.au>; David Abbott <David.Abbott@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Cc: Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>
Subject: FW: Good local news story

Hi Lachie

As discussed, here's the piece we've given to the Merc re the Forestry building international award announced earlier this week FYI and here's what the timber industry put out: [Timberbiz » World architects award Tas forestry building](#)

And Dave, let me know if you need anything further tomorrow or for the weekend. Bonnie French in my team will be the contact in Launceston on Monday – she's on leave today but will be back tomorrow so I've copied her here.
Cheers, Kate

RE: IMAS Taroonna - event this Friday

From Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Date Thu 8/08/2024 9:22 AM
To Morrison, Gabrielle (J. Collins, MP) <Gabrielle.Morrison@aph.gov.au>
Cc Sean Tracey <sean.tracey@utas.edu.au>; Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>

Thanks Gabrielle.

Professor Tracey would be delighted to host a visit by Minister Collins to Taroonna so just let us know when suits – I have copied him here.

I have also copied my colleague Bonnie French here who can assist with a visit to the Tasmanian Agricultural Precinct in Launceston when Julie heads up that way next.

Many thanks for your assistance.
Cheers, Kate

From: Morrison, Gabrielle (J. Collins, MP) <Gabrielle.Morrison@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 9:24 AM
To: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Subject: FW: IMAS Taroonna - event this Friday

Good morning Kate

Thank you for your email to Minister Julie Collins extending an invitation for her to attend the staff celebratory event this Friday.

Unfortunately Minister Collins is unable to attend on this occasion and has asked that I convey her apologies. I will contact again should a time become available for Minister Collins to visit.

Kind regards

Gabrielle Morrison | Executive Assistant to Minister & Office Manager (Diary)
Office of Julie Collins MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Minister for Small Business
P: 03 6244 1222 | **M:** 0499 971150

From: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, August 5, 2024 2:24 PM
To: Collins, Julie (MP) <Julie.Collins.MP@aph.gov.au>
Subject: IMAS Taroonna - event this Friday

Hi Julie

Hope you're well and enjoying being back in the fisheries and agriculture portfolio. As you may be aware, we are in the process of upgrading our facilities at IMAS Taroonna: [An exciting future for IMAS Taroonna | University of Tasmania \(utas.edu.au\)](#).

I've been speaking to [REDACTED] at Salmon Tasmania about the opportunities of this new facility with the expansion of our capacity and he thought you would be interested in some of these

opportunities. We have a staff celebratory event on this Friday afternoon from 3 pm which could be an opportunity for you to view the progress and meet Professor Sean Tracey to discuss the opportunities with respect to flathead recovery as well as canvas some of the discussions we've been having with [REDACTED] around how we can work with industry on the West Coast.

If that doesn't work, we would be very happy to host you at another time that works in your diary.

As flagged in my text and in Rufus' letter, I am also very keen to invite you to the Newnham Campus when you are next in Launceston to see the progress that has been made at AFWI since its establishment and discuss the opportunities around the Tasmanian Agricultural Precinct.

Kind regards, Kate

Kate Huntington

Executive Director, Strategic Communications

University of Tasmania

Admin Building | Private Bag 51

Hobart TAS 7001

0432 389 793



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RE: Local Government Roundtable - 23 August booking

From Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>

Date Tue 16/07/2024 2:00 PM

To Michelle Etherington <Michelle.Etherington@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Hi Michelle, sounds great – lock it in for the Board Room 😊

Anita mentioned to me the possibility of a short campus tour for any attendees who hadn't been to campus before, I am happy for you to offer this either before or after the round table if this is still something she is interested in. Depending on timing I will ask Natalie Brown, Launceston Pro Vice-Chancellor, to take the tour, but if she isn't available I can take the group and show them the new university spaces and answer questions they have. If there isn't time that's okay – I just remembered it after sending the email to you this morning so thought I'd mention it now.

