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 [redacted] 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.

[redacted] any 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.

[redacted]

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. [redacted]

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, [redacted] 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.

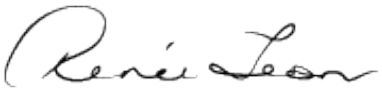
[redacted]

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.

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.



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



Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor and President
University of Tasmania

Charles Sturt University
Locked Bag 588
Wagga Wagga NSW 2678
+61 2 6338 4209 | E: vc@csu.edu.au
CRICOS Provider Number for Charles Sturt is 00005F.
ABN: 83 878 708 551

University of Tasmania
Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
+61 3 6226 2003 | E: vice.chancellor@utas.edu.au
CRICOS Provider Number for UTAS is 00586B.
ABN: 30 764 374 782

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.

Yours sincerely,



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Professor Alex Zelinsky AO
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Professor Chris Moran
University of New England



Professor Joanne Cys
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 Deborah Sweeney
Western Sydney University

File Meeting Response

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.

File Meeting Response

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

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.

Outlook

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

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.

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

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.

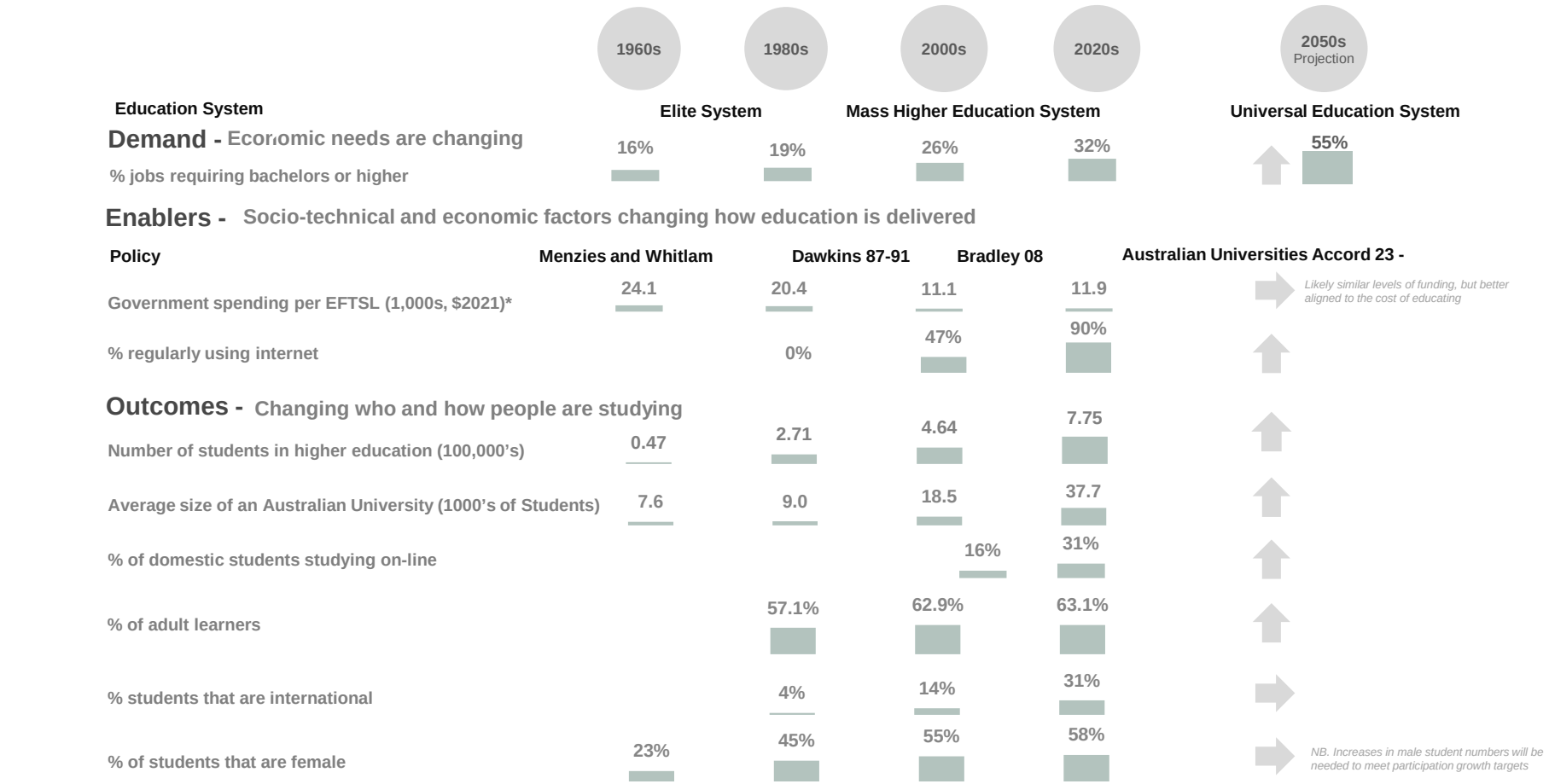
This shift has helped shape the University of Tasmania we see today: a high quality, high performing university with a larger and more diverse student population.

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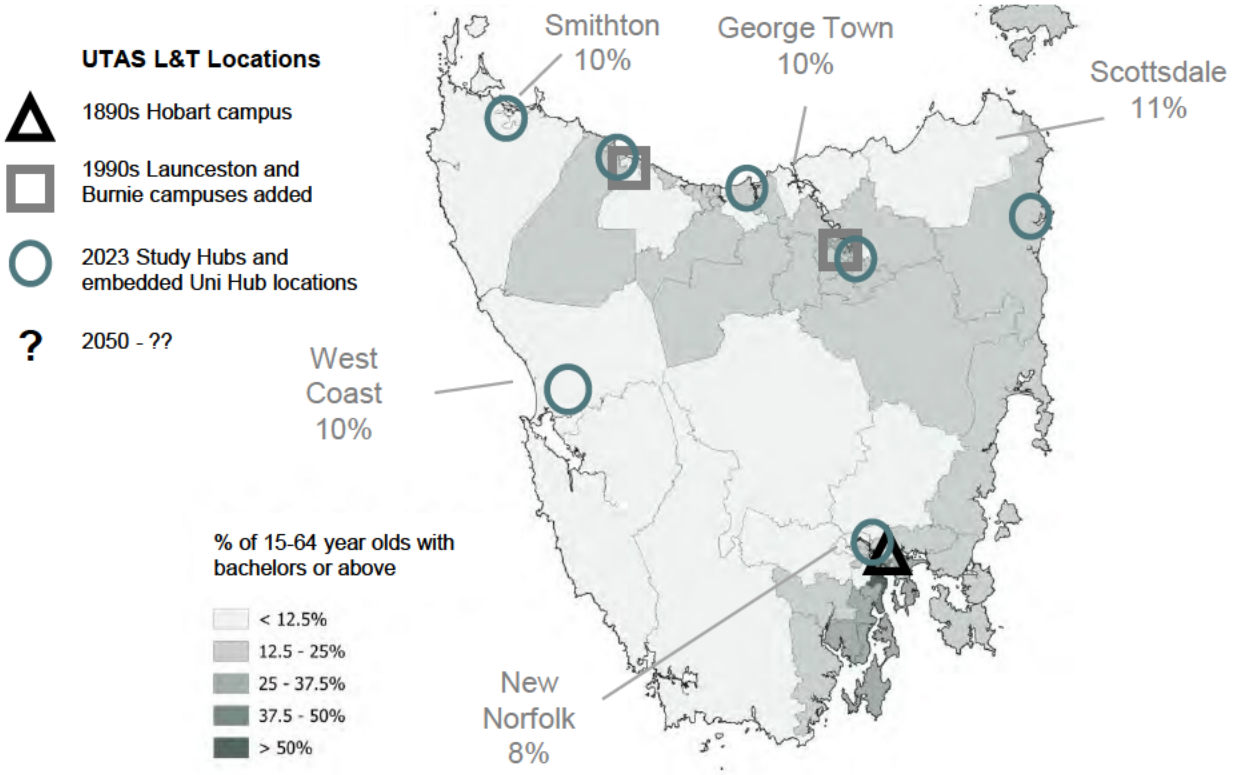
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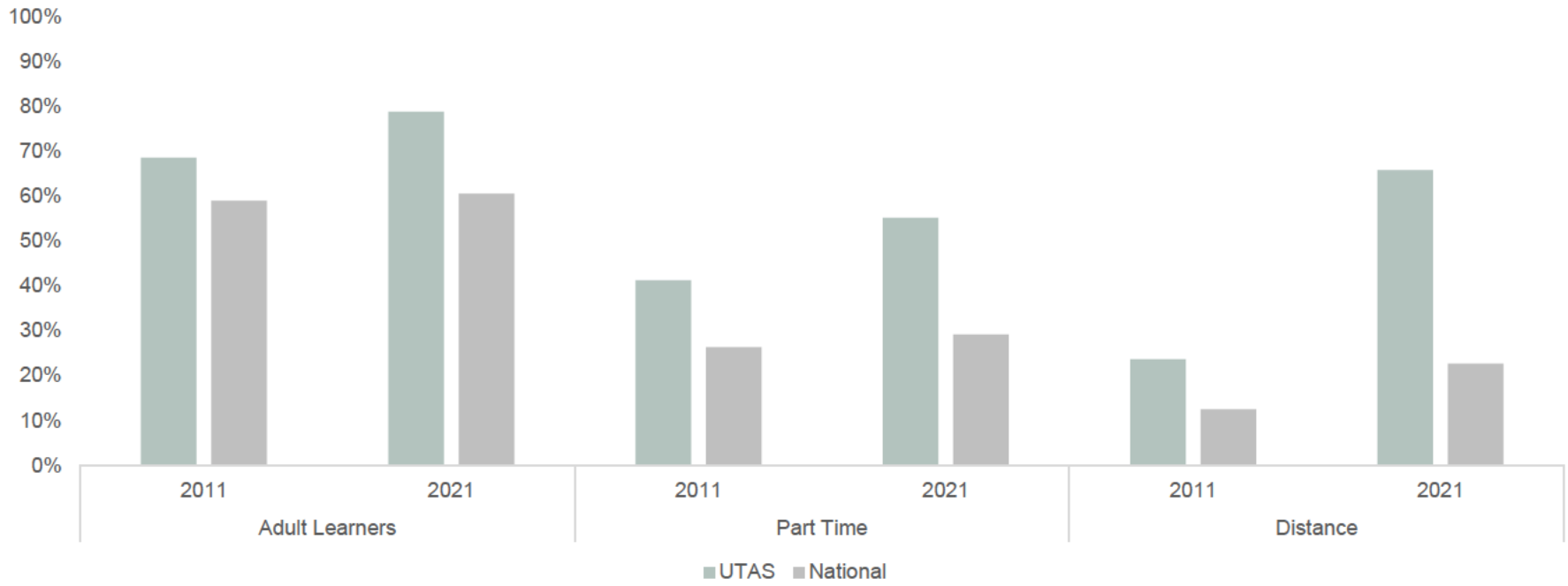
Increasing higher education participation has dramatically changed the footprint of universities like UTAS



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.

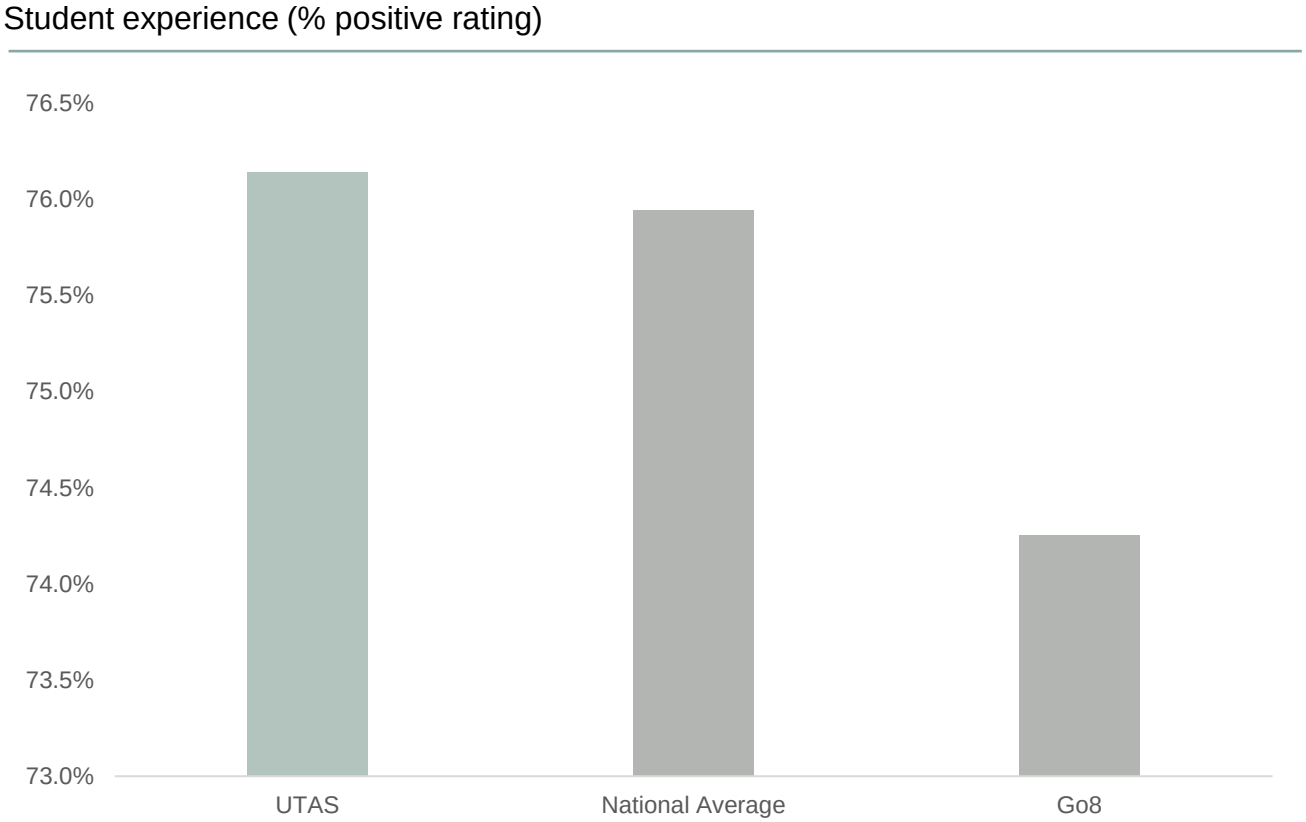
We have seen a significant growth in adult, part-time, on-line learners as we meet participation and critical mass objectives

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.

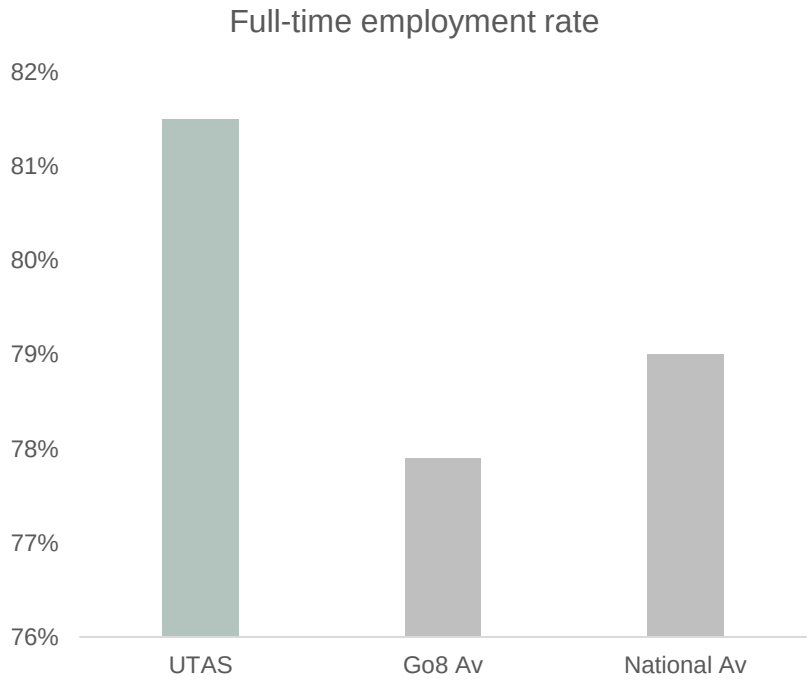
We are doing well: Student experience

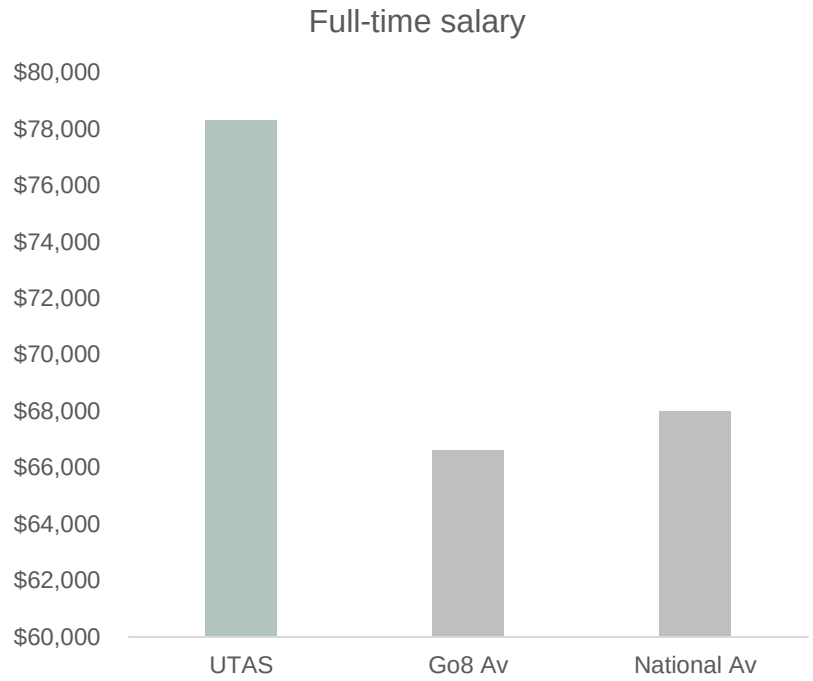


Source: 2022 Student Experience Survey, Domestic Students, QILT (Quality Indicators of Learning and Teaching)

We are doing well: Graduate outcomes

Graduate Outcomes Survey Performance

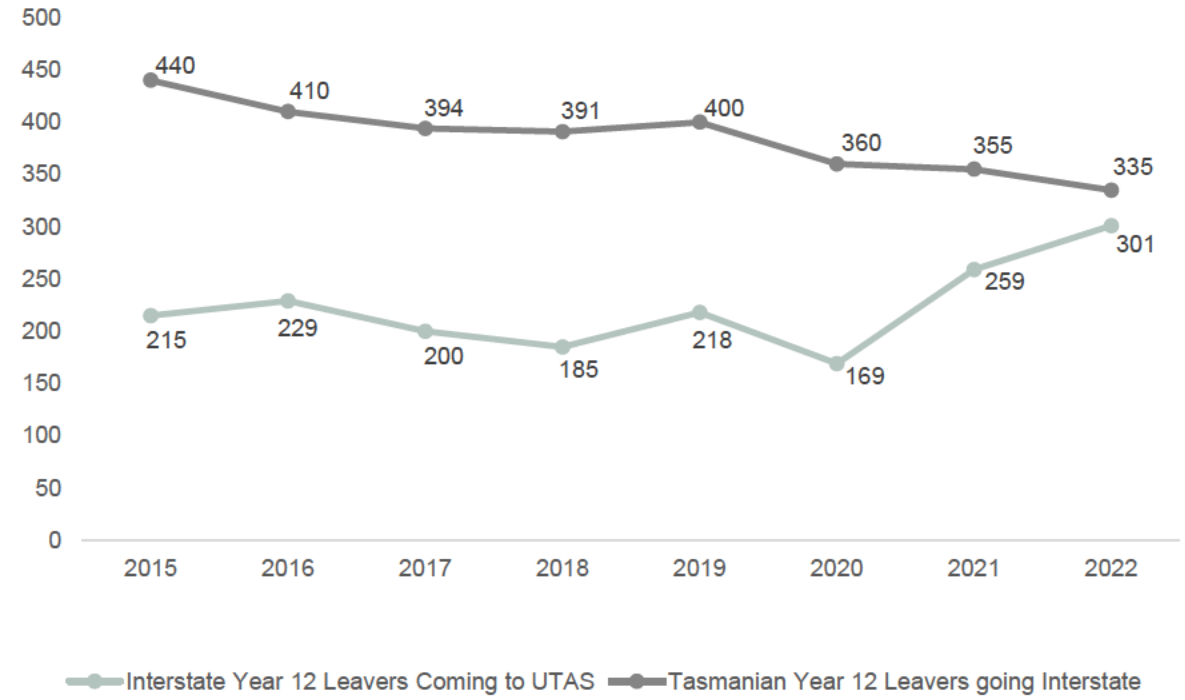




Source: 2022 Graduate Outcomes Survey, Table 9, Labour Force Indicators, UG Domestic Students, February 2023, QILT

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

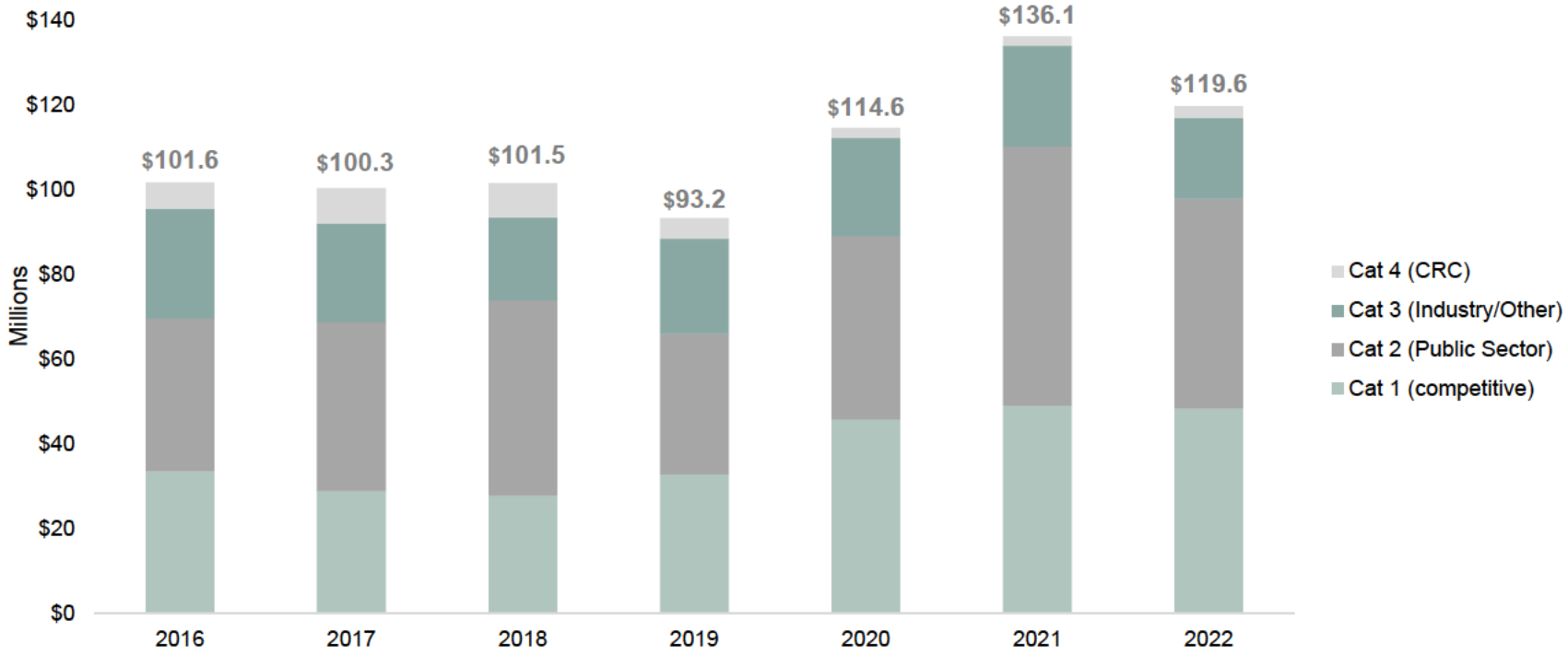
Interstate Year 12 leavers studying at UTAS, and Tasmanian Year 12 leavers studying interstate



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.