Nothing further needed from you, and the participants won't need to sign in. Just let me know if you'll be here on the day and your arrival time so I can meet you and show you around, answer any questions you have etc.

Regards

Bonnie French
Associate Director Stakeholder Engagement
0438 385 757

From: Michelle Etherington <Michelle.Etherington@parliament.tas.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 11:10 AM

To: Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>

Subject: RE: Local Government Roundtable - 23 August booking

Hi Bonnie,

Thank you so much for taking the time to chat with me this morning and for providing all of the details and photographs – much appreciated.

I think we will go for Level4, (Board Room) – 10-3pm is perfect, we will run it from 11:30am – 2pm. I'm happy to lock it in, I would like to get the invitations out asap.

I will get in contact with [REDACTED] from Loose Goose regarding catering. I will ensure that the room is left as clean as we found it, we appreciate allowing us to use the space.

Thank you for the additional parking information, that is fantastic. I will include it in the email invitation I am sending this week.

Please let me know if you require anything further from me – will I need participants to sign into the campus?

Cheers
Michelle

Kind regards
Michelle Etherington
Electorate Officer for **Anita Dow MP**

State Member for Braddon
Deputy Leader of the Tasmanian Labor Party
15 Wilson Street | PO BOX 495 | BURNIE 7320
Ph: 03 64 30 8440
www.taslabor.com | michelle.etherington@parliament.tas.gov.au



From: Bonnie French <bonnie.french@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 10:58 AM
To: Michelle Etherington <Michelle.Etherington@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Local Government Roundtable - 23 August booking

Hi Michelle

Lovely to speak with you this morning regarding the Local Government Roundtable at the Inveresk campus, we would love to welcome Anita and her guests for this meeting.

I have confirmed two available locations for you, they are both in the River's Edge building which Anita visited recently. Both of these rooms are 24-person capacity, the room on Level 1 is larger than Level 4 and has flexible furniture/seating – though the Level 4 room is the more formal space and is probably the preferred option for this type of event. The Level 4 room is the one where Natalie, Anita, Janie and I sat for a discussion recently.

What I've done is booked both for you, from 10am – 3pm on Friday 23rd August and then you have flexibility to set the timing and to decide which room you would prefer to use. I've attached some photos so you can see the spaces – I've named them so you can see which are which. Happy to chat if you have questions about the rooms or need more information to help you decide.

Level 1 (Ground), room 120 (teaching space) - Capacity 24

Workshop style tables with flexible furniture so you can change the set up of the room. Space to set up catering within the room including a hot drinks station. No direct access to kitchen but there is water refill close by and you can use the atrium as a break out space to sit and have lunch if you need to have a break

Level 4, room 403a (Board Room) - Capacity 24

Timber table set up in a workshop style facing each other, furniture can't be moved. There's a door with direct access to the staff kitchen hub which could be used for breakout, refilling water jugs etc. Enough room to set up catering including a hot drinks station in 403a

For catering, the two options we use regularly that I mentioned on the phone are Matson's Catering, and Loose Goose - Loose Goose run the café in our Library at Inveresk. Both caterers are familiar with our campuses and have delivered catering to these rooms previously, including hot drinks stations. Just a note that for catering arrangements, everything will need to be cleaned up at the end of the session as we won't have booked additional cleaning for the room because there isn't a room hire fee. We don't have crockery available so they will need to deliver catering in compostable lunch packs – again this is something that both caterers are familiar with and do regularly for events on our campuses. loosegoose.streetfood@gmail.com to contact [REDACTED] for options – happy for you to let him know I provided their contact info to you.

[Click here for Inveresk Precinct map](#) – the River's Edge Building is marked number 2. Parking is available in the Northern car park, entry via Forster Street with a 5min walk along the tram line. Accessible parking is available in the main Inveresk car park, with entry via Invermay Rd. Council fees apply for both car parks – Northern car park is \$1/hour and Inveresk car park is approx. \$3/hour.

Let me know if you need anything else – no rush to confirm which room you prefer as I have them both booked for you.

Regards

Bonnie French
Associate Director Stakeholder Engagement
0438 385 757

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From: [Green, Elizabeth \(J. Clare, MP\)](#)
To: [VC Office](#)
Cc: [Kate Huntington](#); lidja@brooklineadvisory.com.au
Subject: RE: meeting with VC Black
Date: Tuesday, 16 July 2024 8:59:44 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Good morning Desi

Thank you so much for letting me know this!

We are just working through the program for the next few weeks, so I will let you know what the Minister's availability is like post 26th July.

I will be back in touch shortly.

Kind regards

Lizzie

ELIZABETH GREEN

Office of the Hon Jason Clare MP

Minister for Education I Federal Member for Blaxland

SYD 02 9790 2466 I CBR 02 6277 7350 I E elizabeth.green@aph.gov.au



www.jasonclare.com.au

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All electoral communications authorised by Jason Clare ALP Canberra

From: VC Office <VCOffice@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 11:39 AM
To: Green, Elizabeth (J. Clare, MP) <Elizabeth.Green@aph.gov.au>
Cc: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: meeting with VC Black

Hi Elizabeth,

I thought I would reach out first and let you know that Rufus will be overseas from today, retuning on the 26th of July. His diary is quite packed after that, and I am sure is the case for your offices, too.

Please do let me know Minister Clare's availability post 26th and I will try my best to match that.

Kind regards,
Desi

Desislava Bogdanova
Executive Officer

Office of the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor
University of Tasmania
Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
p. 03 6226 2003
utas.edu.au

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CRICOS 00586B

From: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 11:00 AM
To: Green, Elizabeth (J. Clare, MP) <Elizabeth.Green@aph.gov.au>
Cc: VC Office <VCOffice@utas.edu.au>
Subject: RE: meeting with VC Black

Hi Lizzie

Nice to e-meet you – I've copied Desi who manages Rufus' diary here to work with you to find a time.

Cheers, Kate

RE: NTEU comments on COBE

From Marcus Atkinson <Marcus.Atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Date Mon 15/07/2024 5:25 PM
To Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>

Thanks – and thanks for the other info you sent through last week.

From: Kate Huntington <kate.huntington@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2024 4:11 PM
To: Marcus Atkinson <Marcus.Atkinson@parliament.tas.gov.au>
Subject: FW: NTEU comments on COBE

Hi there

Just a heads up on this which will be in the Merc tomorrow – attached is the email from the NTEU today and the original announcement – I believe I mentioned this when we met with Dean and Sarah.

The questions from Duncan and our lines in response are below – the key thing is that we're in a consultation process at the moment and final decisions are yet to be made but we're responding to changes made by the federal government plu proposing to modernise our business school to ensure its meets Tasmania's needs going forward. Stakeholders like the TCCI are very supportive.

Happy to discuss, Kate

The proposal to restructure the College of Business and Economics is currently in the consultation phase. The University is seeking feedback from staff and working to support them during the consultation phase to create the best outcome.

The proposal is to organise our structure so the three very different functions that make up the College – the Tasmanian School of Business and Economics, the University College that delivers our pathways program and the International School – are empowered and able to pursue their distinct purpose as effectively as possible.

Professor Anthony Koutoulis, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research

From: Abey, Duncan <duncan.abey@news.com.au>
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 1:04 PM
To: Miranda Harman <miranda.harman@utas.edu.au>
Subject: Fwd: NTEU comments on COBE

Hi Miranda,

Appears Ben is on hols!

Some questions regarding the NTEU release please.

Thanks,

Duncan.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Abey, Duncan** <duncan.abey@news.com.au>

Date: Mon, 15 Jul 2024 at 12:58

Subject: NTEU comments on COBE

To: <communications.office@utas.edu.au>, Ben Wild <ben.wild@utas.edu.au>

Good afternoon,

Some questions regarding the National Tertiary Education Union's media release today please.