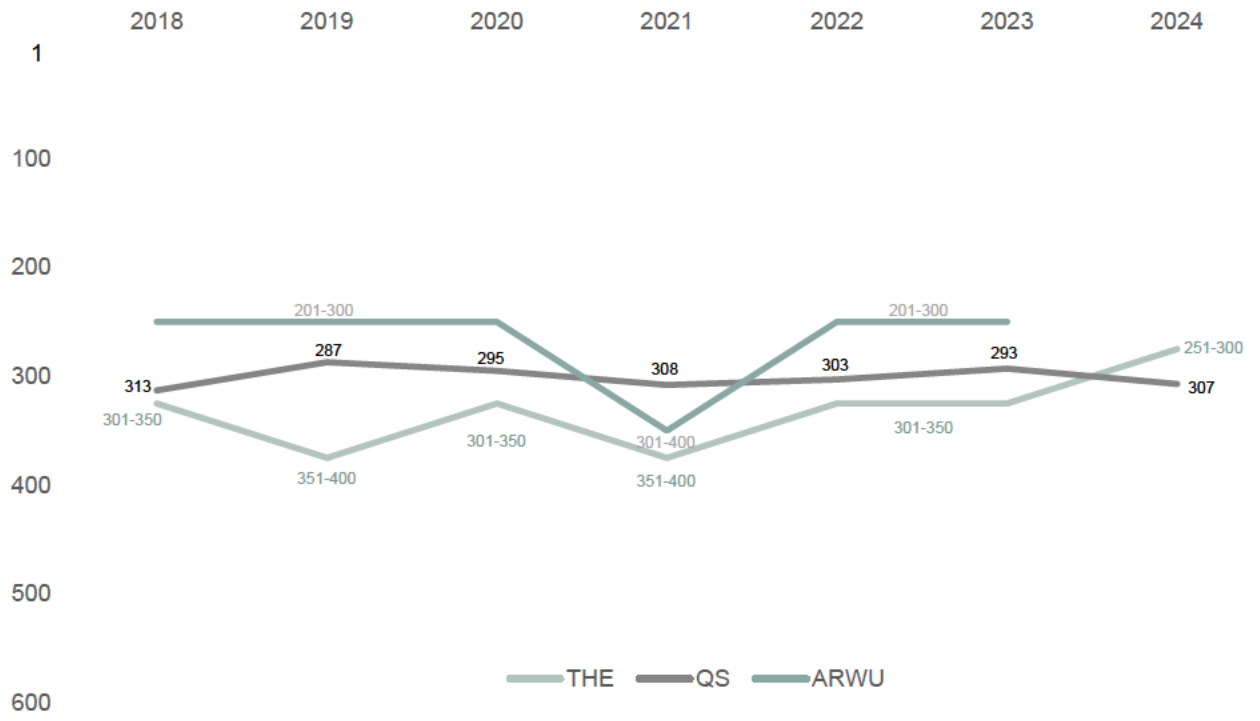
We are doing well: Research income

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.

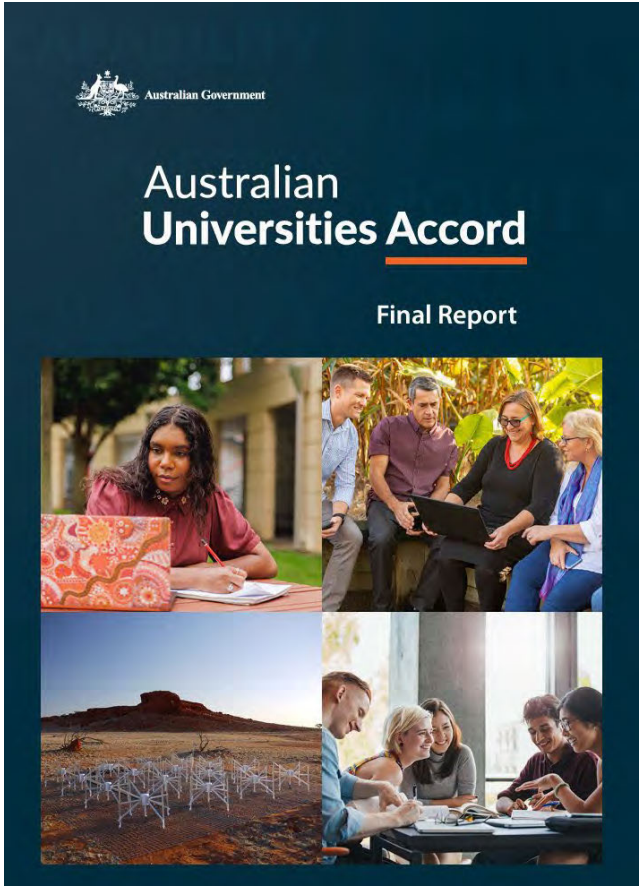
To create an equitable and economically prosperous future, the Australian Universities Accord sets a shift from a mass to a universal education system, accessible to more people.

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.







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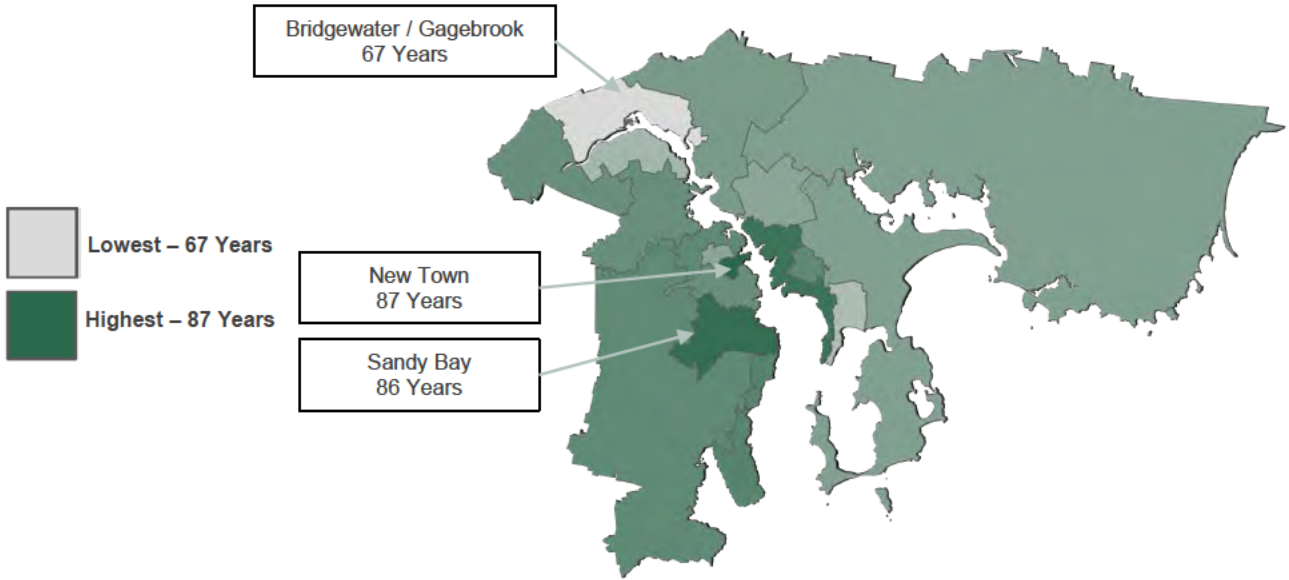
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Life expectancy is a way of summing up inequality. In Hobart and surrounds, the inequality is extraordinary

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

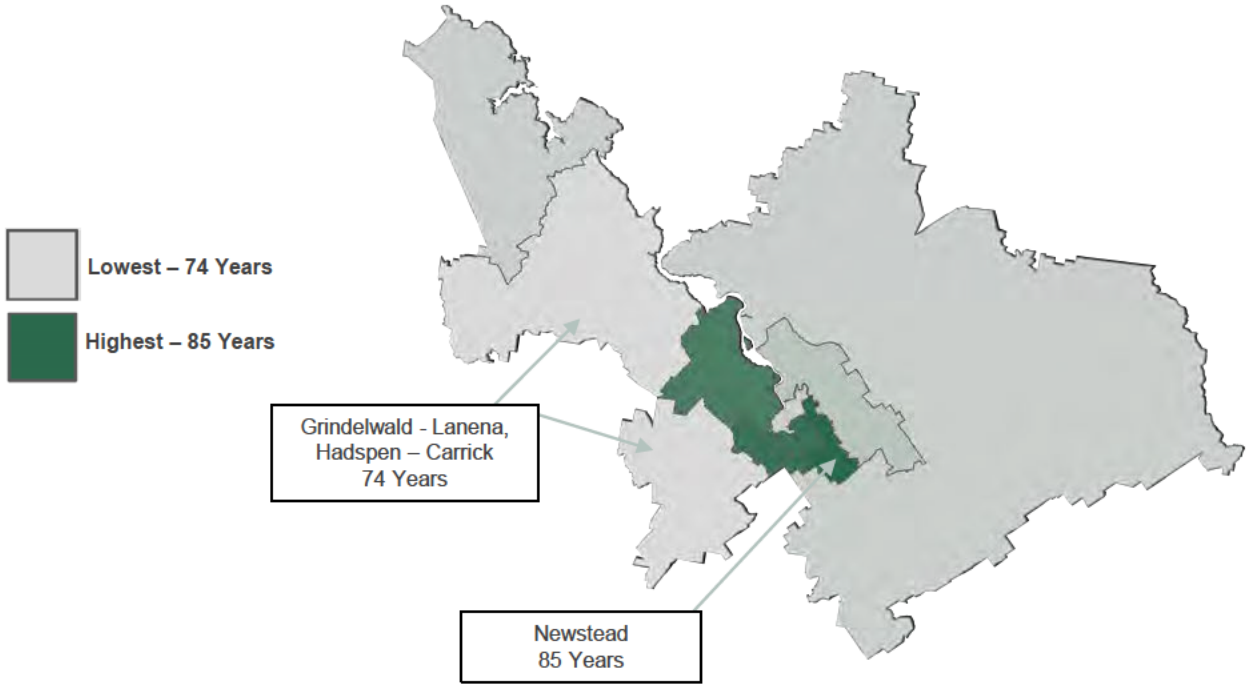


- The difference between Bridgewater and New Town or Sandy Bay is stark.
- For every kilometre you travel north away from Sandy Bay you effectively lose a year of life expectancy.
- It is like comparing one of the richest places in the world (Hong Kong - 85 years) with one of the poorest (Eritrea - 67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

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

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

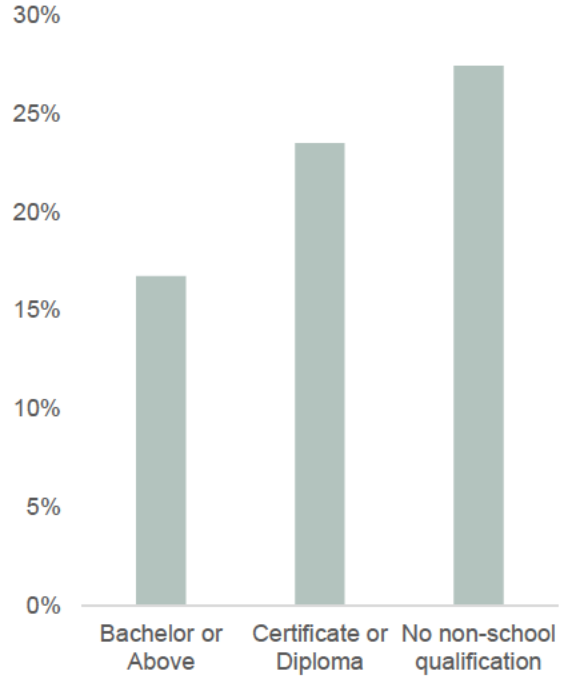
Life Expectancy in Greater Launceston, by Public Health Area, 2017 - 2021



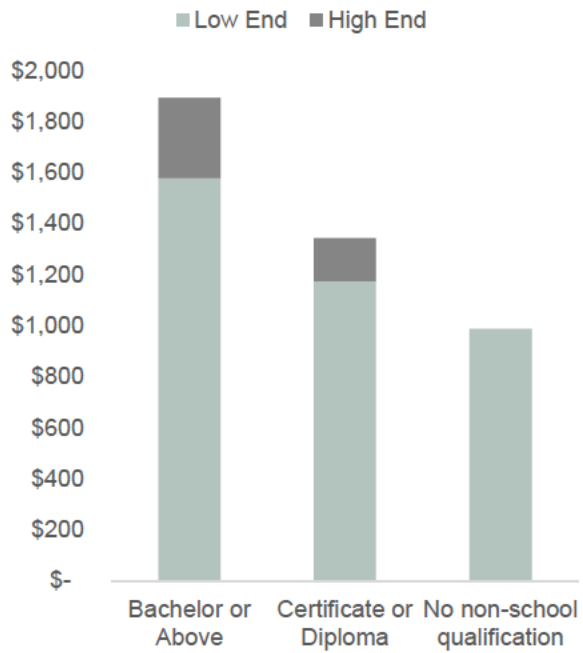
PHIDU, Social Health Atlas of Australia: Population Health Areas, Median Age at Death by PHA, 2017 - 2021

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

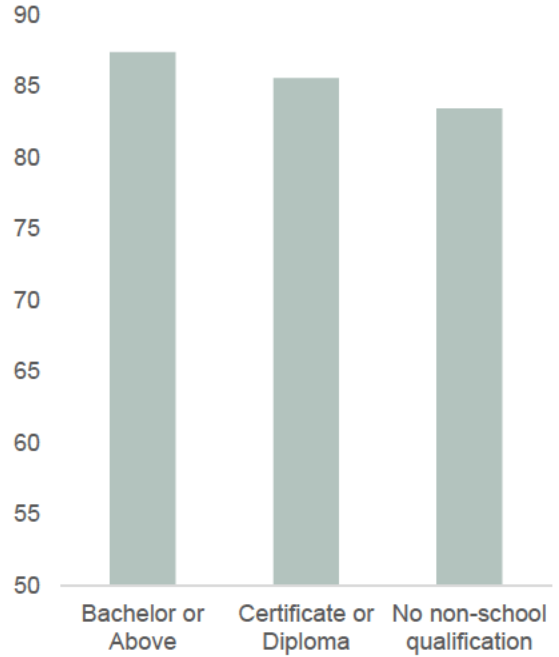
Rate of Selected Comorbidities*, National Health Survey 2011 - 12



Median Weekly Earnings** by Level of Education, 2023



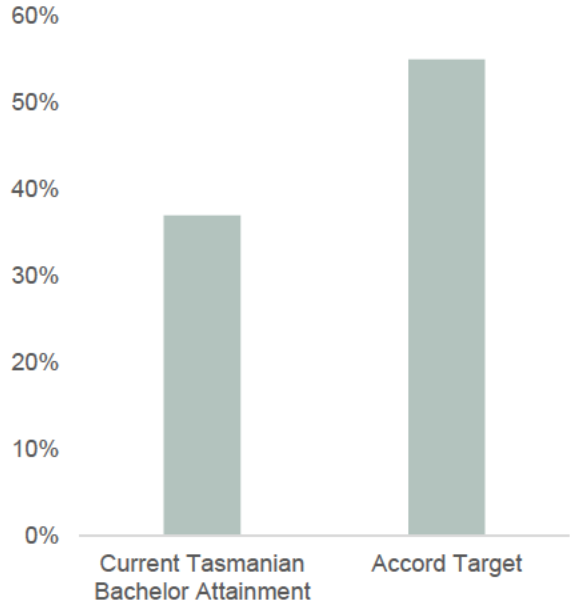
Australian Life Expectancy*** by Level of Education, 2016

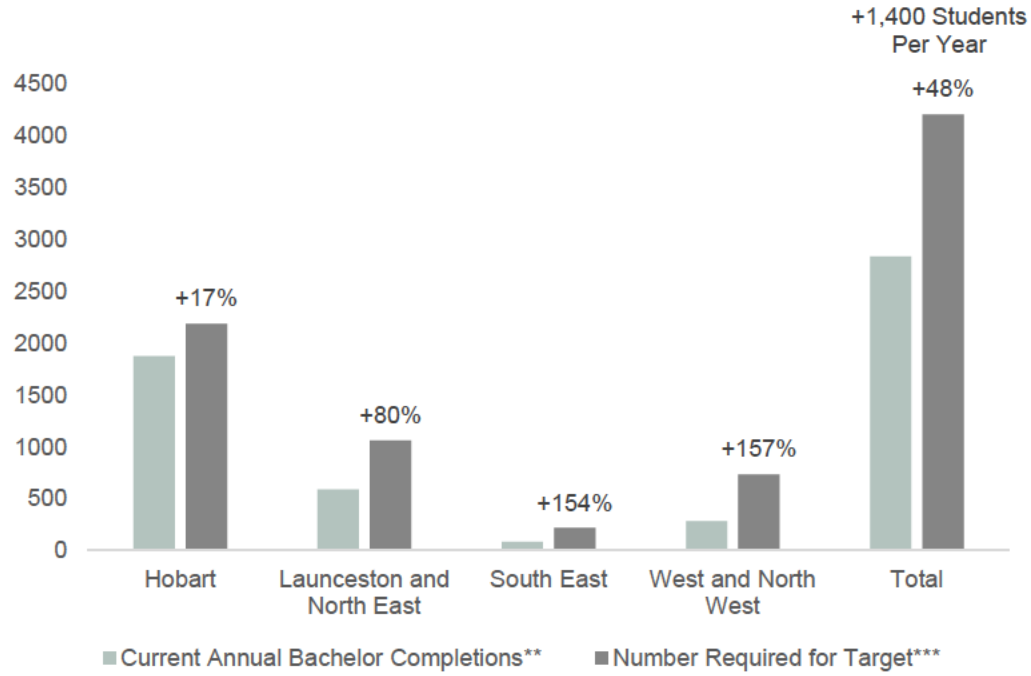


* Comorbidity Rate is the rate at which surveyed individuals reported having Diabetes, Kidney Disease or Cardiovascular Diseases. Tablebuilder, National Health Survey 2011 – 12.
** Low/High End is the smallest/largest value in category across education levels (e.g. High End in Bachelor is Postgraduate, 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

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)



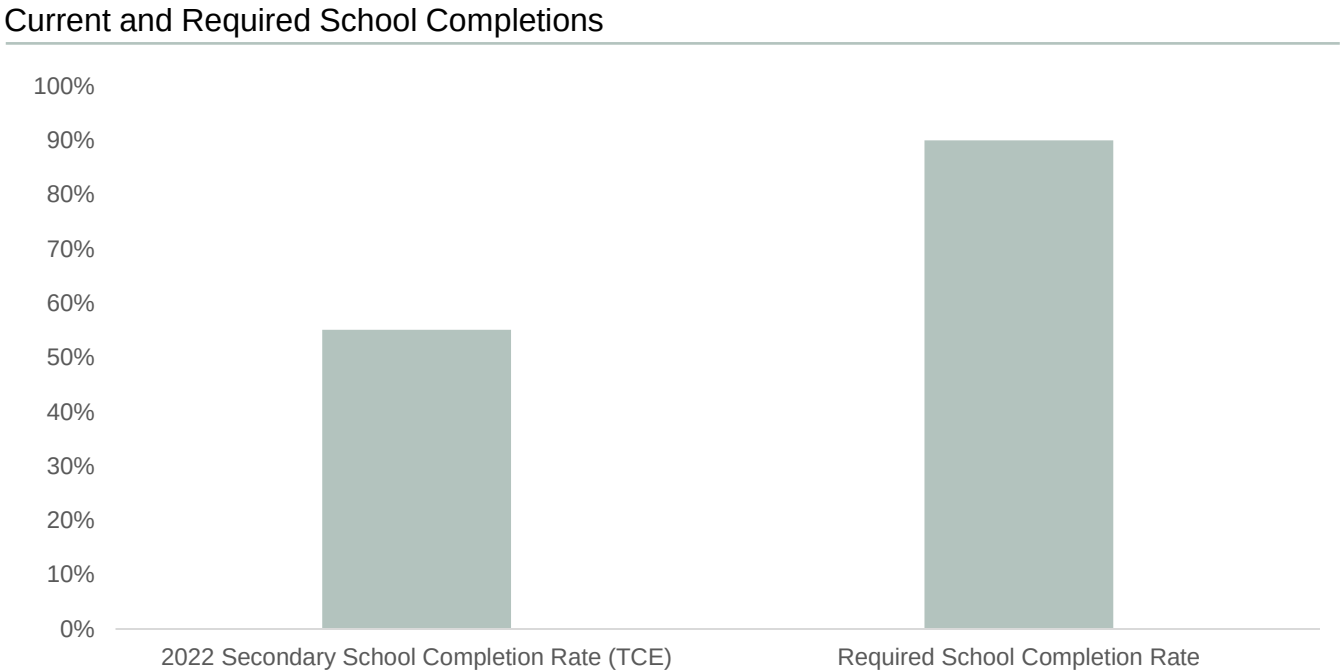


Source: Estimated from bachelor attainment data from ABS TableBuilder, Census 2021 Level of Educational Attainment (HEAP), 2021 census. Includes non-University of Tasmania graduates in Tasmania

* 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

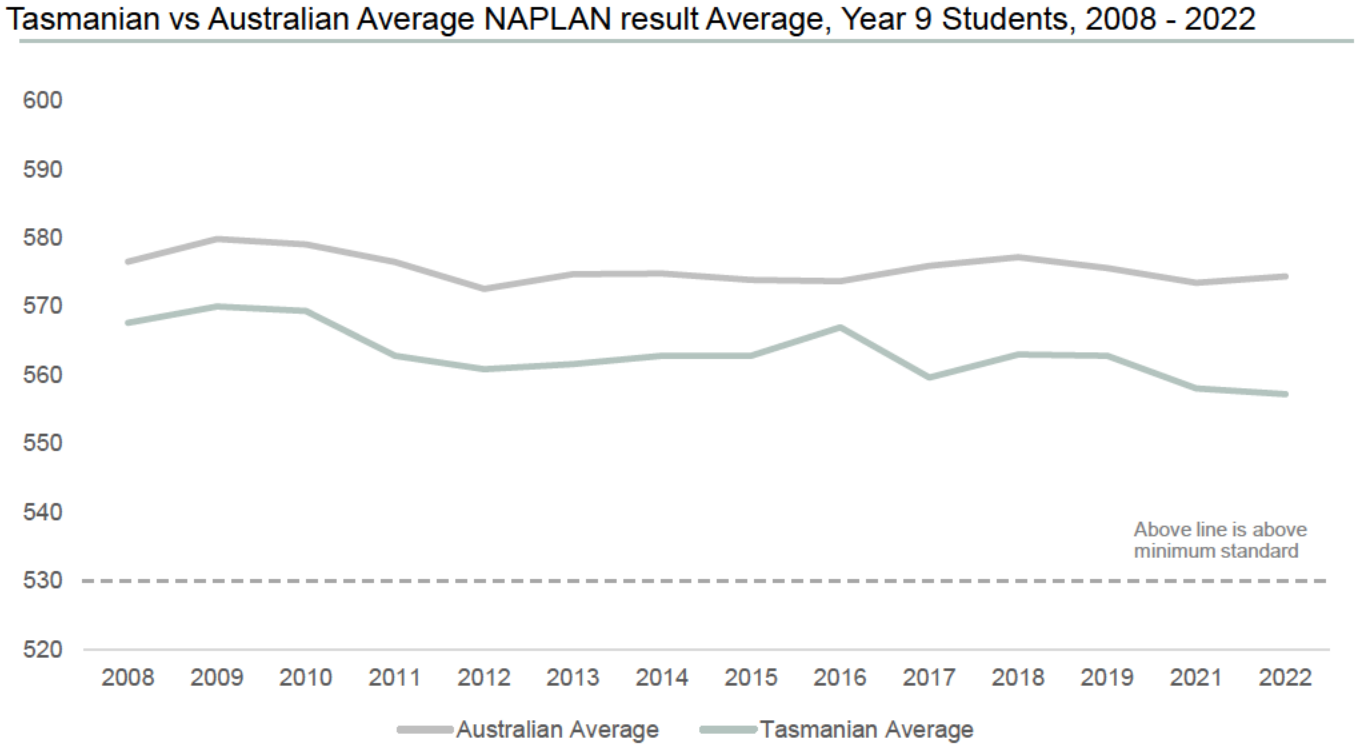
** Estimates based on population size from 2021 census for 24-34 year olds and bachelor completion rates for the current 25-34 year old cohort. Does not include 9.3% estimated decline in population of 25-34 year olds between 2022 and 2050 as per ABS medium population projections for Tasmania

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



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..