The NTEU has described the UTAS response to its questions over the College of Business and Economics restructure as “inadequate and evasive”. Is this a fair description of your discussions with the union?

The NTEU said UTAS is failing to engage in genuine consultation, and has no concern for staff wellbeing. How would UTAS describe the way it is conducting the COBE review?

Can UTAS rule out involuntary redundancies being part of the College restructure?

The union has called on VC Rufus Black to immediately halt the restructuring process. What is Prof Black's response to this request?

The NTEU has foreshadowed potential industrial action over the issue. Does UTAS have a response to this strike threat?

My deadline is 4pm.

Thanks,

Duncan.

--

DUNCAN ABEY

Reporter

2 Salamanca Sq Hobart TAS 7000

E duncan.abey@news.com.au W NewsCorpAustralia.com

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land in all states and territories on which we work and report. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past and present, and honour their history, cultures, and traditions of storytelling.

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Victoria Geason

From: TAS NTEU - EXT <tas@nteu.org.au>
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2024 11:12 AM
To: Kate Huntington
Subject: Update on UTAS Restructuring - Our Fight Continues



Hello Kathryn,

I hope this email finds you well. I'm writing to update you on the latest developments regarding the proposed restructuring of the College of Business and Economics (COBE) at the University of Tasmania.

On July 11, we received a [response](#) from UTAS to our letter of concern. While we appreciate that the university has taken the time to respond, I regret to inform you that their reply falls far short of addressing our serious concerns.

Key points from UTAS's response:

1. They claim to be committed to "meaningful discussions" but continue to push forward with their consultation process without addressing our core issues.
2. UTAS defends their consultation process, suggesting our criticisms are "without merit." This dismissive attitude is deeply concerning.
3. They've outlined a dispute resolution procedure, proposing to meet within 10 working days (by July 23).
4. UTAS claims to be transparent about impacted roles, but their approach to voluntary redundancies is troubling. They're interpreting the Staff Agreement in a way that could limit options for affected staff.
5. The university states they will assess workloads of remaining positions after the change is implemented, which we find totally unacceptable.

Our stance:

We firmly believe that UTAS's response is evasive and fails to address the

substance of our concerns. Their focus on defending their process rather than engaging with the real issues of job security, workload intensification, and educational quality is alarming.

We're particularly concerned about their interpretation of the Staff Agreement regarding voluntary redundancies. This appears to be an attempt to narrow options for staff and push through involuntary redundancies.

Next steps:

1. We will meet with UTAS representatives as part of the dispute resolution process. Rest assured, we will forcefully present our concerns and demand real answers.
2. We're preparing a public statement to keep pressure on UTAS and inform the wider community of these developments.
3. We're exploring all available options to challenge this restructure, including potential industrial action if necessary.

Your support and solidarity are crucial in this fight. We encourage you to:

- Stay informed: We'll continue to provide updates as the situation develops.
- Share your concerns: If you have specific examples or concerns about the restructuring, please share them with us. This information strengthens our position in negotiations.
- Stand united: Your collective voice is our strength. We may call on you for support in the coming weeks.

Remember, we are stronger together. The NTEU remains committed to protecting your rights, your jobs, and the quality of education at UTAS.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out via tas@nteu.org.au.

Best regards,
Ruth Barton
Secretary
NTEU Tasmania Division

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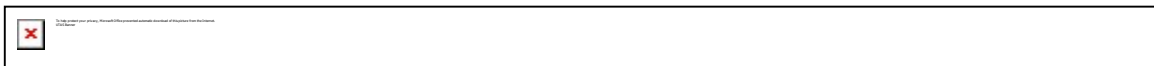
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You have received this email because you are an NTEU member.
Authorised by Dr Ruth Barton, Secretary NTEU Tasmania Division. 2
Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay 7005.