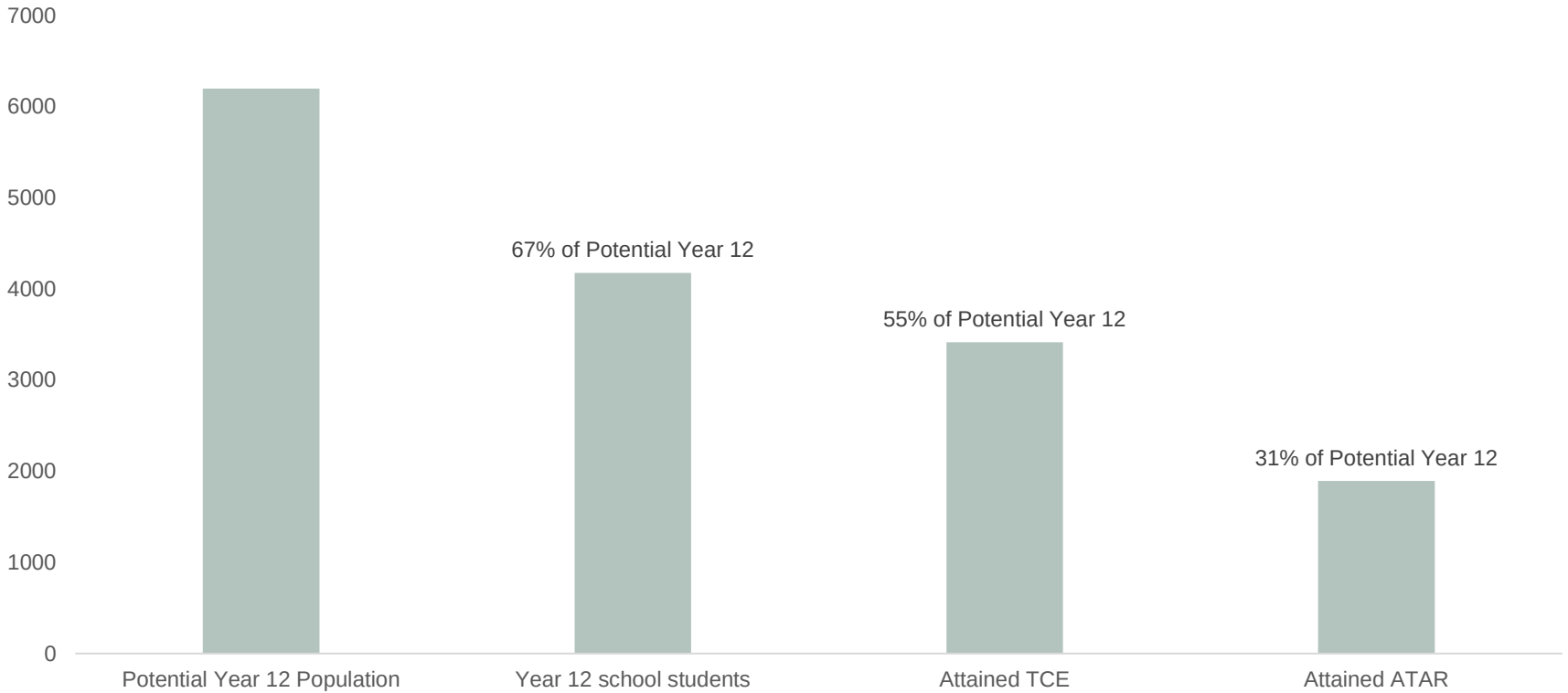
This needs to start in our schools where Tasmanian students are less prepared, with NAPLAN results consistently below the Australian average



- 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 is difference between Tasmanians and Australia represents being approximately half a year behind the rest of Australia

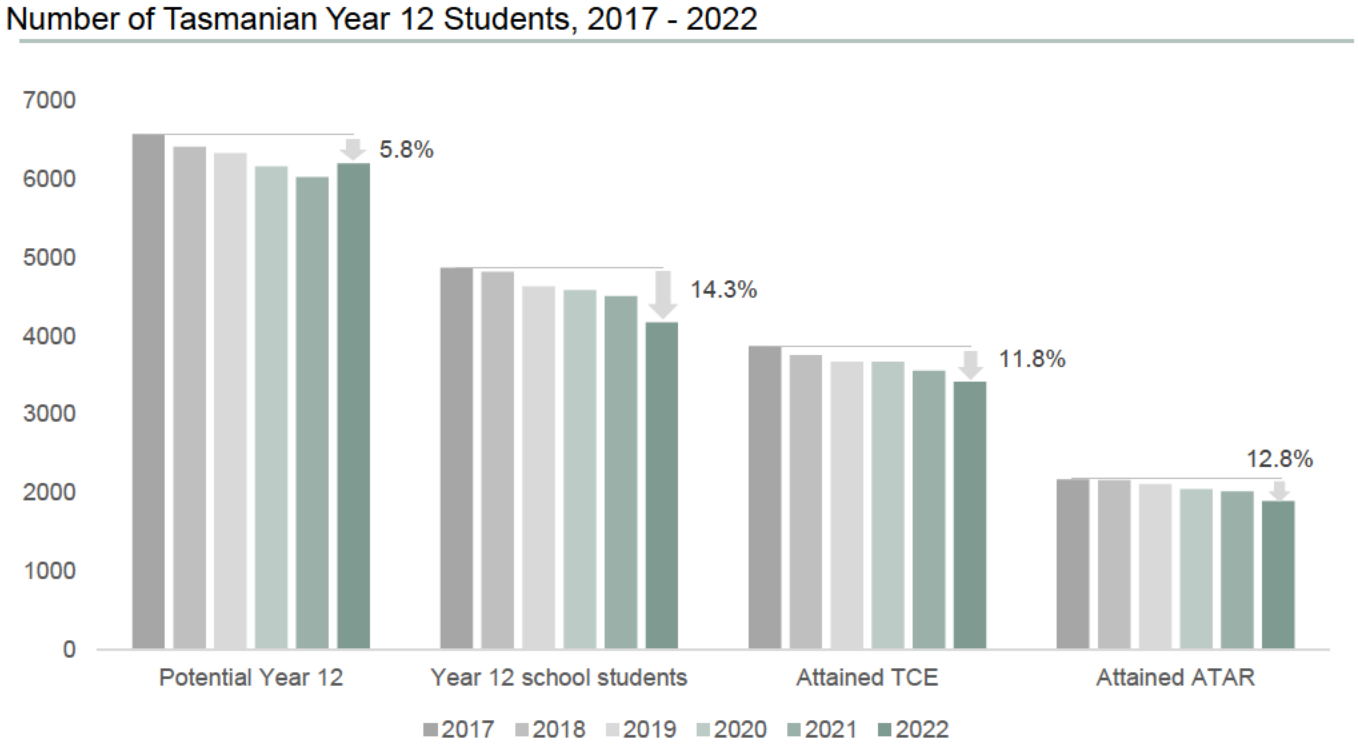
https://www.acara.edu.au/reporting/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia/naplan-national-results. NAPLAN results averaged over the five competency areas

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.

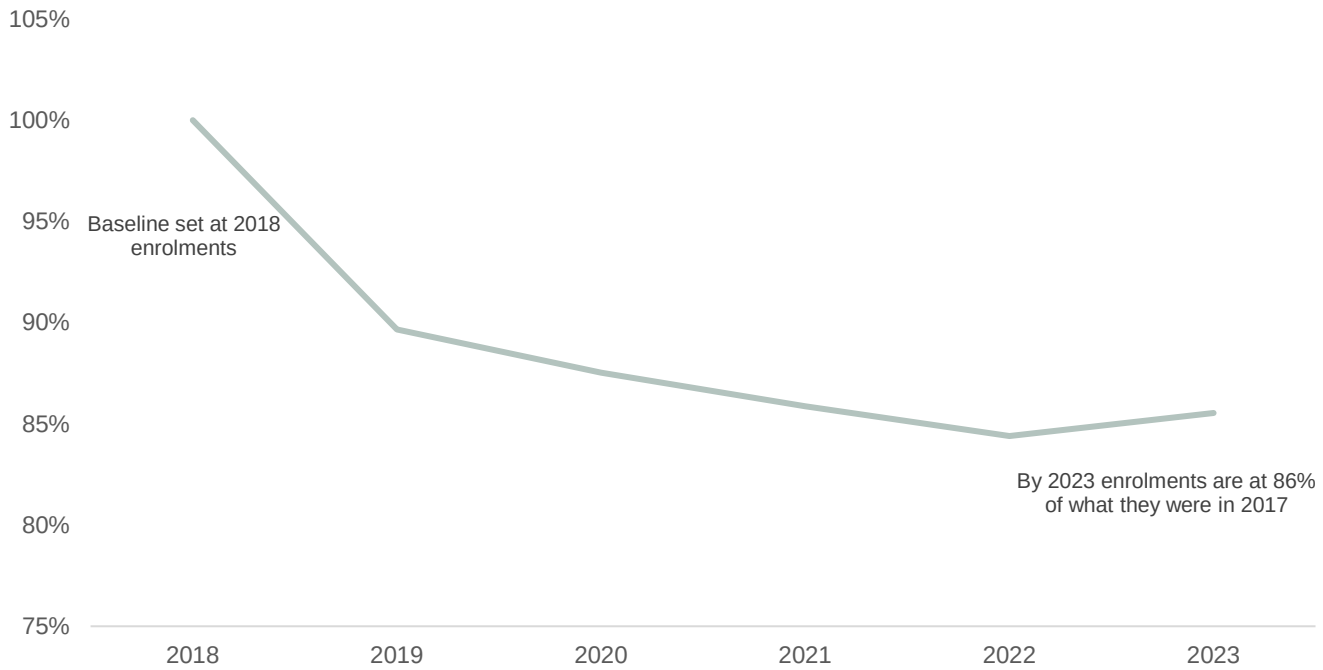
What is more concerning is that these completion rates have been in decline



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.

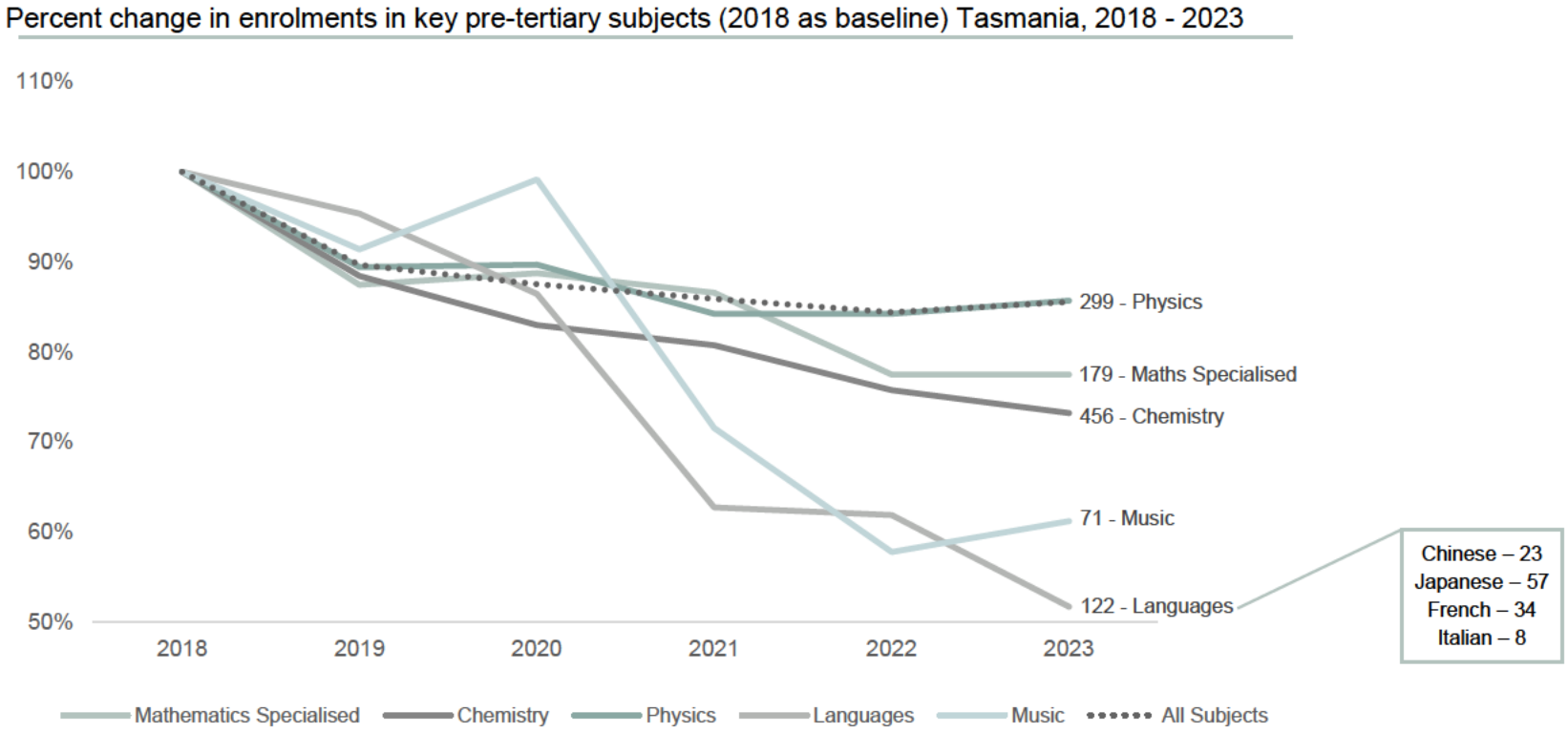
Even those completing year 12 are studying fewer of the subjects needed for university admission. Since just 2018 this has fallen 14 percentage points.

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.



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

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.

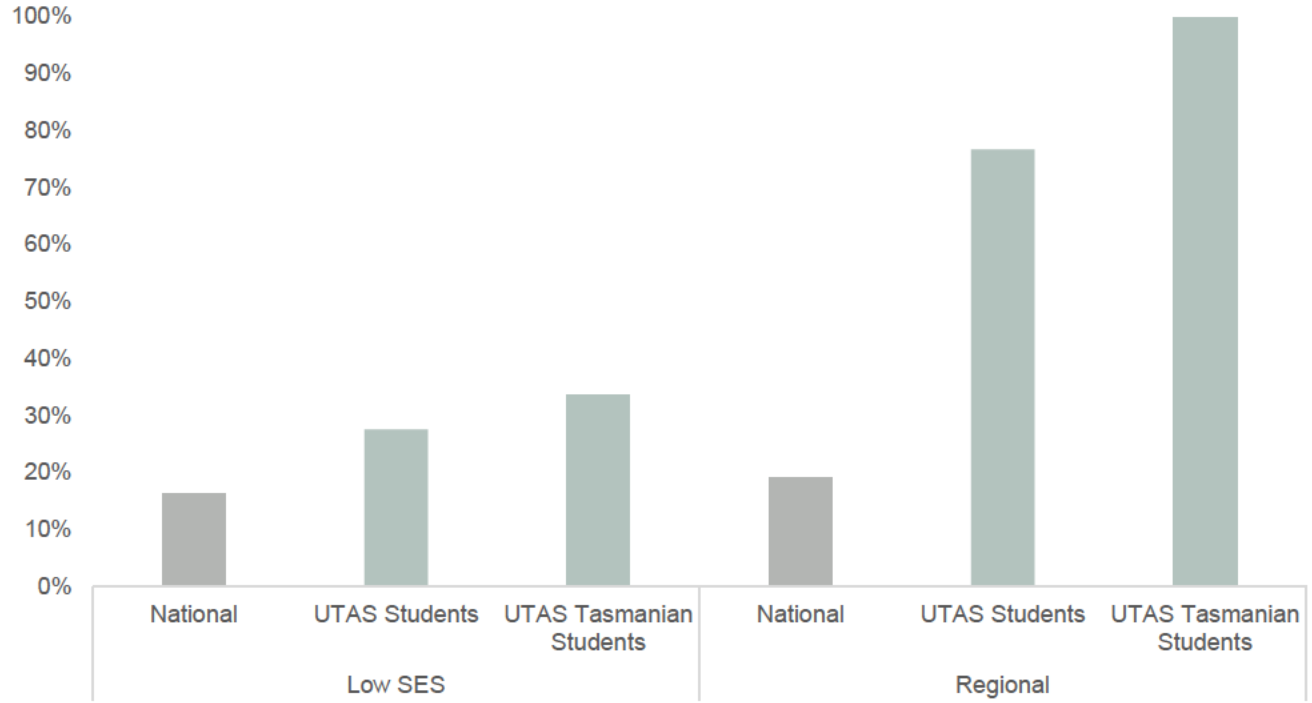
To create an equitable and economically prosperous future, the Australian Universities Accord sets a shift from a mass to a universal education system, accessible to more people.

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)

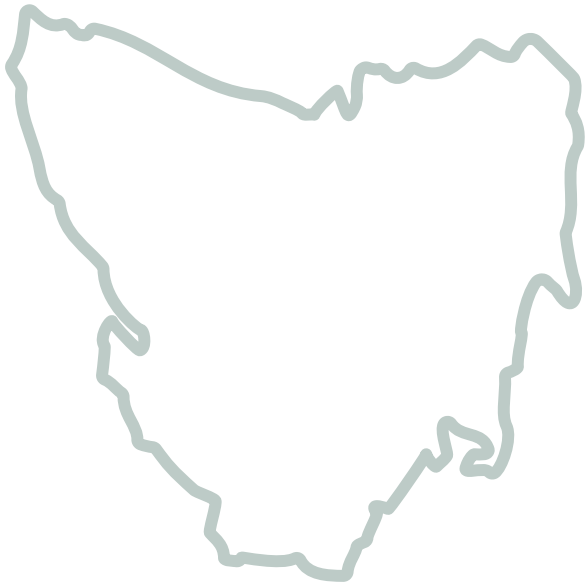


Menzies Institute for Medical Research



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

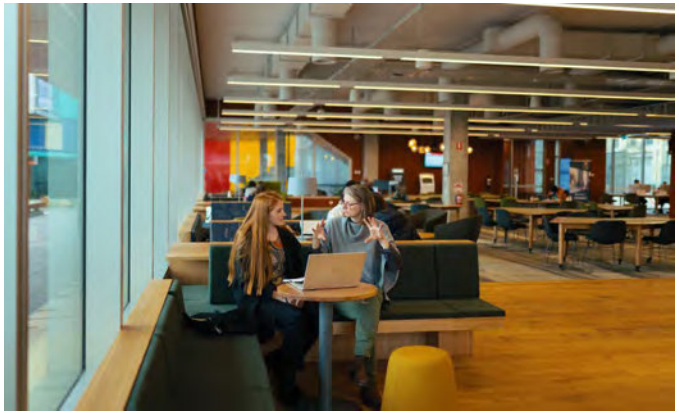


#1 in Climate Action globally

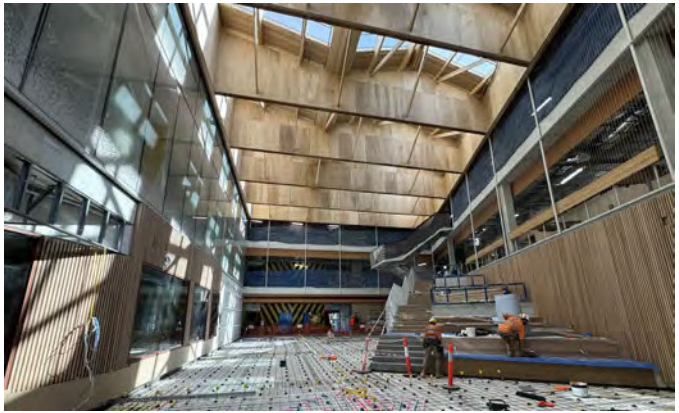
#5 in the world overall

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.

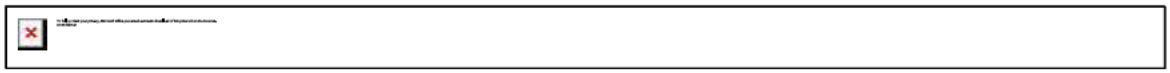
This will transform lives and the future for our State.



Victoria Geason

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

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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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Outlook

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

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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.

Outlook

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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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.

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].

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 is 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



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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

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA
AMC
Australian Maritime College

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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 loverly 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)



Outlook

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

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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-p5el2g] 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



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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*

Outlook

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 .

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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.



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 review[1]) 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://soossymposium2023.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 disproportionally 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 Initiate 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 adaption. 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 adaption, 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 review[2]) 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 Chancelor 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 Virgina 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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UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

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 Viriginia Tech (US) and University of Rhode Island (US).

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

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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.

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UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

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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UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

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.

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

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.

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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 *Stage 1*			$58.5M *Stage 2*
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 *Stage 1*			$84M *Stage 2*

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

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.

Outlook

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 value[1].

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.

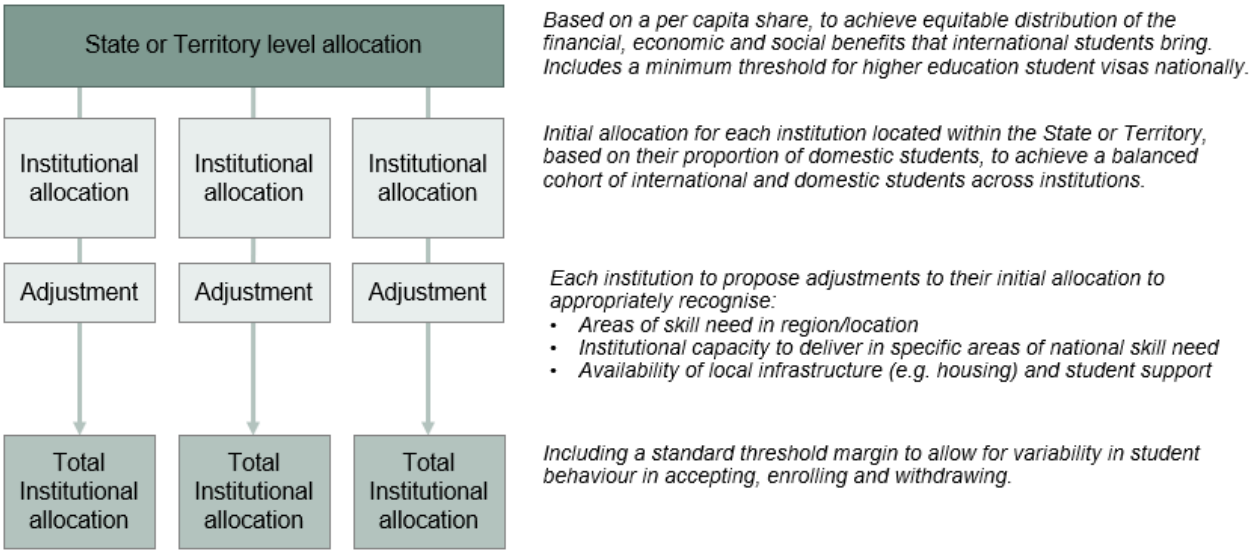
At the University of Tasmania, we support a managed approach and consider it has the potential to achieve the government's intention of lower migration, while delivering more equitable national distribution.

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.aph.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.

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

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.

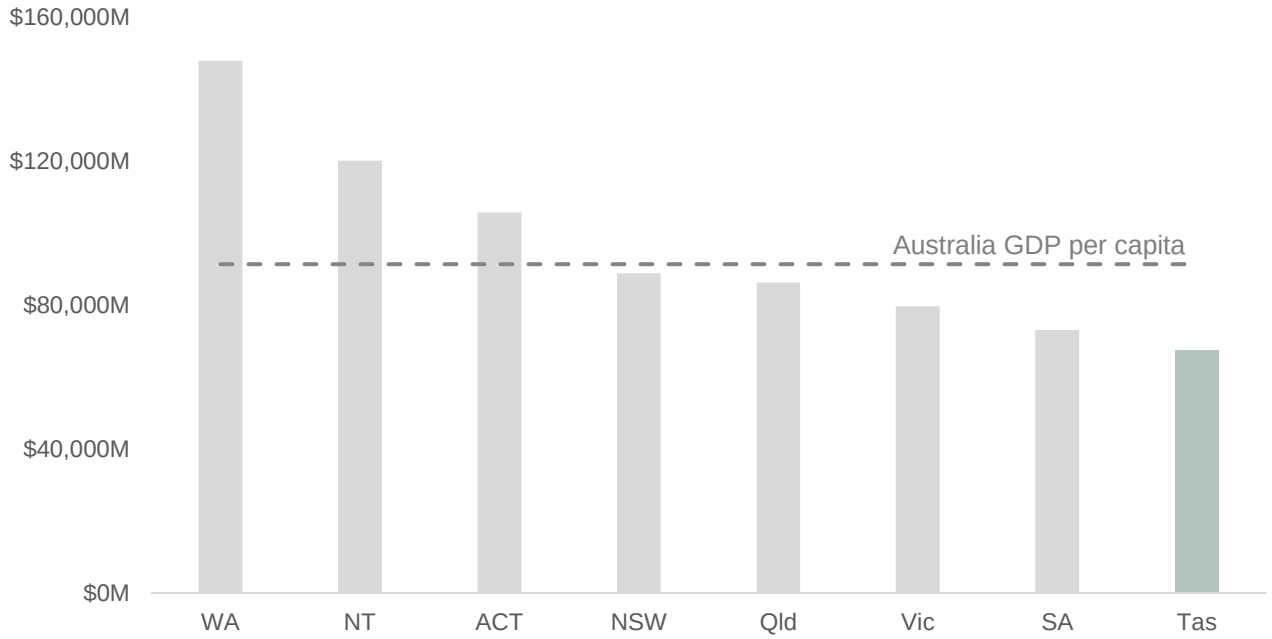
Tasmania already has a shortage of people with the required STEM education and skills.

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)

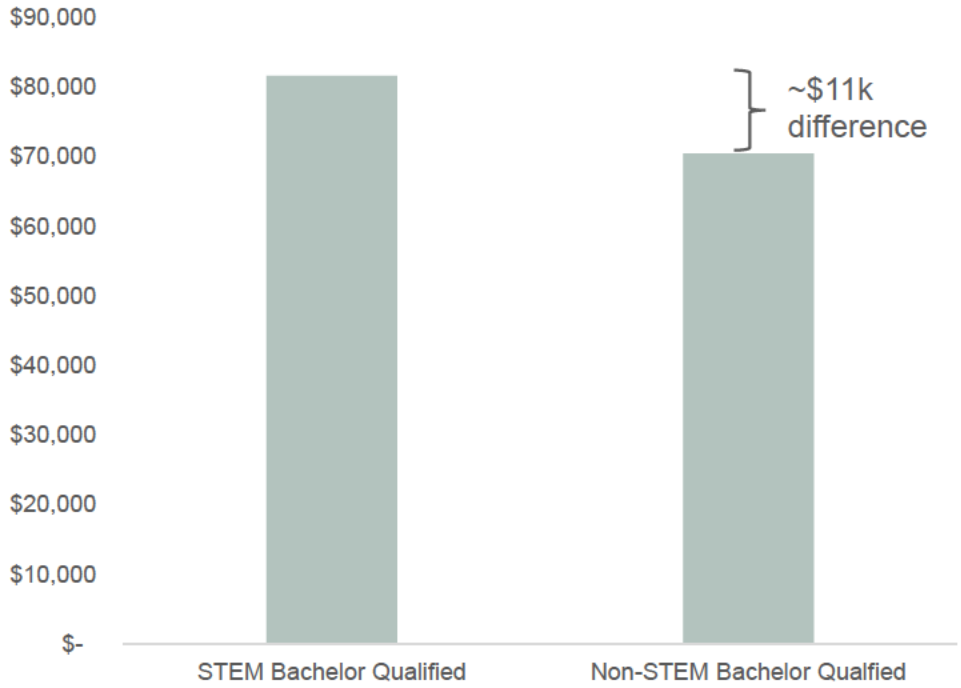


- Productivity growth is the key driver of real wage growth and rising living standards over the long term.
- Multiple studies highlight the correlation between STEM skills and productivity, with one European study showing that every 1 percentage point increase in the share of high-skilled STEM workers 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

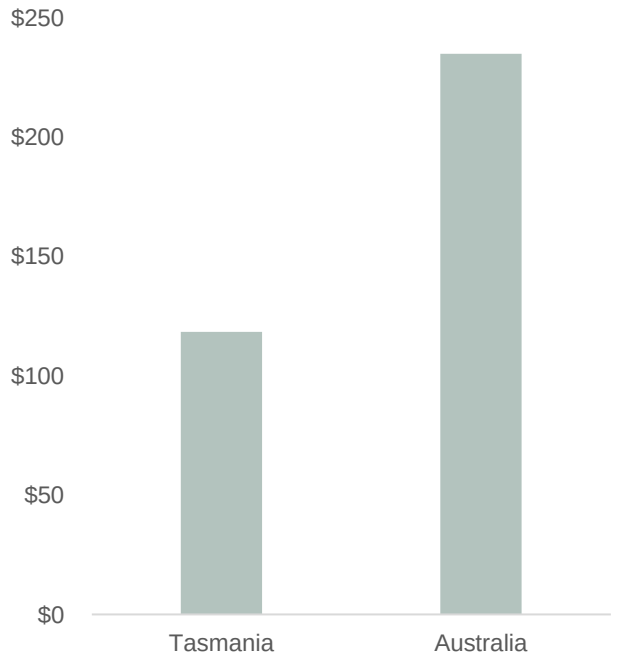


It is estimated that a 1% increase in the STEM workforce would generate a $1.2B increase in Tasmanian GSP over the next 20 years.

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.

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 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.

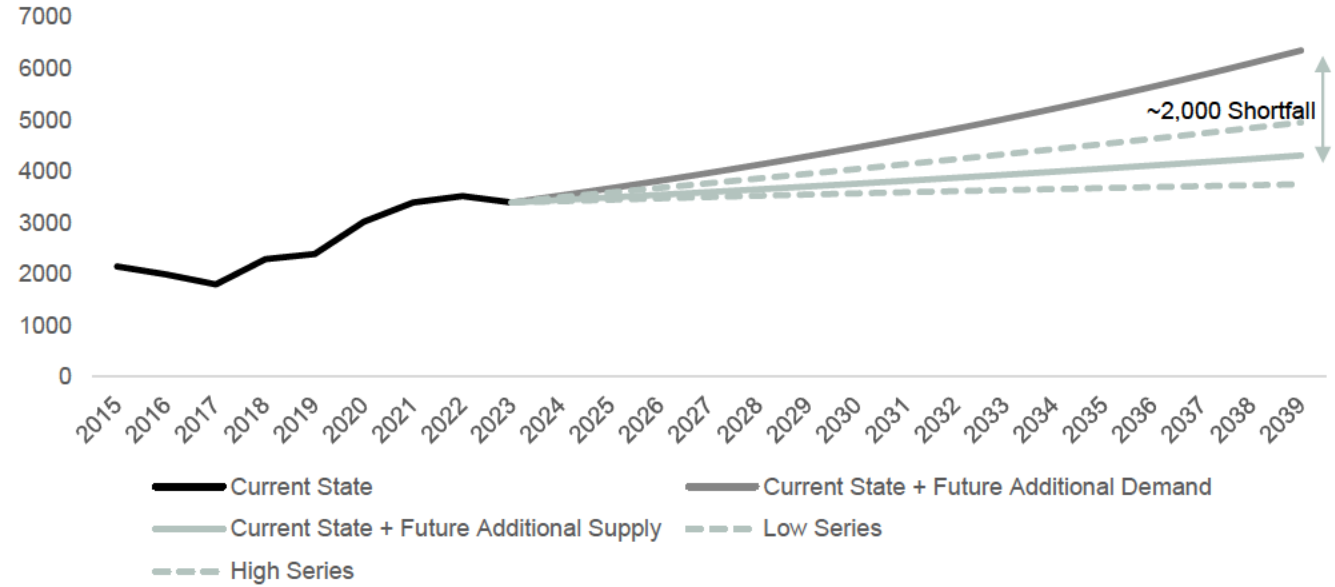


Agriculture

- 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.



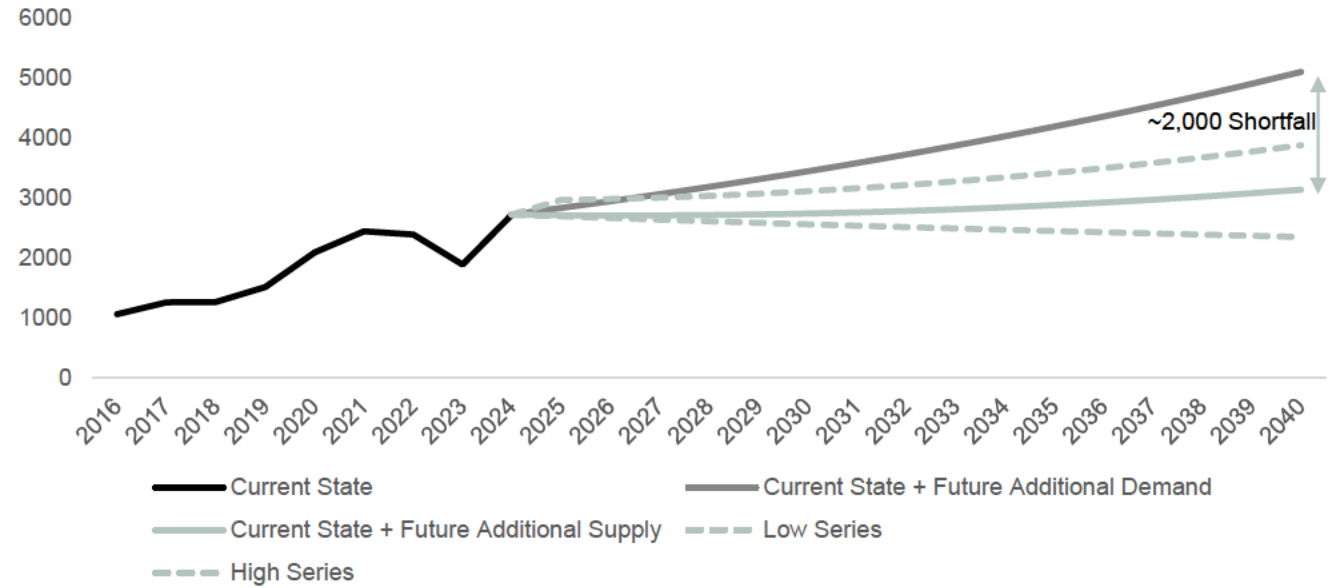
And more qualified workers with specialist IT skills

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.

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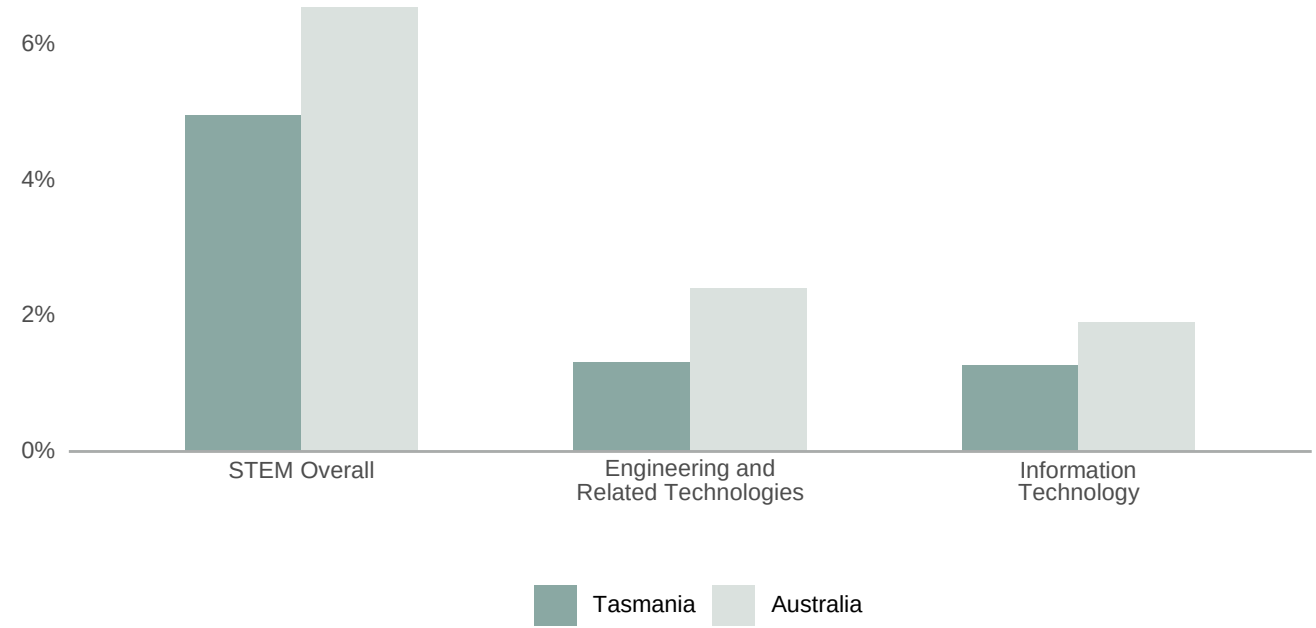
Tasmania already has a shortage of people with the required STEM education and skills.

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.

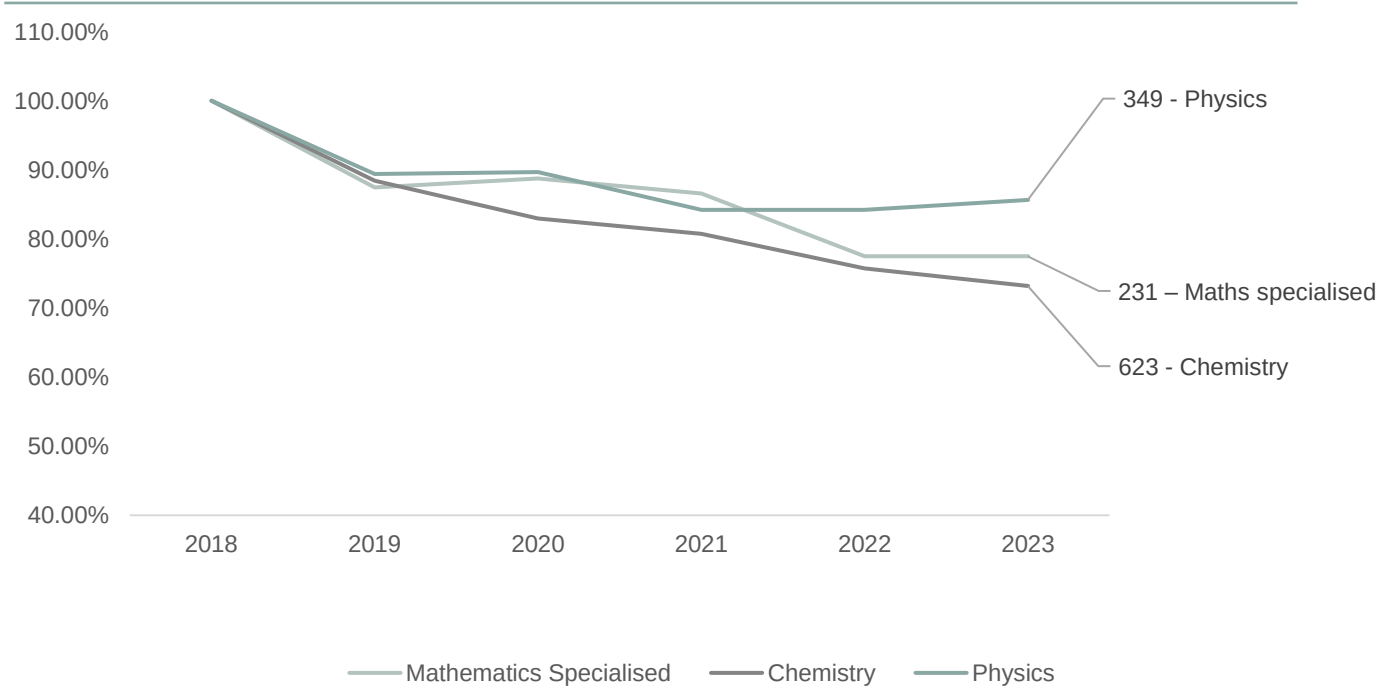
Percent of 15-64 year olds with Bachelor or above qualification in key STEM fields



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

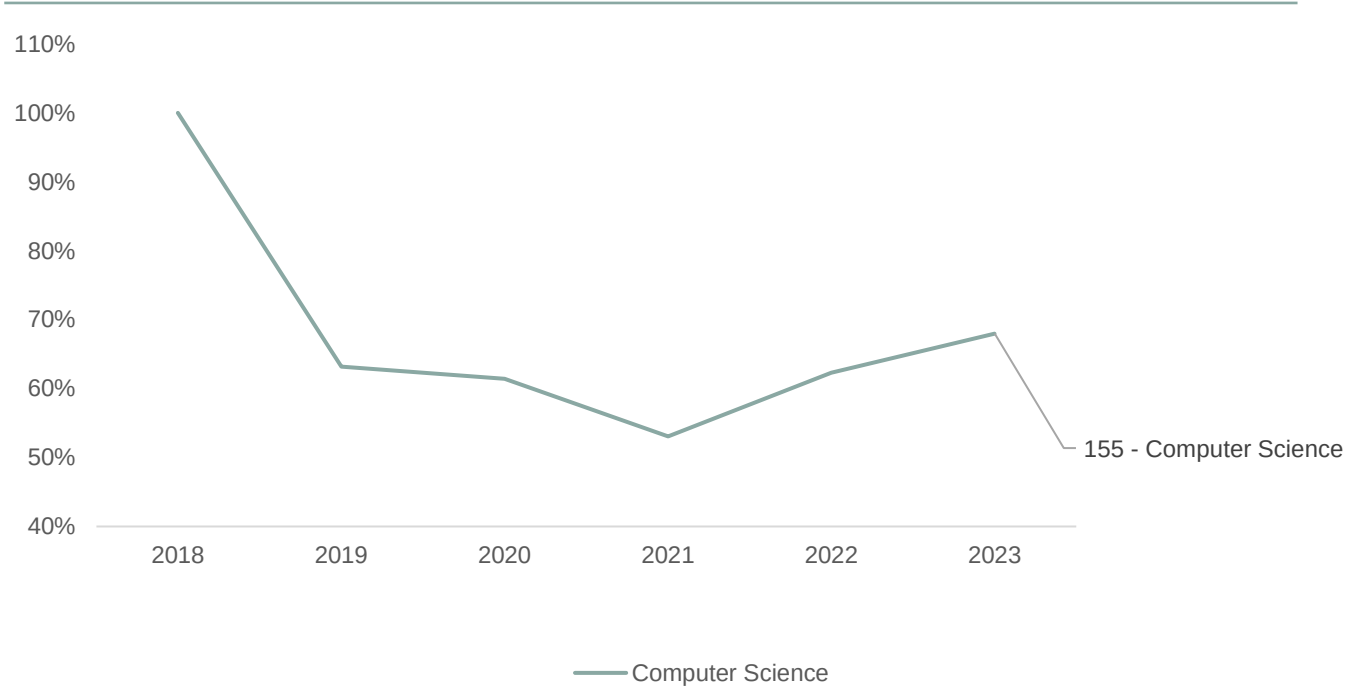


- In 2023 of the ~1,100 maths teachers in Tasmanian schools only ~500 had specialist qualifications.
- Of the ~1,300 science teachers working in Tasmanian schools, only ~900 were specialists.
- Student enrolments in STEM teaching qualifications is not enough to fill this gap, or to replace existing teachers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

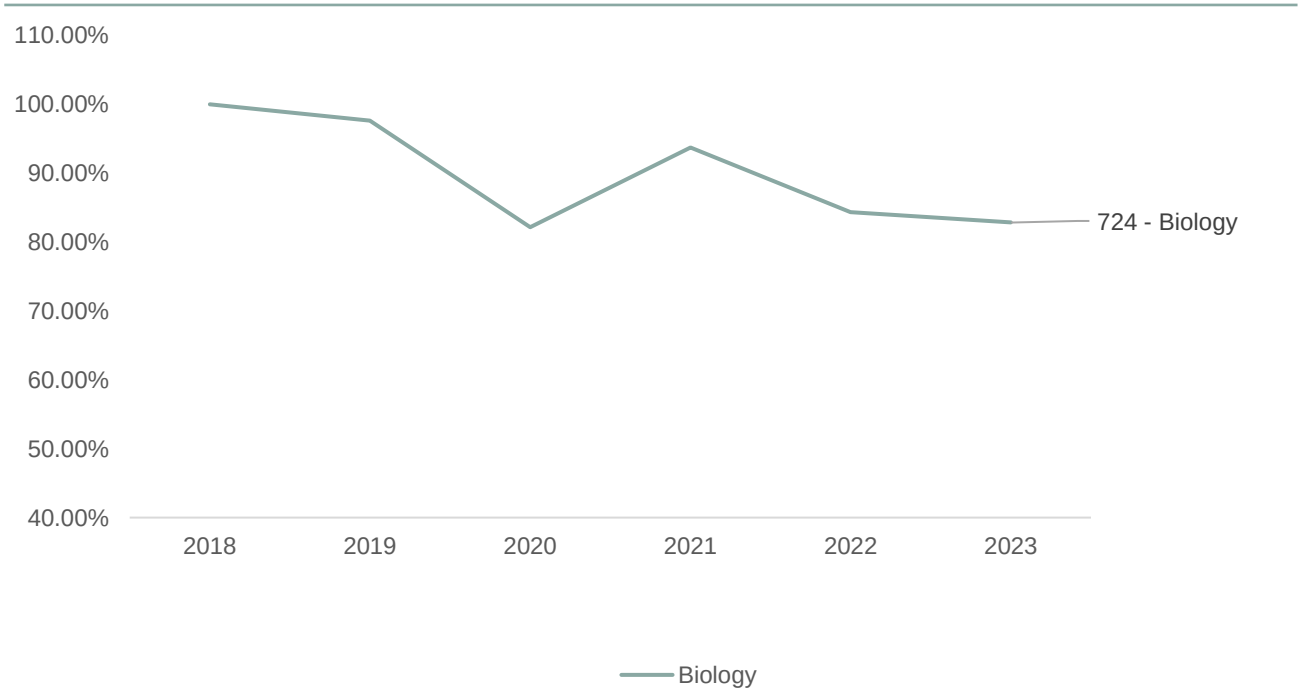
Percent change in enrolments in selected pre-tertiary STEM subjects (2018 as baseline)
Tasmania, 2018 - 2023



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.