From: Professor Rufus Black <listserv@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, 24 June 2024 4:03 PM
To: Kate Huntington
Subject: Proposing a new way forward for the College of Business and Economics

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it in your browser](#)



Proposing a new way forward for the College of Business and Economics

Dear colleagues,

We are in a period of substantial change for the Higher Education sector. We are moving from a free market system to a managed one. Recently, the government has made it clear international students will be part of that managed system with numbers to be capped. For the new managed system, a clear priority has been set to increase significantly participation and success, especially amongst groups who are currently under-represented.

The recent Australian Government Budget has initiated the process of reform with substantial new funding to prepare students for Higher Education through the sort of Pathways courses we currently deliver through our University College. Most of the growth in Higher Education in Australia in the next decade will come through students from pathways programs - meaning they become a bigger part of what Universities do.

With capped international student numbers our Business and Economics education will necessarily be primarily focused on Australian students and the transformation needed in the Tasmanian and Australian economies.

We need to make sure we respond to these changes in a timely way and that how we are organised reflects the new priorities.

Today the activities most affected by these initial set of reforms are within our College of Business and Economics. The College has evolved over time to have a diverse portfolio of functions, which includes the Tasmanian School of Business and Economics, the University College, which delivers our Pathways Program, the International School, our Short Courses team and the Australian Institute of Health Service Management.

While a diverse College portfolio created opportunities for collaboration and innovation, which were appropriate for their time, the new priorities require a clear organisational focus. As we create that focus, we know we also need to simplify how we work.

Today, we begin four weeks of consultation on a proposal developed with the academic leaders of the College to provide a structure to give each of those function the focus it needs to succeed in our new environment.

This consultation process is being led by a key member of our University Executive Team, Professor Anthony Koutoulis, so that the necessary level of support can be provided to the College leadership team. Kouts will be leading a series of drop-in sessions for consultation with College staff this week, followed by a whole-of-university session on Monday 1 July 2024 to share the proposal and seek your feedback. Details about how to engage in these consultations can be found on [this dedicated intranet page](#) and I encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas through the consultation period.

This proposal does affect some roles significantly, so we know this will not be an easy time for some colleagues. A full range of supports will be provided to everyone affected. Please remember if you need support at any time you can contact the University Employee Assistance Provider via 1300 344 134 or **book an appointment online**.

Kind regards,

Rufus



Professor Rufus Black

Vice-Chancellor
Office of the Vice-Chancellor
University of Tasmania
T: +61 3 6226 2002
E: vice.chancellor@utas.edu.au
CRICOS 00586B



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Victoria Geason

From: Nicholas Farrelly <nicholas.farrelly@utas.edu.au>
Sent: Saturday, 8 June 2024 7:09 PM
To: Rufus Black; Ian Anderson; Kate Huntington; James Brann
Subject: Sensitive: [REDACTED] birthday

Dear Rufus, Ian, Kate and James,

Discussions

I had very good and lengthy discussions with all three of the politicians: Helen, Anna and Josh. We considered [REDACTED] situation and his possible pathway to [REDACTED] (views differed on how likely that was), the support the University has provided (much appreciated across the spectrum), and, of course, on the current state of our Hobart campuses and potential next steps (I will update Kate fully on all the details in the new week – helpfully we have a meeting scheduled soon with Josh Willie and he is keen to discuss in much more detail; he even offered [REDACTED] a tour of Parliament).

Key issues

1. The petition on the State Parliament website now has over 6000 signatures. Helen told me that she will present it in Parliament, likely on Wednesday or Thursday this coming week. There will, as such, be further media attention – with the current plan, according to Helen, [REDACTED] to attend Parliament on the day. Helen was appreciative of the University's role and support for [REDACTED] – I suggested we stay in touch as we all learn more about longer-term plans.
2. Josh Willie told me that he has written to the Federal Immigration Minister asking for support for [REDACTED]. He did not sound optimistic about the chances – but Helen was more hopeful that, under current circumstances, a compassionate response might prevail.

4.

Best wishes,

Nicholas

Nicholas Farrelly

utas.edu.au

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M: +61 427 299 733

UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA 

Brian Mitchell MP

Federal Member for Lyons

Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor
University of Tasmania
Private Bag 51
Sandy Bay Tas 7001

Email: Vice.Chancellor@utas.edu.au

Dear Professor Black

RE: Veterinary Medicine

I write on behalf of constituent [REDACTED], with regard to her concerns about the falling numbers of people choosing to study and work in Veterinary Medicine.

Every veterinary clinic around Tasmania is crying out for more vets.

I write to you to ask why the University of Tasmania does not offer Veterinary Medicine as a degree. This is particularly surprising given our state's dependence on agriculture (I acknowledge UTAS has a number of Agriculture, Agricultural Science and Animal Science offerings).

A consequence of UTAS's decision is that young Tasmanians must travel to the mainland to study Veterinary Medicine and it is a sad fact that few return home. If the degree was offered here it is likely most would stay in the state to practise.

I ask that you give serious consideration to starting a Veterinary Medicine degree.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to your response.

With warm regards





Brian Mitchell MP

4 March 2024 | mf

Reply to: PO Box 61 Bridgewater TAS 7030

Green Point Plaza 28 Green Point Road Bridgewater TAS 7030 | p (03) 6263 3721
53B Main Road Perth TAS 7300 | p (03) 6398 1115 | brian.mitchell.mp@aph.gov.au | www.brianmitchell.com.au

 brian mitchell federal mp for lyons  @BrianMitchellMP  www.alp.org.au

Printed on Australian paper



Brian Mitchell MP
Federal Member for Lyons
PO Box 61
Bridgewater TAS 7030

By email: Melissa.Franklin@aph.gov.au

Dear Brian

Thank you for writing on behalf of [REDACTED] and for letting me know her concerns about the falling numbers of people choosing to study and work in Veterinary Medicine. I very much agree that this is a concerning picture.

To answer your question, there are only a handful of offerings such as Veterinary Medicine in the country and whilst we would really like to have such a program, unfortunately we know from looking into this before that it is not possible.

The extremely high cost to deliver a course like this and to have the necessary specialist facilities do not make it economic for us to be able to offer it.

I appreciate that this is not the response you were looking for, however I hope it does provide clarity in terms of the University having looked at this and considered it carefully.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me about this important matter.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

7 March 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

The Hon Andrew Giles MP
Minister for Skills and Training

By email: Ben.Wicks@dewr.gov.au

Dear Minister Giles

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Skills and Training.

Your appointment to this portfolio comes at a critical time with national policy settings across the tertiary sector aligned to create greater equity of access and connectivity between education, skills and workforce needs. This alignment between the National Skills Agreement and the Australian Universities Accord is critical for places like Tasmania, where we are working with our education partners including TasTAFE to develop a plan for educational opportunities that meet the needs of the community and improve outcomes for Tasmanians.

As part of our commitment to improving regional access to education, the University of Tasmania has been transforming our Inveresk campus into a thriving community precinct through the \$300m Northern Transformation Program. During your previous visit to Inveresk, we were in the midst of construction of new buildings and outdoor spaces. I am pleased to advise that the campus is nearly completed and later this year will mark the final transition of staff and students to Inveresk. I would be delighted to host a visit to the Inveresk campus when you are next in Launceston, to discuss the opportunities this investment in education facilities is delivering for community and industry connection in Northern Tasmania.

I would also like to thank you for your recent support for our student, Devarshi Deka, in granting him permanent residency in Australia. In this tragic situation, the compassion shown to Devarshi and his family through this decision is commendable and much appreciated by our community.

Again, I extend my congratulations to you and wish you every success in this important role.