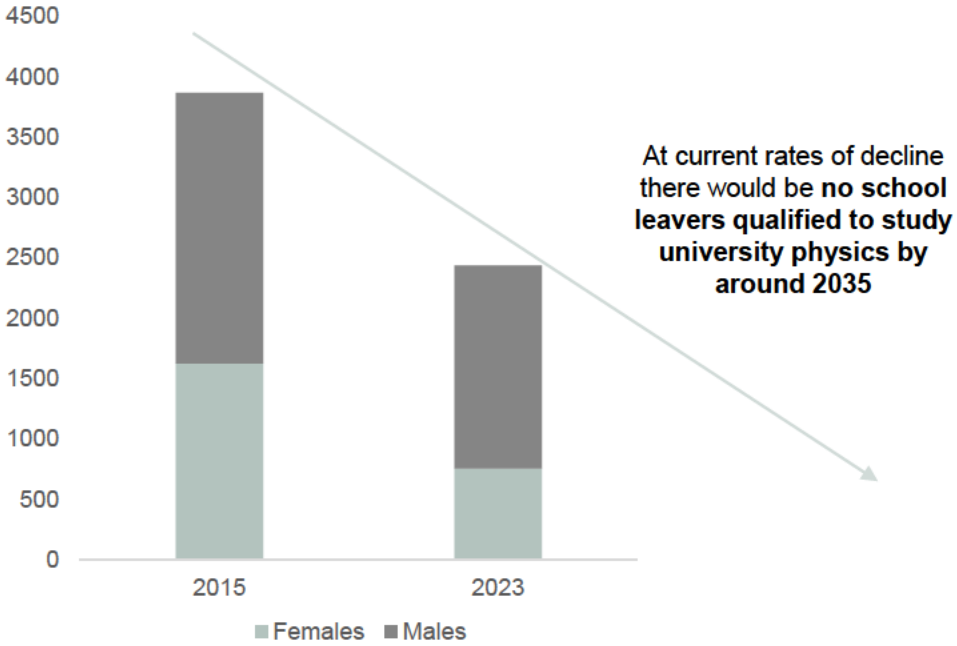
Percent change in enrolments in selected pre-tertiary STEM subjects (2018 as baseline)
Tasmania, 2018 - 2023



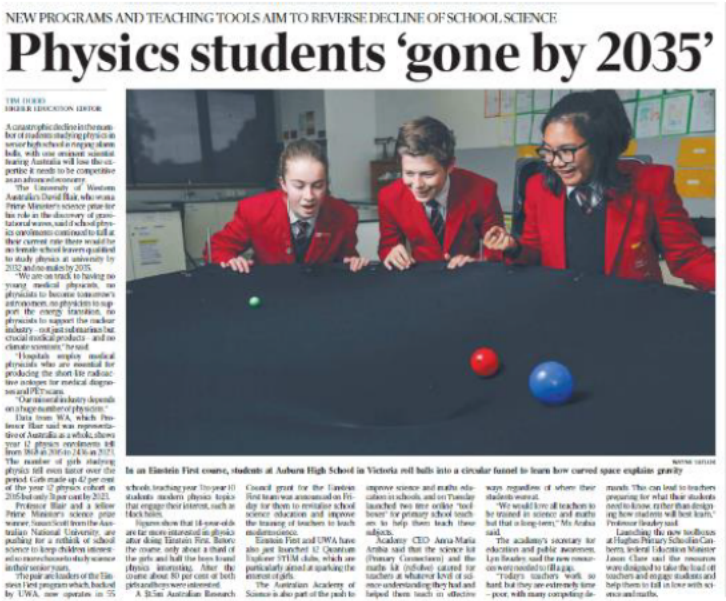
TASC Course Scaling Data, 2018 – 2023, Figures are indexed to 2018 levels; absolute enrolment numbers for 2023 shown beside the class title

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

Western Australian year 12 physics enrolments, 2015 & 2023



At current rates of decline there would be **no school leavers qualified to study university physics by around 2035**



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

Physics students 'gone by 2035'

TIM TODD
HIGHER EDUCATION EDITOR

A catastrophic decline in the number of students studying physics in senior high school is ringing alarm bells, with one eminent scientist fearing Australia will lose the expertise it needs to be competitive as an advanced economy.

The University of Western Australia's David Blair, who won a Prime Minister's science prize for his role in the discovery of gravitational waves, said if school physics enrolments continued to fall at their current rate there would be no female school leavers qualified to study physics at university by 2032 and no males by 2035.

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

"Hospitals employ medical physicists who are essential for producing the short-life radioactive isotopes for medical diagnosis and PET scans.

"Our mineral industry depends on a huge number of physicists."

Data from WA, which Professor Blair said was representative of Australia as a whole, shows year 12 physics enrolments fell from 3868 in 2004 to 2436 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 2004 but only 31 per cent by 2023.

Professor Blair and a fellow Prime Minister's science prize winner, Susan Scott from the Australian National University, are pushing for a rethink of school science to keep children interested so more choose to study science in their senior years.

The pair are leaders of the Einstein First program which, backed by UWA, now operates in 55 schools teaching year 10 to year 10 students modern physics topics that engage their interest, such as black holes.

Figures show that 16-year-olds are far more interested in physics after doing Einstein First. Before the course, only about a third of the girls and half the boys found physics interesting. After the course about 80 per cent of both girls and boys were interested.

A $15m Australian Research Council grant for the Einstein First team was announced on Friday for them to revitalise school science education and improve the training of teachers to teach modern science.

Einstein First and UWA have also just launched 12 Quantum Explorer STEM clubs, which are particularly aimed at sparking the interest of girls.

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 "toolboxes" for primary school teachers to help them teach these subjects.

Academy CEO Anna Maria Arabia said that the science kit (Primary Connections) and the maths kit (nPower) catered for teachers at whatever level of science understanding they had and helped them teach in effective ways regardless of where their students started.

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

The academy's secretary for education and public awareness, Lyn Beazley, said the new resources were needed to fill a gap.

"Today's teachers work so hard but they are extremely time – poor, with many competing demands. This can lead to teachers preparing for what their students need to know, rather than designing how students will best learn," Professor Beazley said.

Launching the new toolboxes at Hughes Primary School in Canberra, federal Education Minister Jason Clare said the resources were designed to take the load off teachers and engage students and help them to fall in love with science and maths.

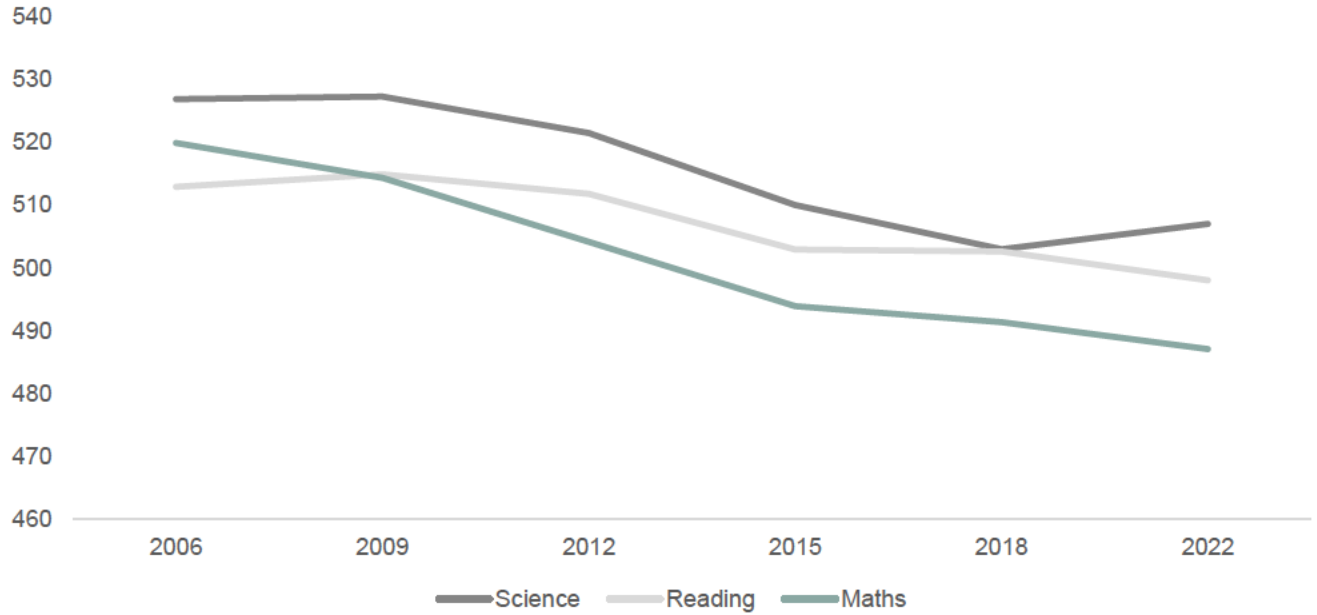
In an Einstein First course, students at Auburn High School in Victoria roll balls into a circular funnel to learn how curved space explains gravity

WAYNE TAYLOR

Source: The Australian | Physics students in catastrophic decline in senior high school

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



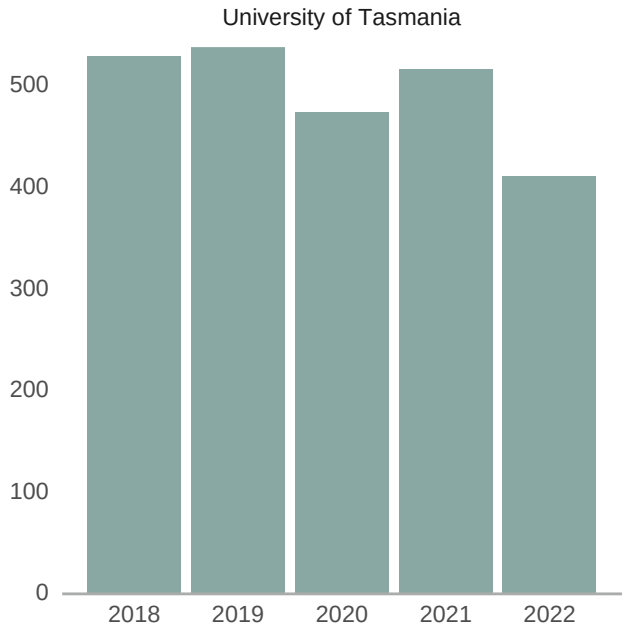
- Australia's performance has been declining relative to OECD overall.
- PISA averages from 2006 to 2018:

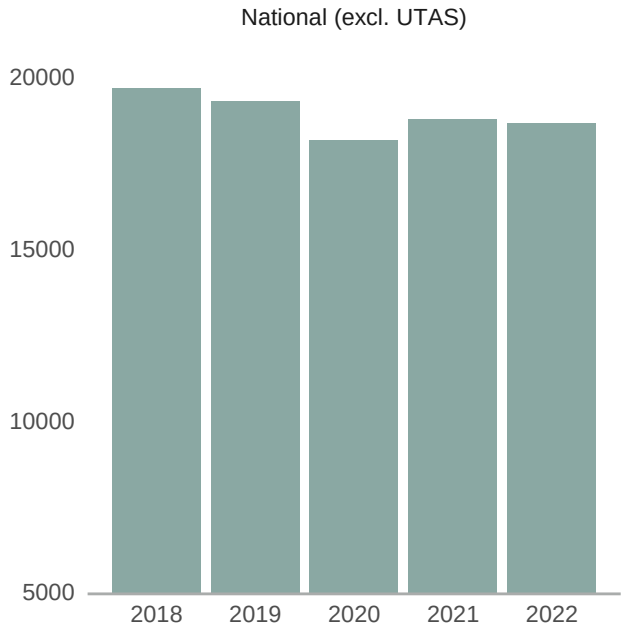
	Australia	OECD
Maths	- 5.5%	- 0.1%
Science	- 4.5%	- 1.6%

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,

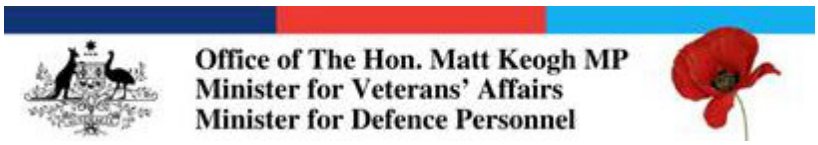
Unfortunately Minister Keogh is unavailable at this time.

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
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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Outlook

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

Having trouble viewing this email? View it in your browser



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
Private Bag 51, Hobart, TAS, 7001
T: +61 3 6226 2005
sso.office@utas.edu.au
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Outlook

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

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

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.

Outlook

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.

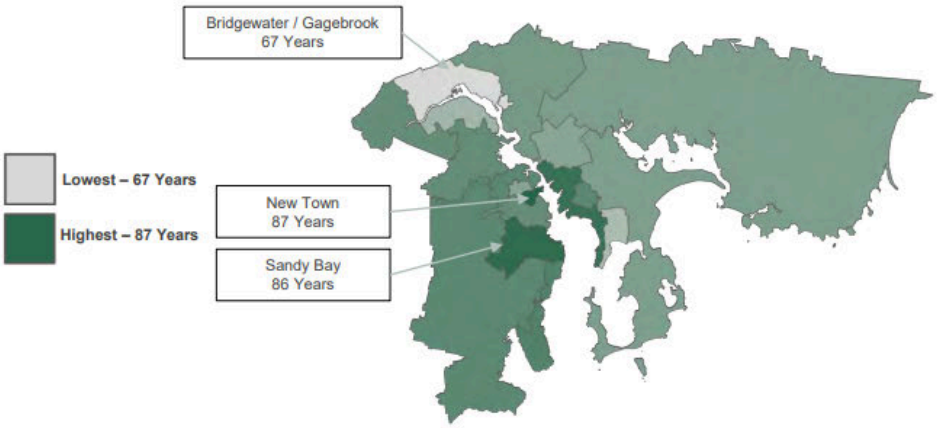
Please let me know what further information would be useful to you.

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

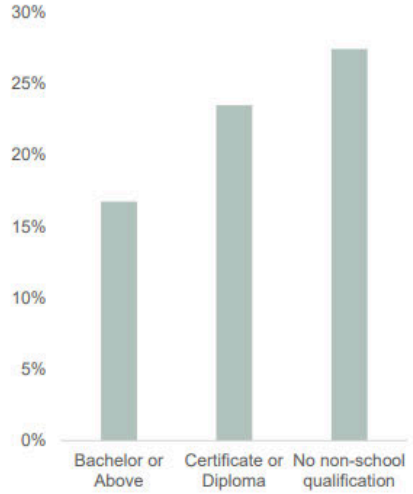


- The difference between Bridgewater and New Town or Sandy Bay is stark.
- For every kilometre you travel north away from Sandy Bay you effectively lose a year of life expectancy.
- It is like comparing one of the richest places in the world (Hong Kong - 85 years) with one of the poorest (Eritrea - 67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

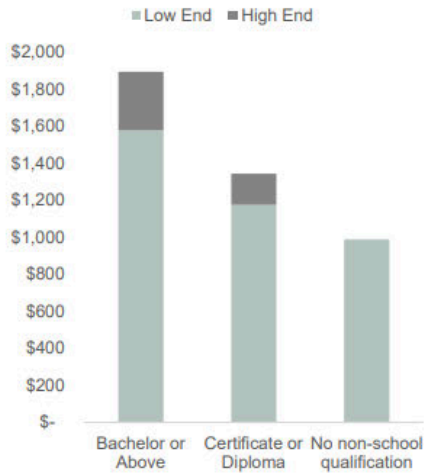
PHIDU, Social Health Altas of Australia: Population Health Areas, Median Age at Death by PHA, 2017 - 2021

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

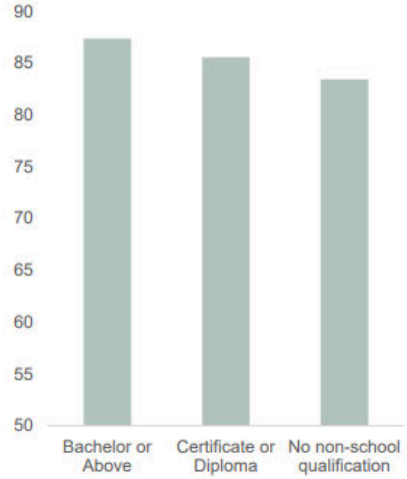
Rate of Selected Comorbidities*, National Health Survey 2011 - 12



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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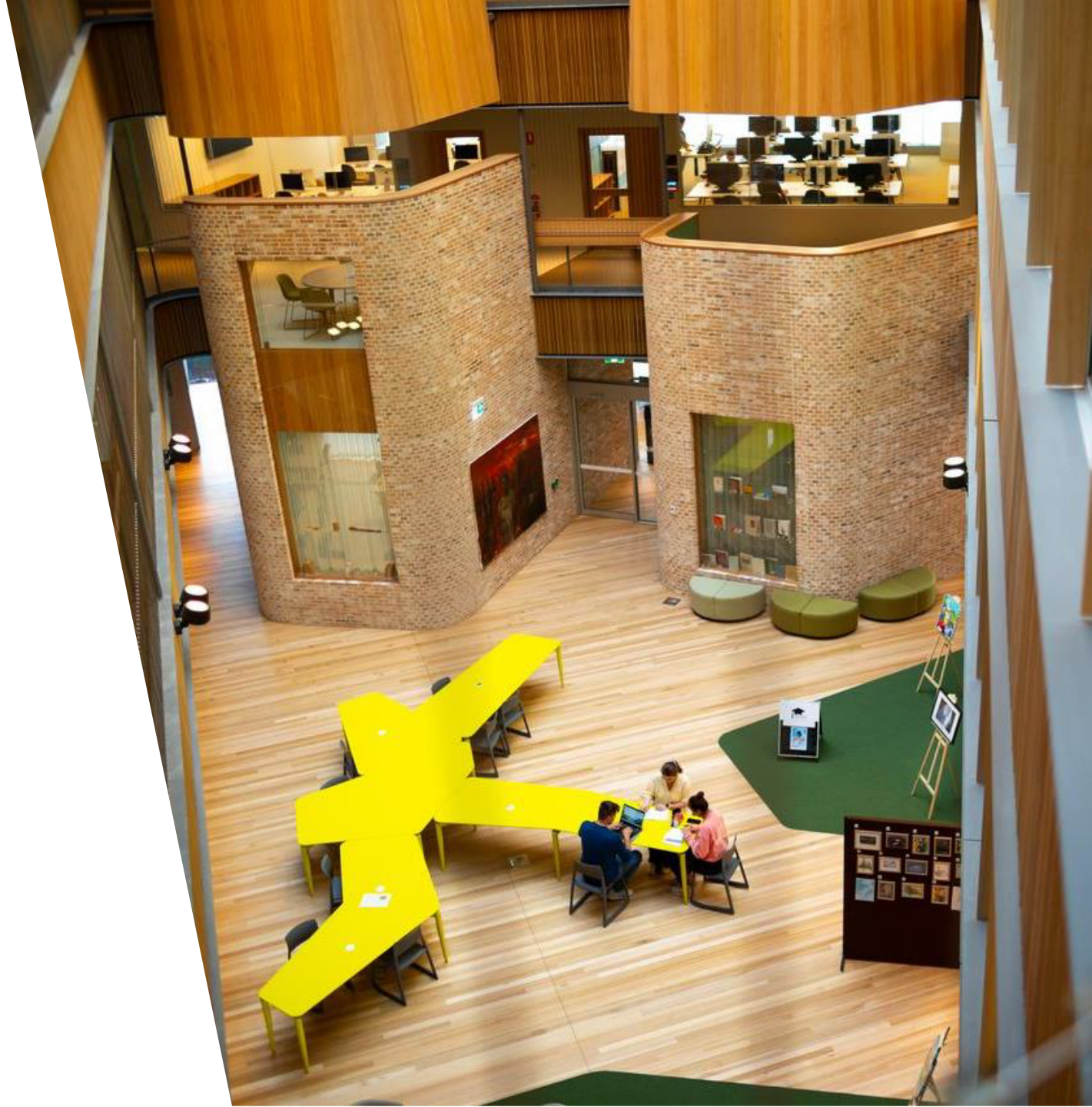
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Statewide Transformation Projects

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

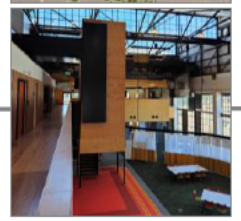


Inveresk Library $23m
2020 - 22



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

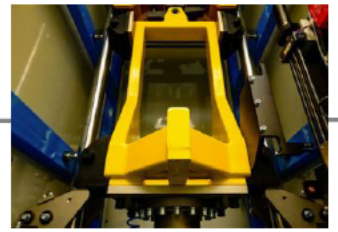




Stone Building $22m Workshop & Levee Studios $27m
2021 - 25



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 Taroona



Medical Sciences 1
$58m
2009 - 11



Medical Sciences 2
$90m
2011 - 13



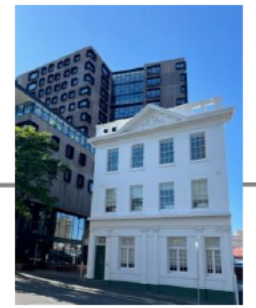
IMAS Salamanca
$45m
2012 - 14



Centenary building and Domain $17m
2015 - 16



Student Accom Hobart Apartments
$86m
2015 - 17



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



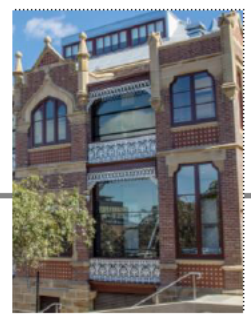
Podium building (fit-out)
$2.7m
2019 - 21



Hedberg
$115m
2019 - 21



Student Accom Hytten Hall
$78m
2019 - 2021



Philip Smith
$13.5m
2022 - 24

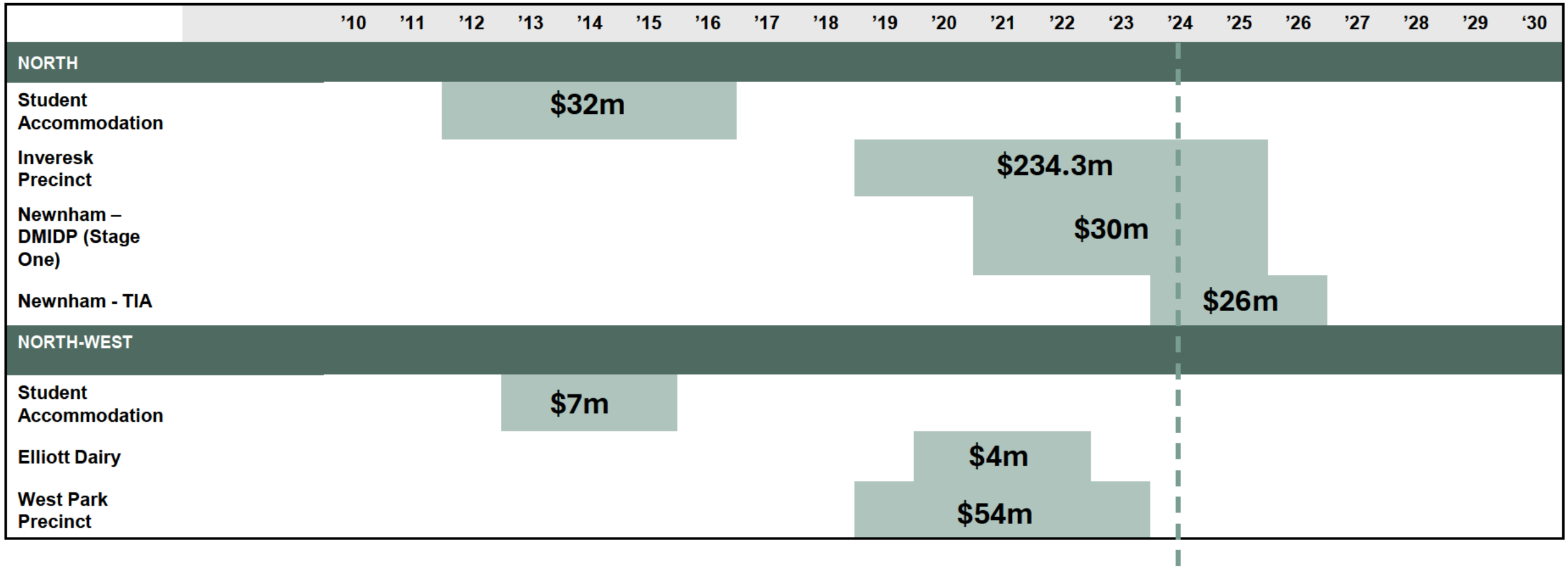


Forestry building
$131m
2023 - 26

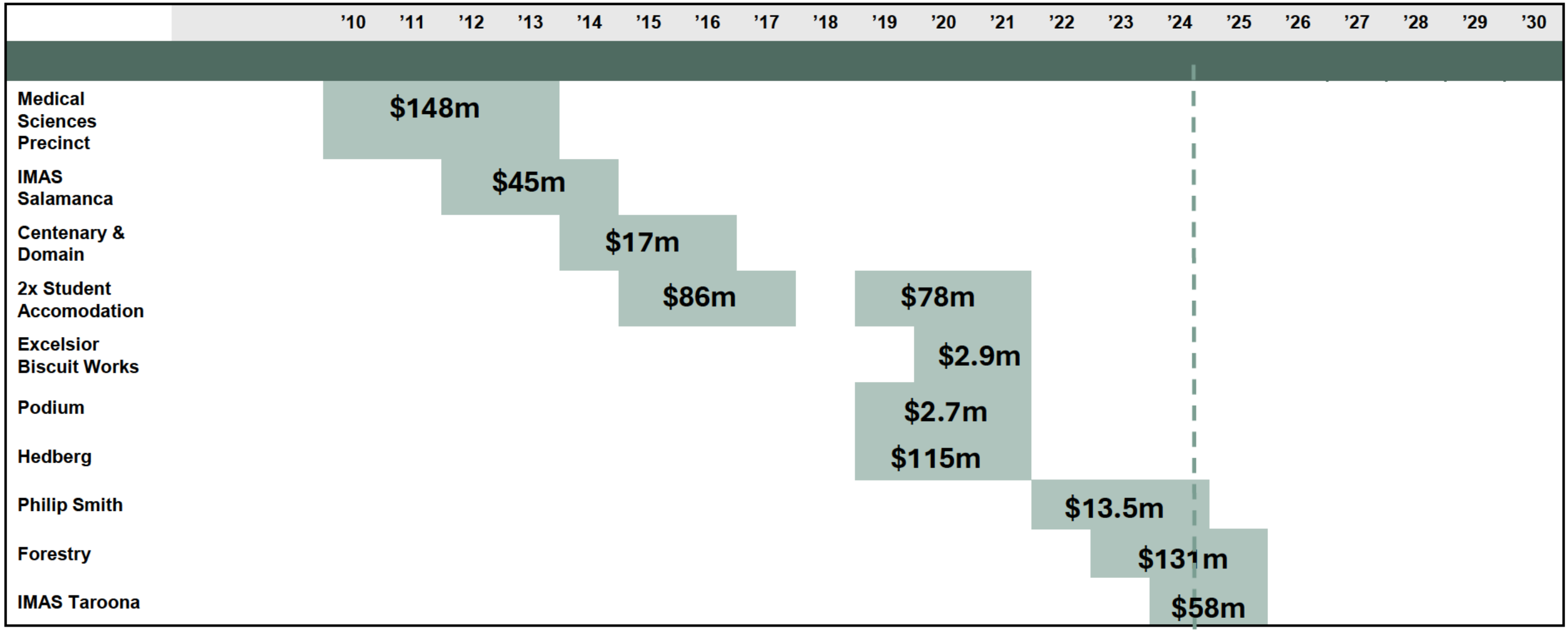


IMAS Taroona
$58m
2024 - 26

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

Outlook

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
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Victoria Geason

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

*Having trouble viewing this email? **View it in your browser***

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**
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Outlook

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
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0432 389 793

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Ben Wild
Director, Media

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

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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

University of Tasmania
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utas.edu.au

Outlook

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
T: +61 3 6226 2314
M: +61 427 299 733

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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, [redacted] and this bill creates uncertainty with regard to our ongoing funding arrangements which is of considerable concern to the Council.

In addition, [redacted]

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.

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E nicholas.farrelly@utas.edu.au

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,



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

Outlook

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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Victoria Geason

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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Outlook

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

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

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Outlook

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

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.

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.

UNIVERSITY of 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.

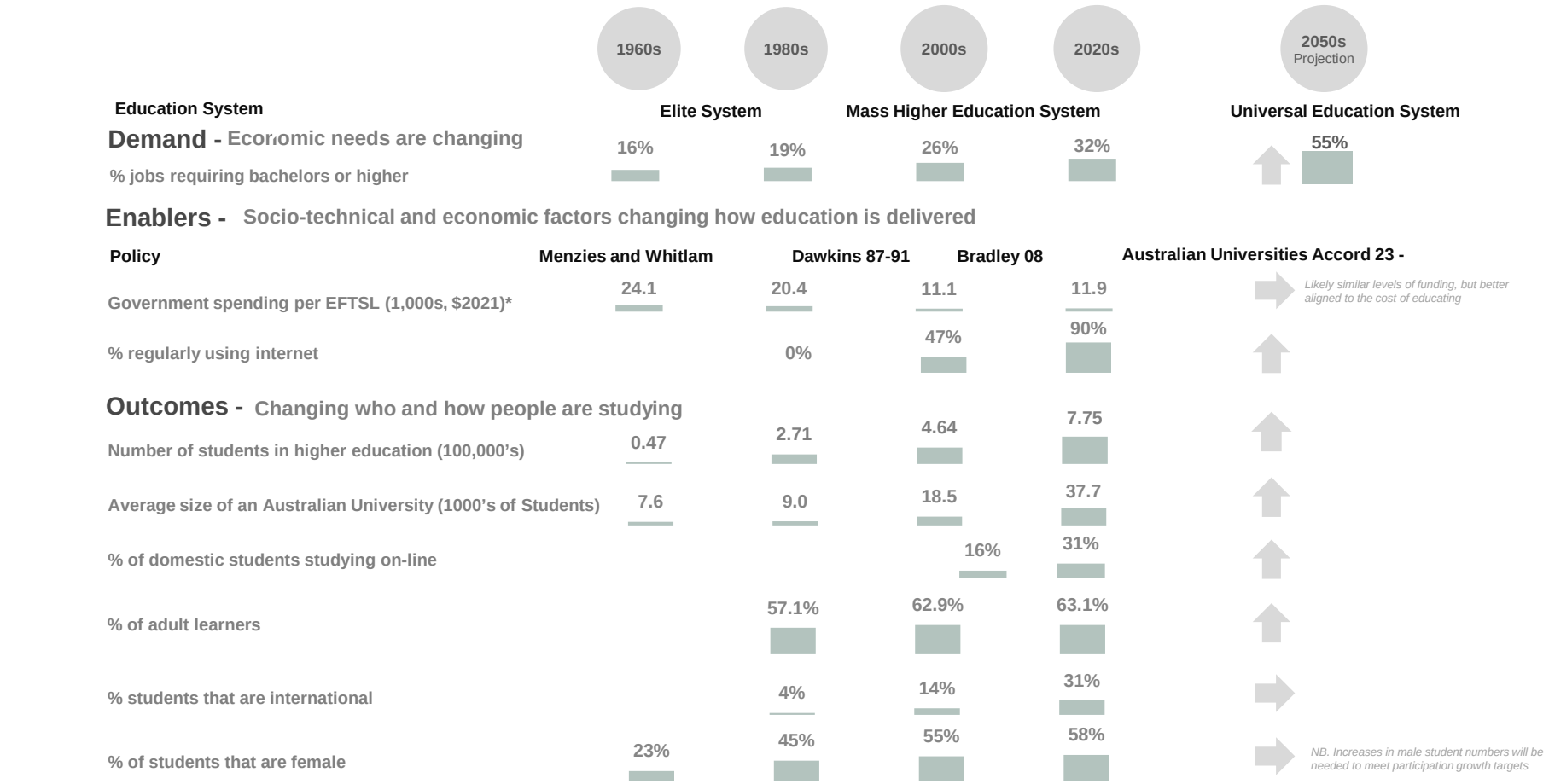
This shift has helped shape the University of Tasmania we see today: a high quality, high performing university with a larger and more diverse student population.

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.



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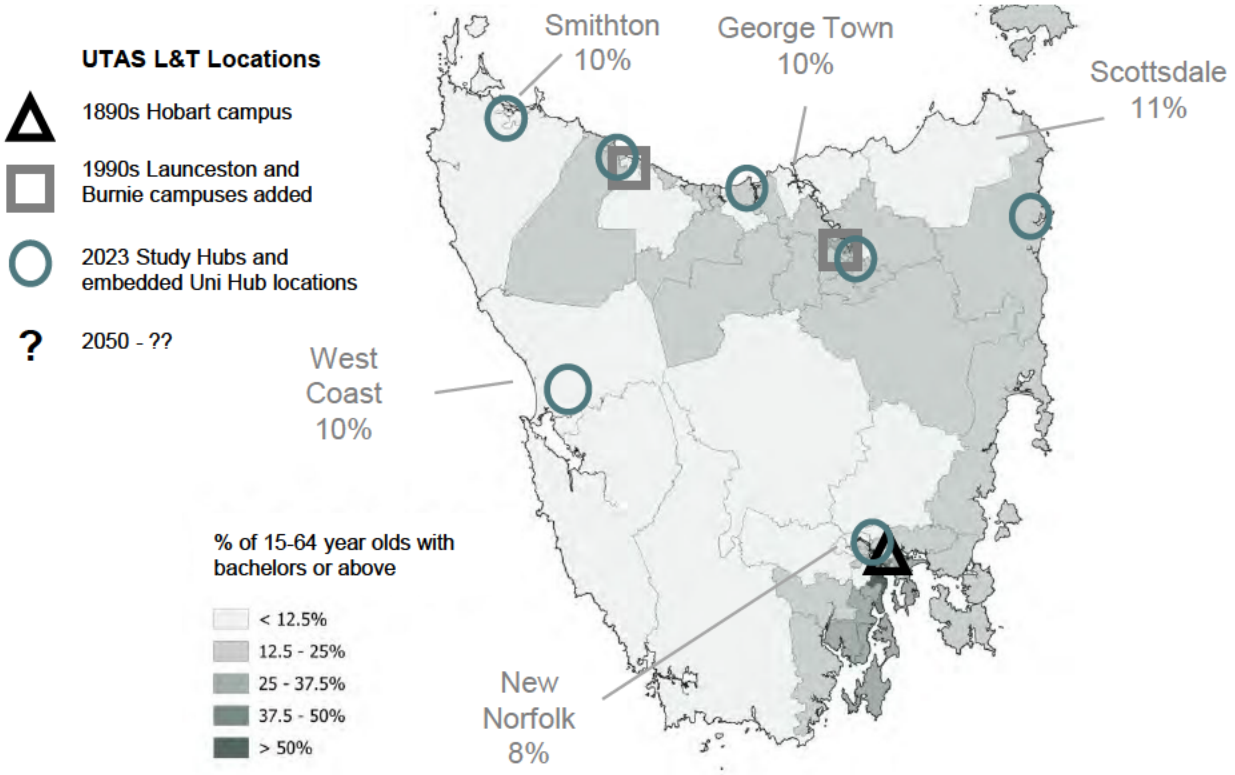
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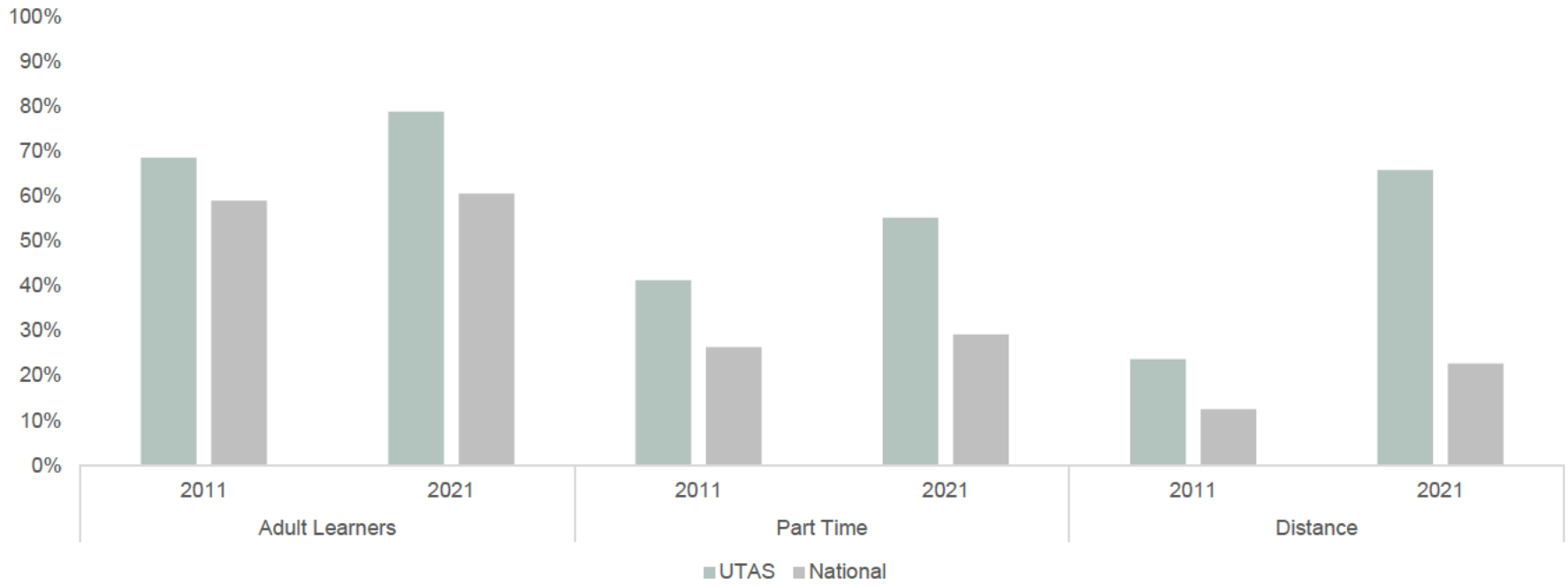
Increasing higher education participation has dramatically changed the footprint of universities like UTAS



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.

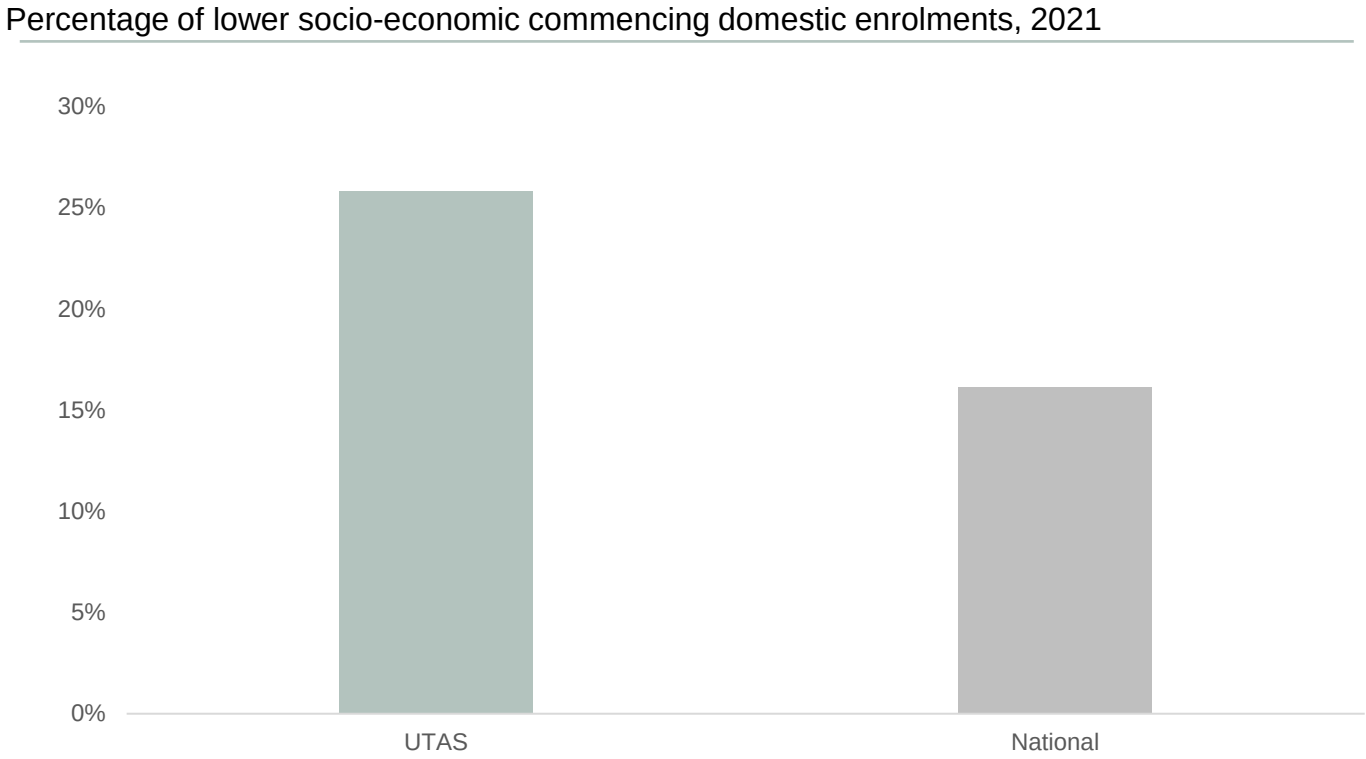
We have seen a significant growth in adult, part-time, on-line learners as we meet participation and critical mass objectives

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.