Yours sincerely



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor

15 August 2024

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

Victoria Geason

From: Gosling, Luke (MP) <Luke.Gosling.MP@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 October 2024 4:57 PM
To: jhawkins@pivotmaritime.com; Malcolm Wise
Cc: Roberts, Philip (L. Gosling, MP); Rand, Mitchell (L. Gosling, MP)
Subject: Re: Dot Points of Discussion

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hey Jeff and Mal and team,

Great to meet in Launceston, thanks for your time and the dot points.

Please find also included at (CC) Mitch who is my Defence and IndoPacific advisor.

Mitch is also the lead as we continue to develop the IndoPacific Maritime CofE concept.

Cheers, Luke

From:

4 April 2024

Hon Clare O'Neil MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Minister for Cyber Security
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600
Email: Clare.ONeil.MP@aph.gov.au
Cc: jason.clare.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Following extensive discussion and considering the specific nuances of different institutions, the undersigned universities write to you as a follow up to our previous correspondence and subsequent meeting in February 2024 concerning the adverse effects of the Australian Government's Migration Strategy on student visa processing for international students.

While we appreciate that our institutions have seen some improvement in visa processing timelines, a lack of clarity remains on these timelines for each Evidence Level, making it incredibly difficult to set student expectations. The referenced improvement has however, been accompanied by an increase in visa refusals over the same period, which once again raises significant concerns for our institutions. These refusals appear to be driven more by the aim to curb net migration than being linked to non-genuine students or provider risk.

This correspondence aims to provide additional context regarding the impacts of the current policy position on Australia's Higher Education Sector and the broader geopolitical and reputational risks, along with the impact on our communities more broadly. Here we address the immediate challenges faced by universities whilst also recognising and supporting the Australian Government's overarching goal of moderating Australia's net migration figures.

Further to your invitation Minister, we seek the opportunity to engage in further discussion on these points and request the Government's commitment to involve the undersigned institutions in a structured manner to play a role in the co-design of any policies that seek to address international student numbers. We have foreshadowed potential options in the final section of this correspondence.

Analysis

There is large support across the sector, including from the undersigned, for the Migration Strategy's objective of improving integrity and establishing a sustainable footing for net overseas migration (NOM). However, the current implementation of the Strategy, which involves deprioritising visa processing for certain institutions, has resulted in genuine students being unfairly disadvantaged and significant financial challenges for a number of universities. In fact, recent forecasts conducted by Universities Australia show that as a collective, the sector is facing half a billion dollars in revenue loss in 2024.

Geopolitical Risks and Evidence Levels

As Australia's largest international service-export, the negative ramifications of this policy for Australia's Higher Education brand and reputation cannot be overlooked. The Government's stance on the Migration Strategy seems particularly at odds with Australia's public commitment to supporting India's Education agenda, made during the 2023 delegation led by the Minister for Education to the sub-continent. The decline in visa approvals for Indian students, which are the lowest (67.2% in Higher Education) in the past 20 years directly contradicts this commitment and risks undermining one of Australia's most important geopolitical relationships.

There has also been a noticeable increase in visa refusals across the Higher Education sector recently with 31.5% less grants than the same time last year. It is important to note that these outcomes are being experienced at a time when institutions are already imposing greater scrutiny on applicants to uphold rigorous genuine student protocols and safeguard institutional Evidence Levels.

The increase in the refusal rate, which appears to be driven at least to some extent by a desire to reduce net migration rather than the genuineness of individual student applicants, will adversely affect institutional Evidence Levels, and unfairly impact the reputation of affected universities. Under the current policy framework, this will further compound visa processing delays as universities see their Evidence Levels rise. A viable short-term strategy would be to freeze institutional Evidence Levels.

The Student and the Australian Education Brand

There has been much advocacy from the sector regarding a more equitable process for the Government to reach its ambitions concerning NOM. However, the untold story is the unfair impact of current policy on the student. Currently, students are applying in good faith for visas on the premise that they have a good chance of success because they are genuine in their intent and have gone through the rigorous pre-screening process at the university of their choice. However, we have observed many visa refusals that don't appear to relate to the student or the institution but instead an apparent approach to reduce net migration. The damage to a university pales in comparison to the adverse impact on the student. The visa refusal they receive damages their chances in the medium term to pursue foreign education not only in Australia but also in other countries such as the United Kingdom, United States, and Canada.