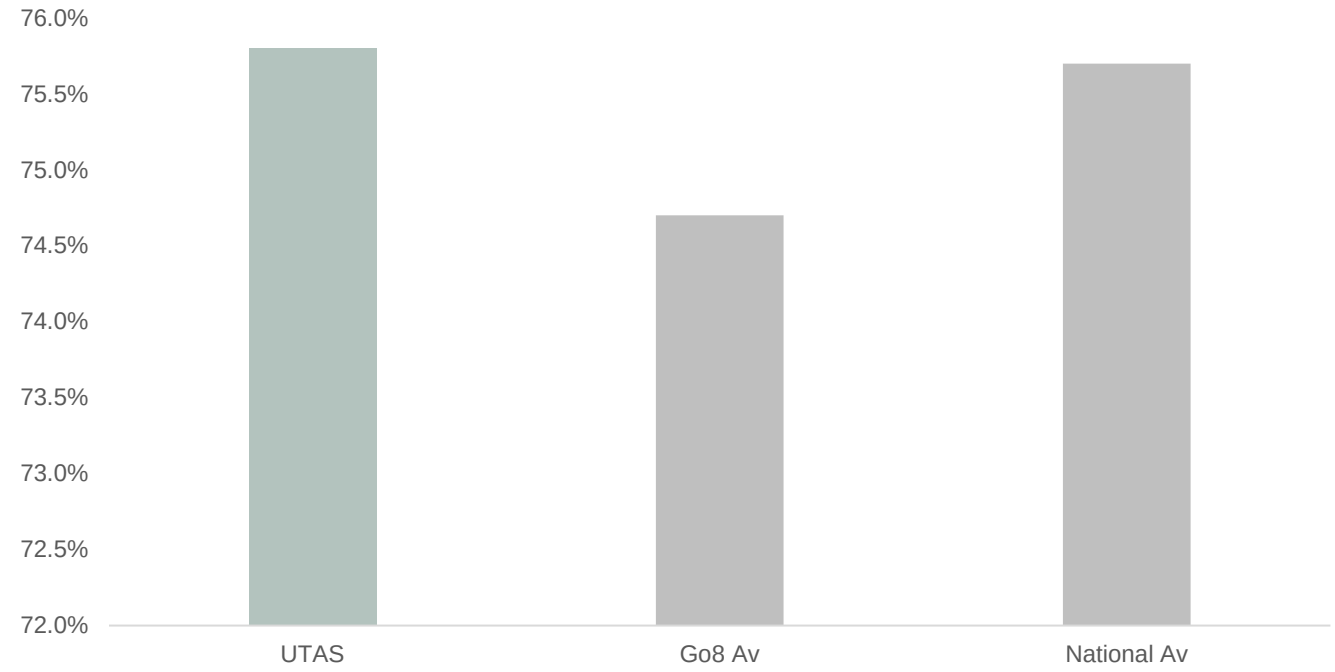
The University of Tasmania continues to educate a high rate of students from lower socio-economic backgrounds, particularly relative to the sector



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

We are doing well: Student experience

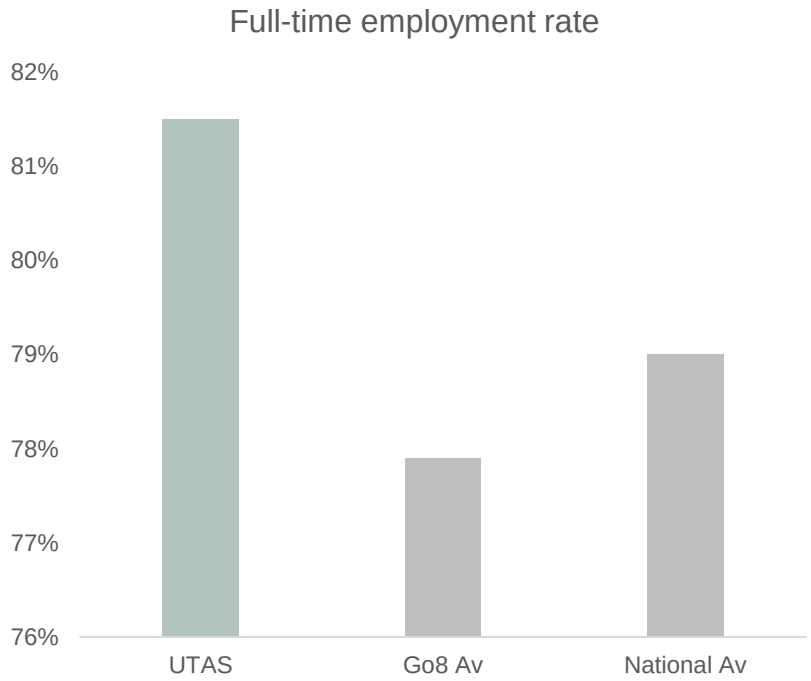
Student experience (% positive rating)

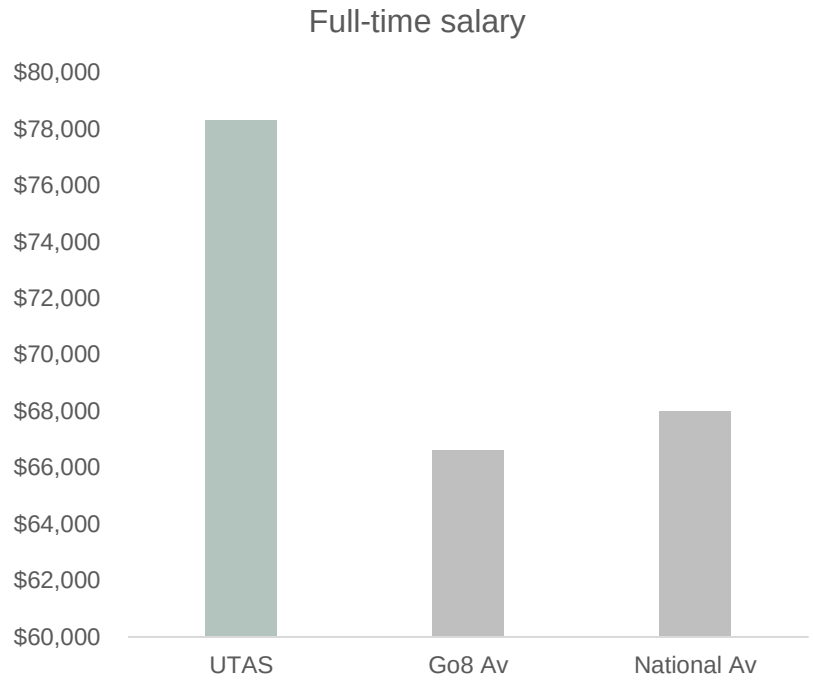


Source: 2022 Student Experience Survey, June 2023, QILT (Quality Indicators of Learning and Teaching)

We are doing well: Graduate outcomes

Graduate Outcomes Survey Performance

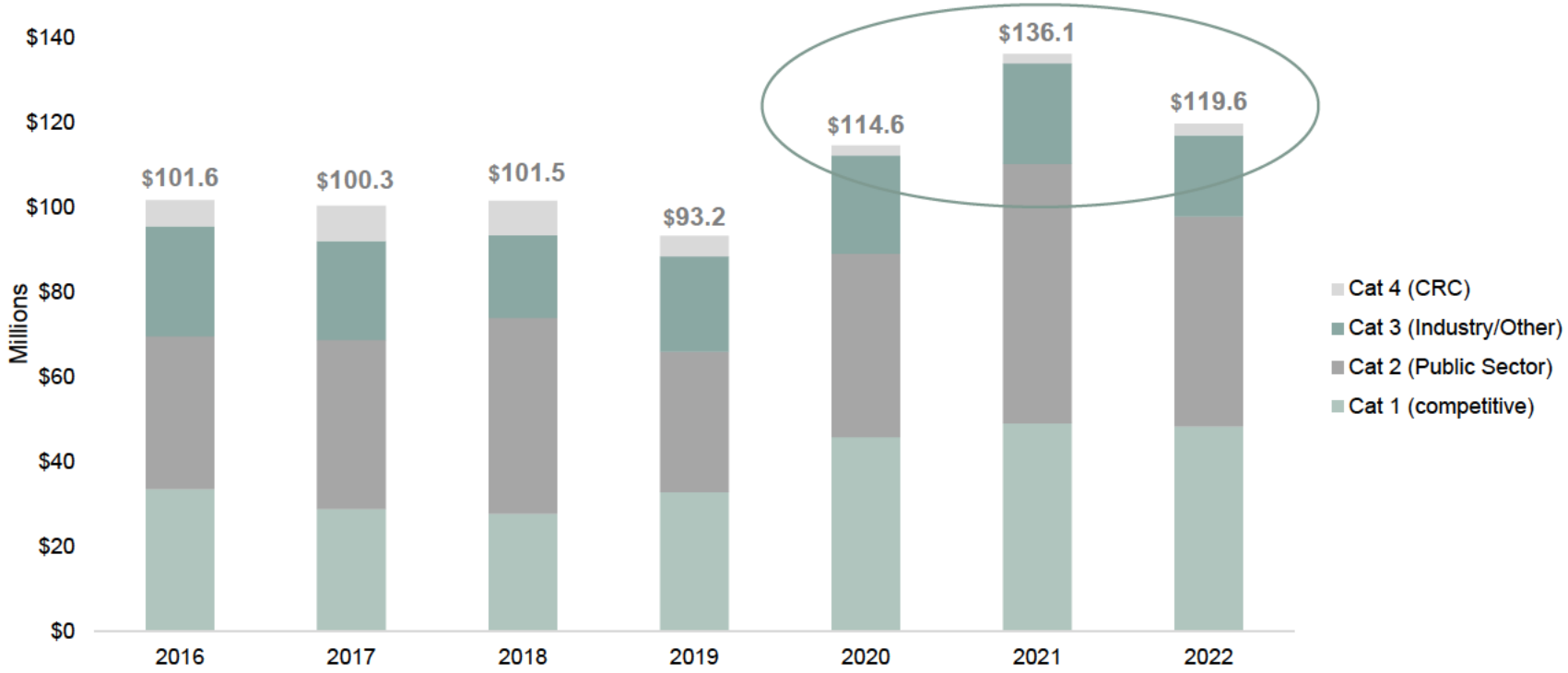




Source: 2022 Graduate Outcomes Survey, February 2023, QILT

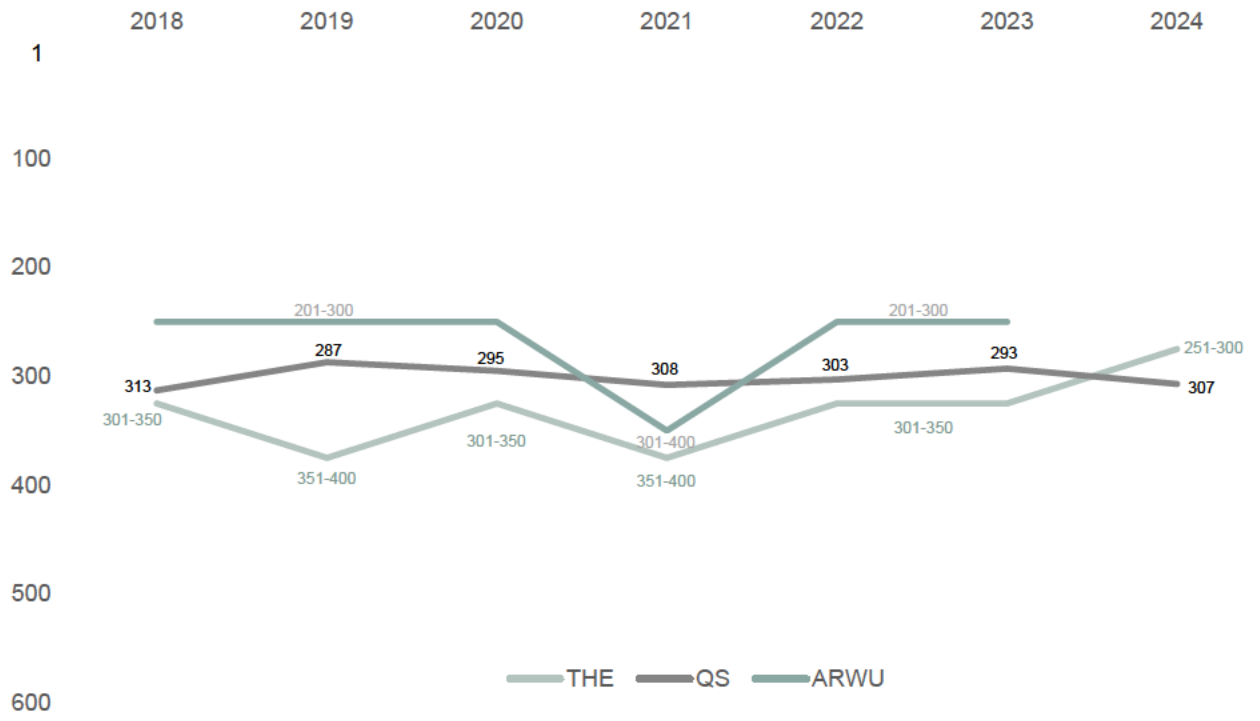
We are doing well: Research income

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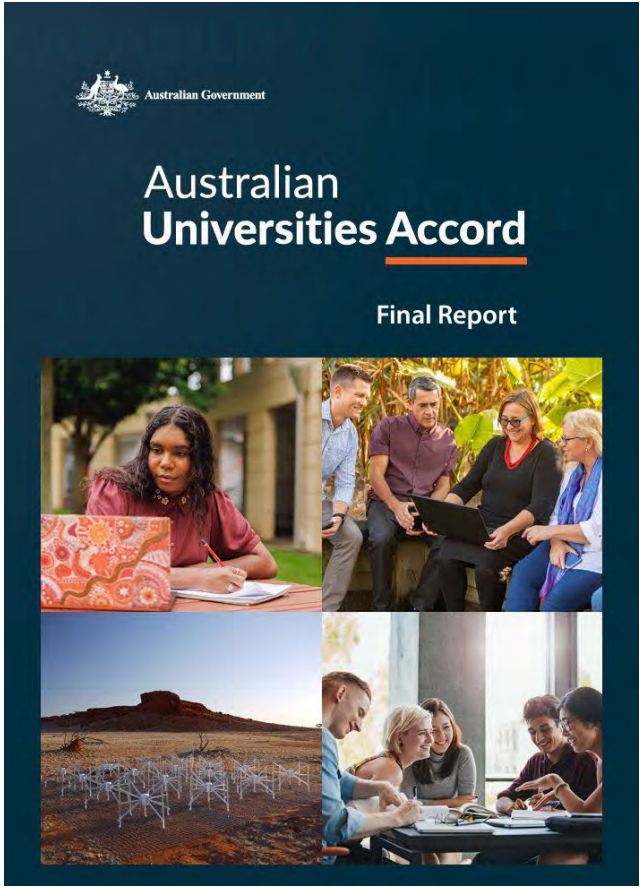
To create an equitable and economically prosperous future, the Australian Universities Accord sets a shift from a mass to a universal education system, accessible to more people.

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 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







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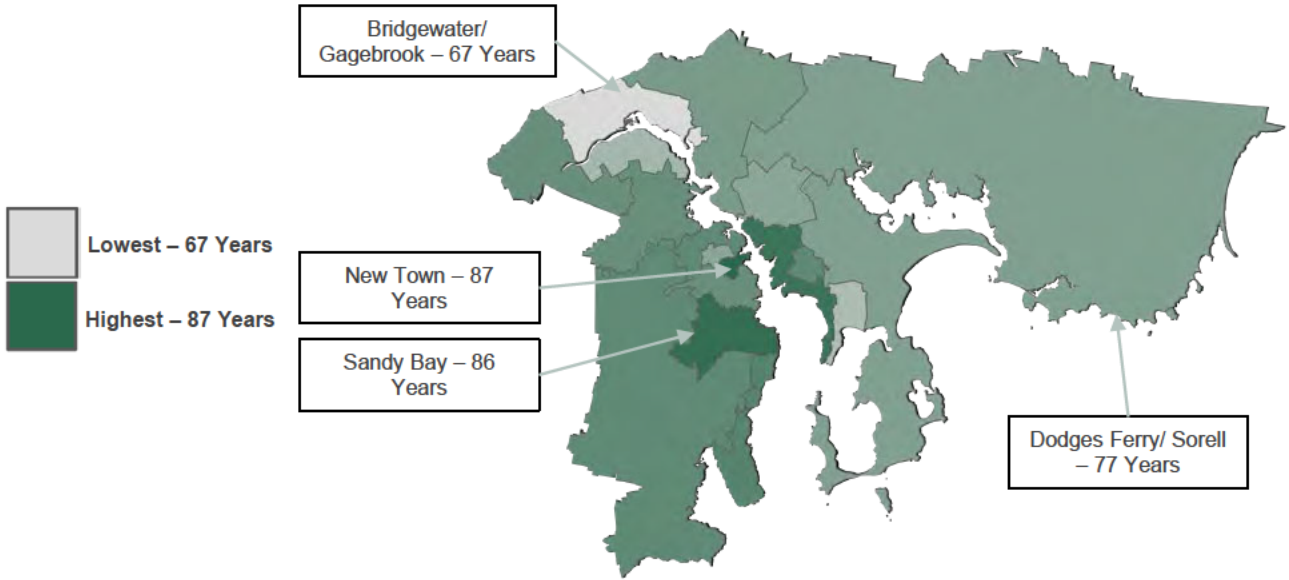
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Life expectancy is a way of summing up inequality. In Hobart alone, the inequality is extraordinary

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

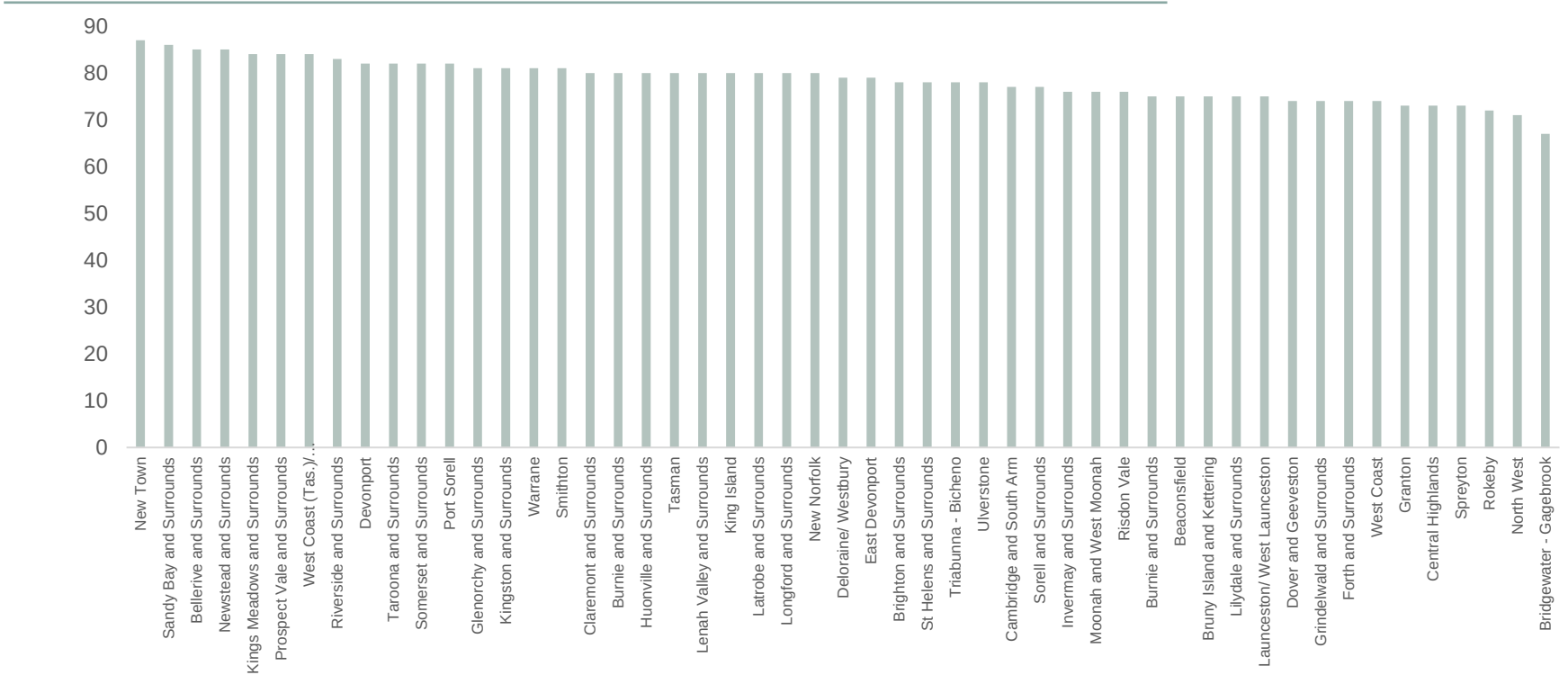


- The difference between Bridgewater and New Town or Sandy Bay is stark.
- For every kilometre you travel north away from Sandy Bay you effectively lose a year of life expectancy.
- It is like comparing one of the richest places in the world (Hong Kong - 85 years) with one of the poorest (Eritrea - 67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

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

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

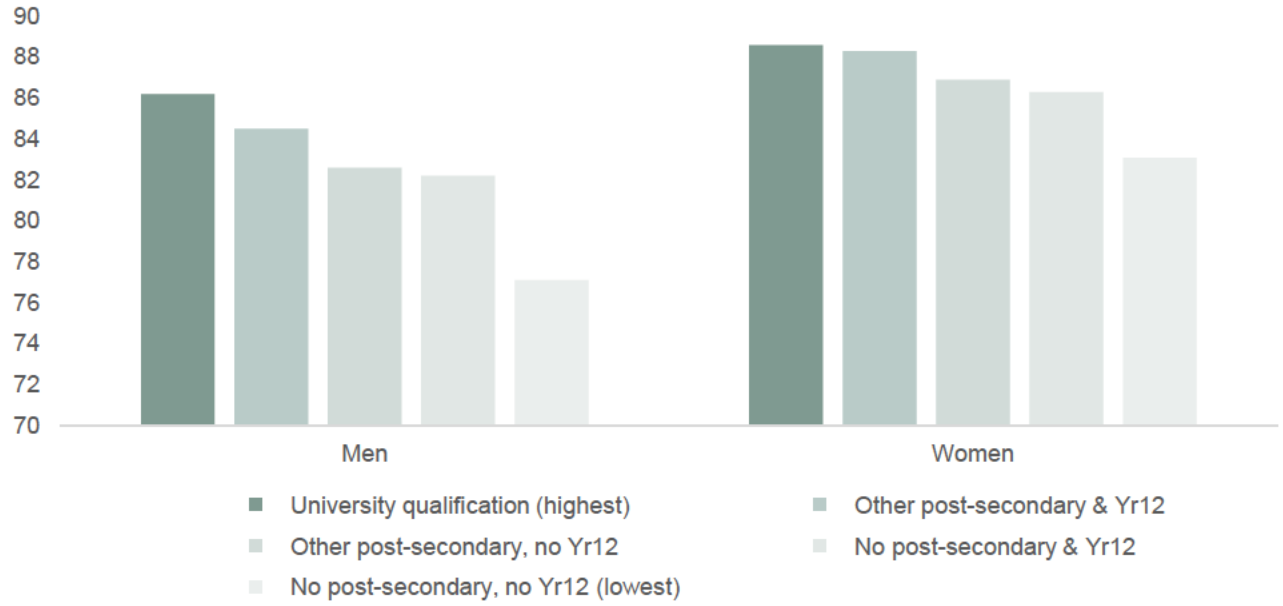
Median Age at Death, by Population Health Area, 2017 - 2021



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

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

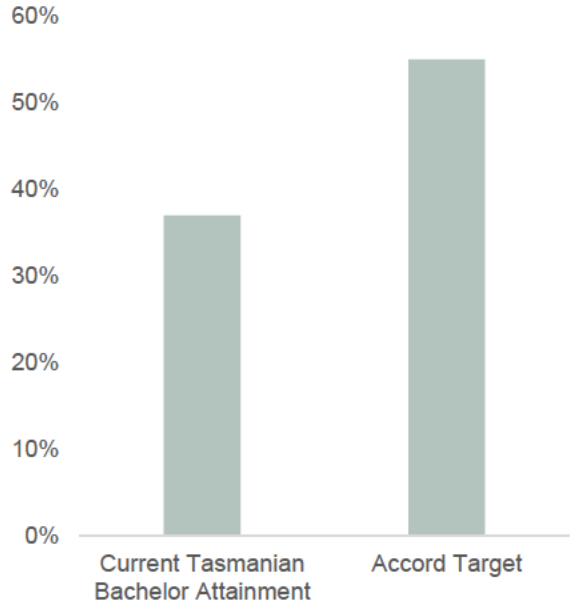
Life expectancy at age 25 for Australian, by level of education and sex, 2016

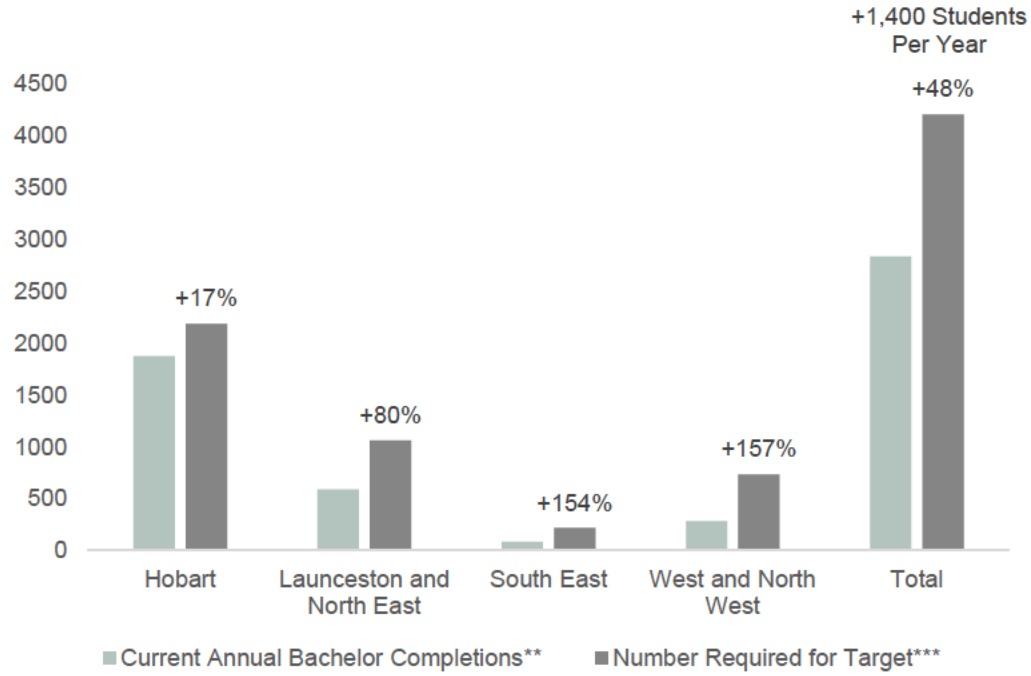


Absolute and relative differences by education level in life expectancy at ages 25, 45, 65 and 85 years for Australian men and women, 2016
https://equityhealthj.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12939-021-01513-3/tables/1