Therefore, transparency in relation to how these students are assessed is critical to ensure universities can better advise students if Australia is the appropriate study destination for them. This, in turn, would considerably lower the caseload that the Department needs to assess. Australia has always had the benefit of being seen as a welcoming study destination. In the current landscape, that brand is being negatively impacted.

Reduced Revenue Stream Impacts

The impact of this situation goes beyond immediate financial challenges. The ability to implement the aims of the recently released Australian Universities Accord Final Report - improving education attainment rates for equity-based students - could be derailed by current processes.

Indeed, the very universities identified as being crucial to the nation achieving these goals are the ones most adversely affected by the Ministerial Direction. Consequently, these institutions, facing reduced revenue streams, may well lack the necessary resources to adequately support students, thereby jeopardizing the Accord's ambitious attainment targets.

Additionally, universities already invest significant resourcing in screening students prior to visa lodgement. For instance, CQUniversity has a dedicated team of [REDACTED] staff in New Delhi solely focused on such screening efforts. There is conflict between this investment, which may need to be increased in the context of the Migration Strategy, and the associated opportunity cost as to how this funding could be otherwise spent – for example on student support, retention and other related activity.

Future Considerations

Minister, it would be reasonable to assume that the Government, in alignment with its objective to curb NOM, is working on establishing a metric for the number of student visas to be issued each year. The lack of transparency surrounding this metric and its application is a concern for the universities co-signing this letter. Therefore, we seek meaningful engagement from the Government to co-design such a metric and its application, involving a dedicated working group from the universities listed in this letter, rather than solely relying on peak bodies.

In considering the implementation of any future metrics, the following points could serve as the foundation for such conversations:

- The annual migration levels should be a clearly articulated, so that they can be communicated to students and other stakeholders, and not be confused with visa integrity and other policy priorities.
- The burden of any reduction in student visas is shared equitably across Australian universities.
- The government recognise that such an approach is a major change to the policy objectives articulated in the Australian Strategy for International Education 2021-30, and:
 - stage the implementation of such a reduction over several years;
 - consider broader changes to the current Student visa regime, including whether the current provider risk based approach under the Simplified Student Visa Framework (SSVF) remains both desirable and an effective mechanism to support integrity.
 - removing the six-month restricted period and instead linking the student's visa to the institution, to address issues of attrition currently seen outside of this period.
- As an interim measure, freeze institutional Evidence Levels to deal with the spike in refusals that commenced in late 2023 and have continued in 2024. Whilst Evidence Levels are frozen institutions should still be given the opportunity to improve their risk rating, which will also encourage best practice under Ministerial Direction 106.

The group is open to strategic thinking in this space and would welcome the opportunity to discuss potential options for new metrics. Such options could include:

- Setting the metric according to an institution's previous international student load, noting that this would be quite a blunt approach that may not capture the full strategic objectives of Government, including potential supporting greater growth in regional enrolments.
- Establishing a proportion-based metric by institution, considering the head count of domestic to onshore international students
- Developing a more sophisticated metric considering factors such as the above, plus other factors such as available student accommodation, the local economic outlook and diversity within source markets.

Minister, we certainly appreciate the attention you have been giving this matter and would request a meeting of the below institutions to discuss this matter in more detail. We look forward to speaking with you in the near future.

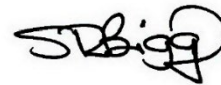
Regards,



Professor Renee Leon PSM
Charles Sturt University



Professor Nick Klomp
CQUniversity Australia



Professor Simon Biggs
James Cook University



Professor Andrew Deeks
Murdoch University



Professor Geraldine Mackenzie
University of Southern Queensland



Professor Rufus Black
University of Tasmania