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)



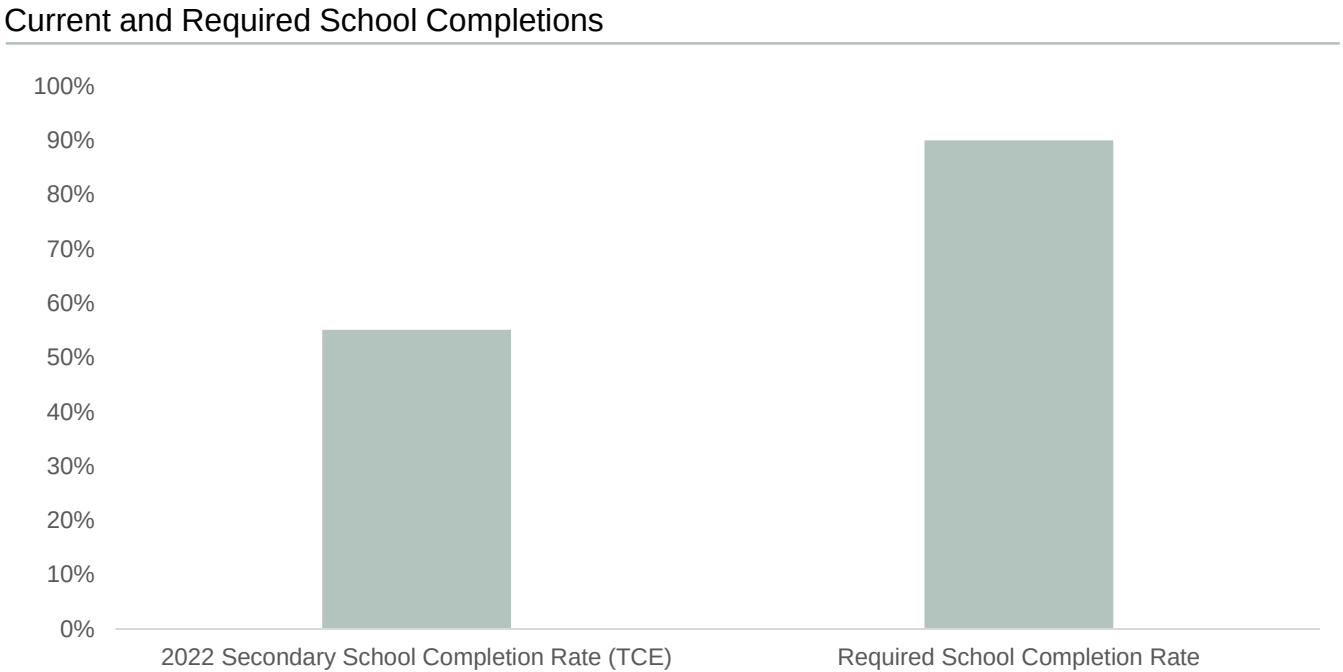


Source: Estimated from bachelor attainment data from ABS TableBuilder, Census 2021 Level of Educational Attainment (HEAP), 2021 census. Includes non-University of Tasmania graduates in Tasmania

* 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

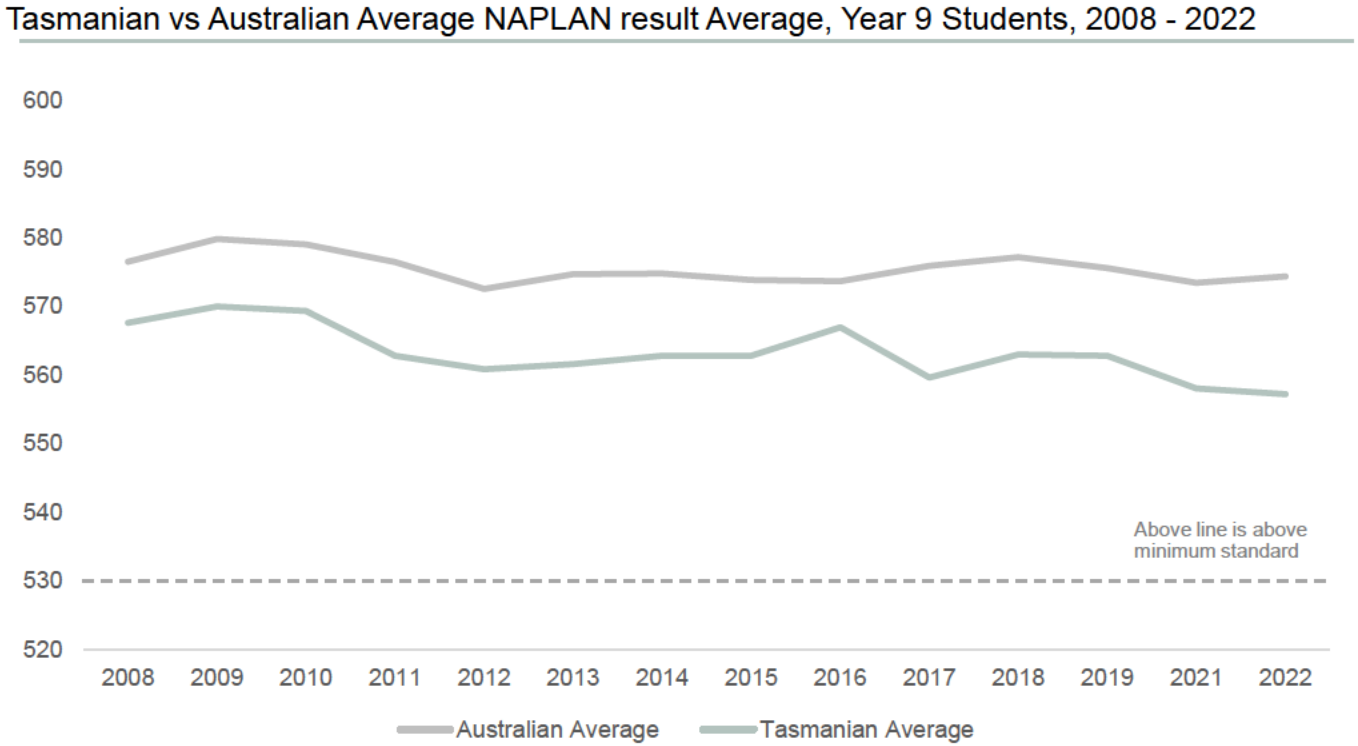
** Estimates based on population size from 2021 census for 24-34 year olds and bachelor completion rates for the current 25-34 year old cohort. Does not include 9.3% estimated decline in population of 25-34 year olds between 2022 and 2050 as per ABS medium population projections for Tasmania

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



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..

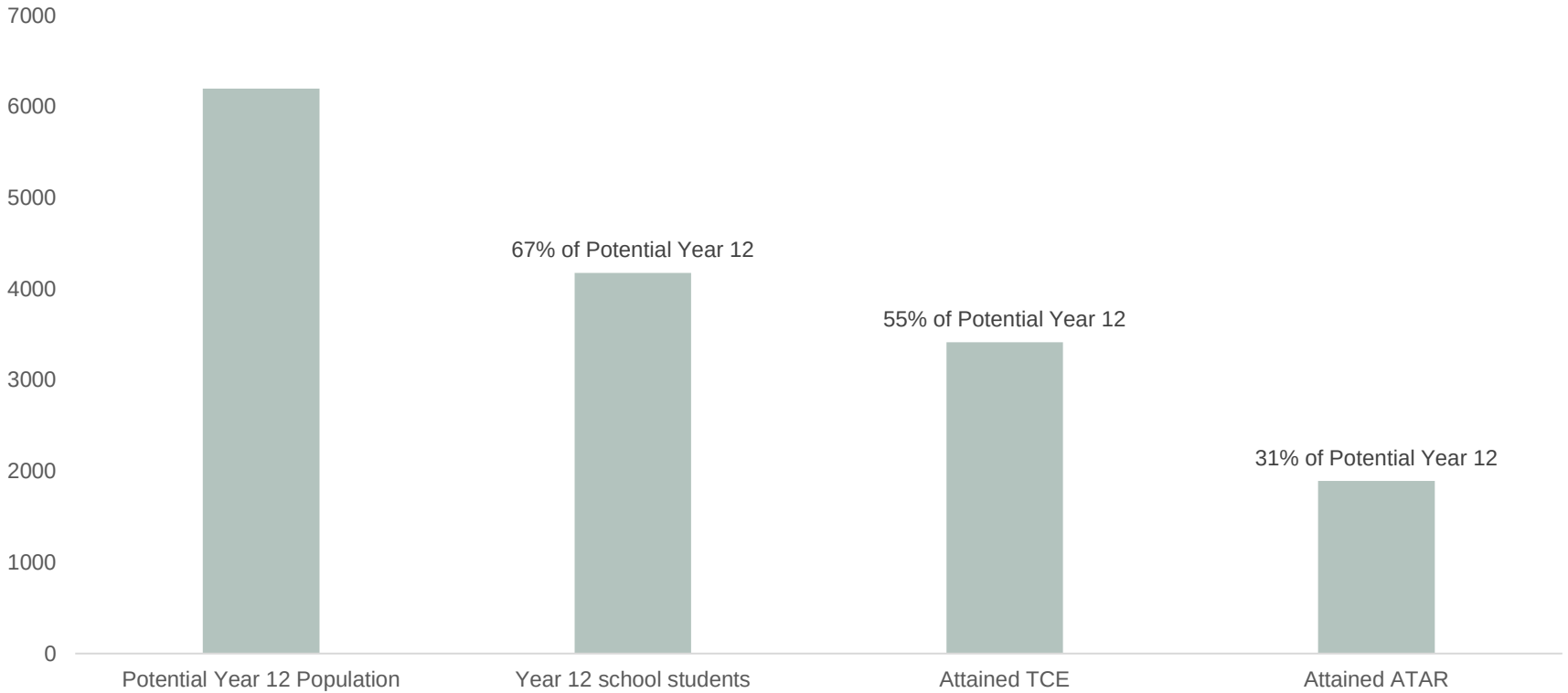
It starts in schools where Tasmanian students are less well prepared than the national average with NAPLAN results consistently below the Australian average



- 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 is difference between Tasmanians and Australia represents being approximately half a year behind the rest of Australia

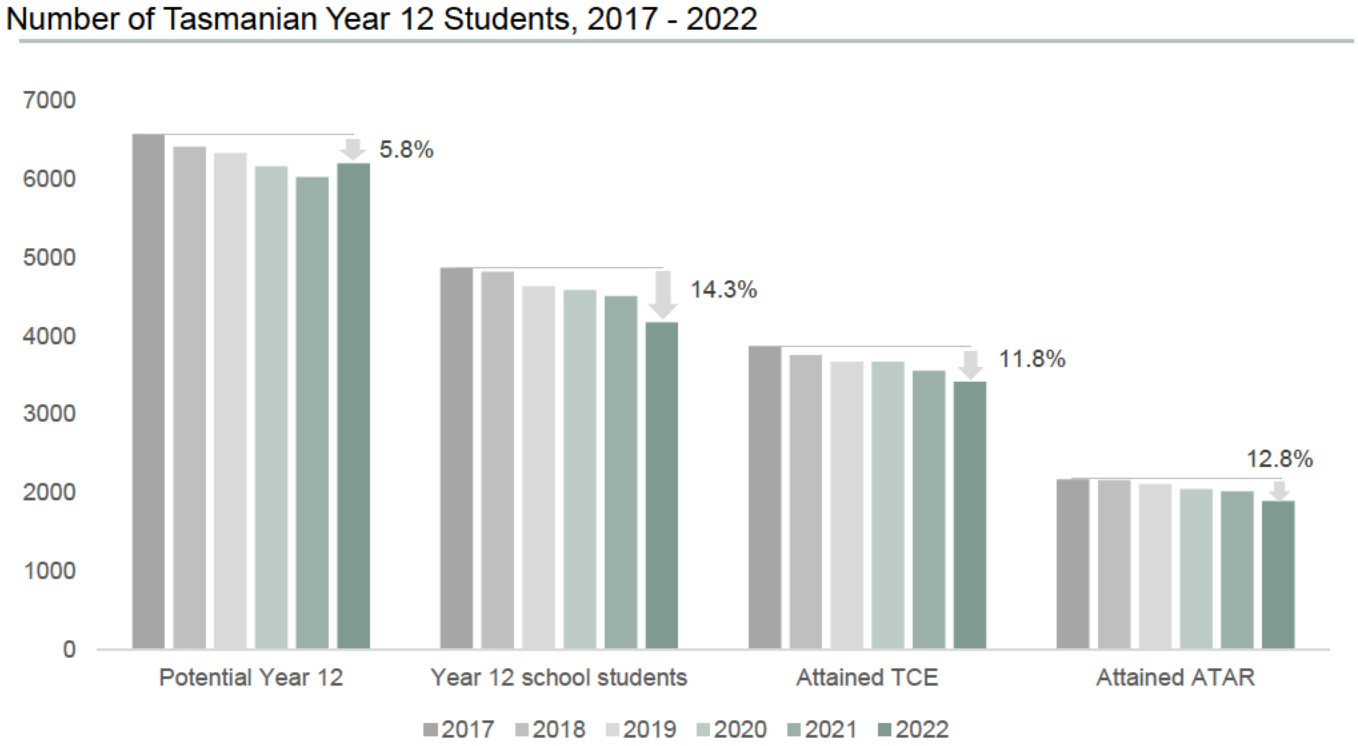
https://www.acara.edu.au/reporting/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia/naplan-national-results. NAPLAN results averaged over the five competency areas

In 2022, of the potential 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.

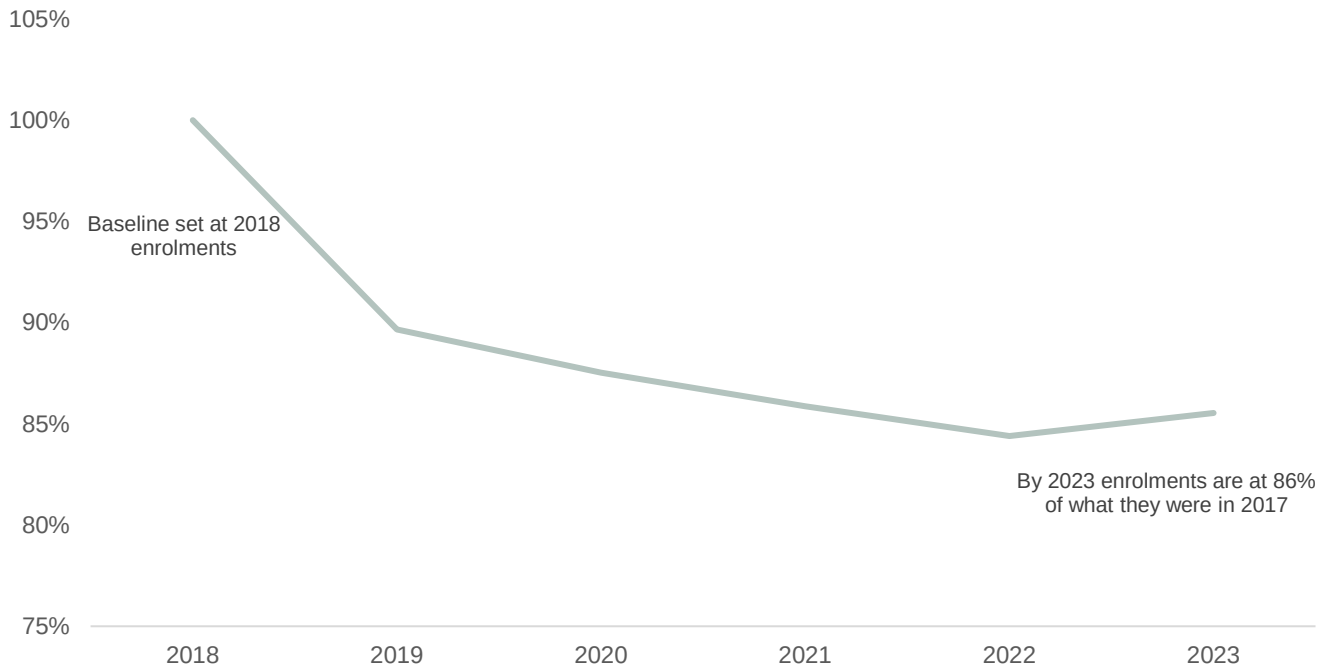
What is more concerning is that these completion rates have been in decline



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.

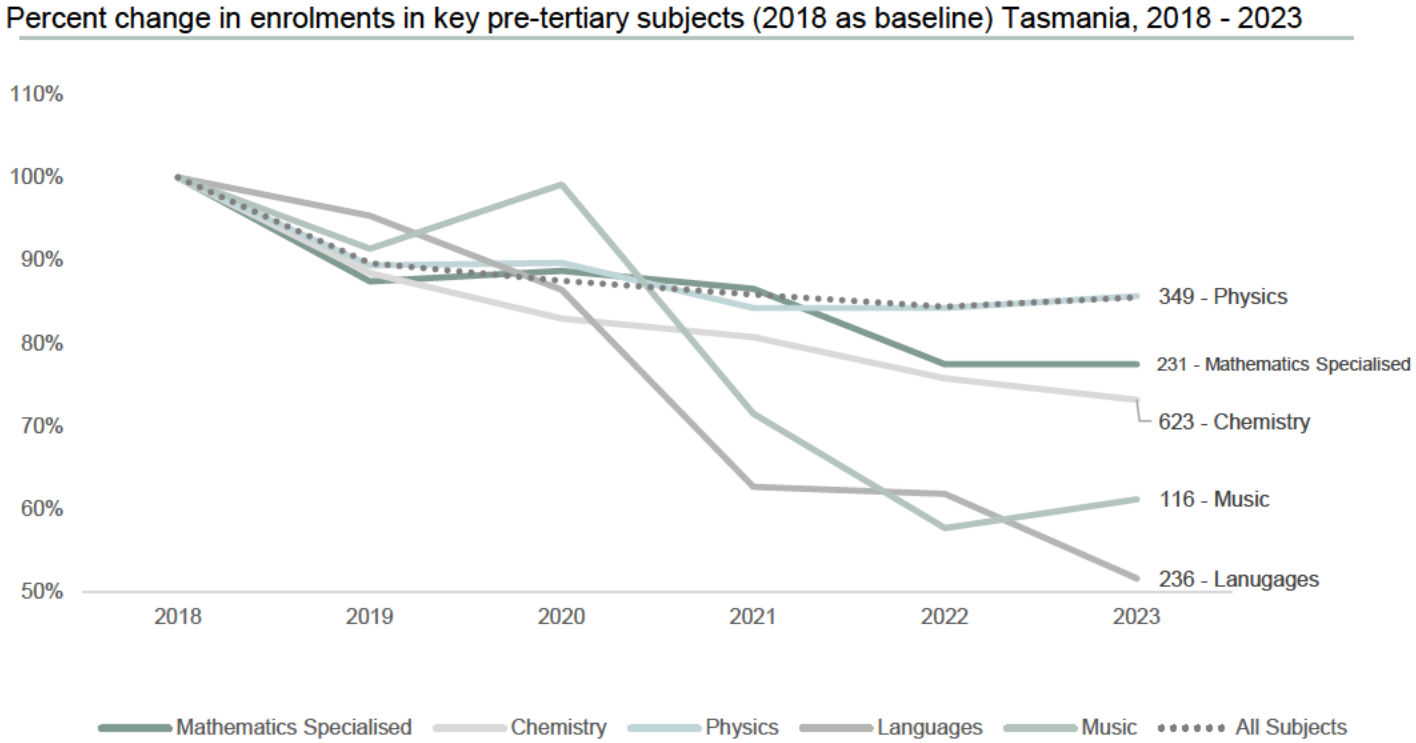
Even those completing year 12 are studying fewer of the subjects needed for university admission. Since just 2018 this has fallen 14 percentage points.

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.



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

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.

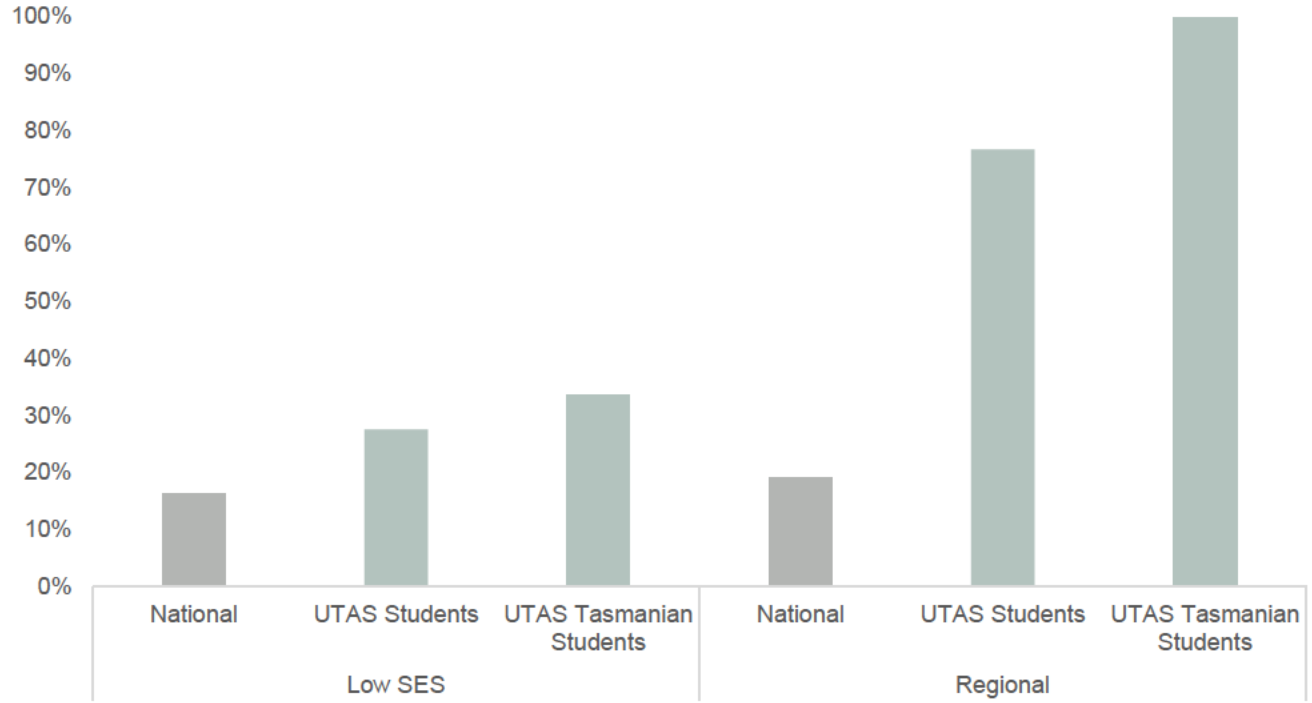
To create an equitable and economically prosperous future, the Australian Universities Accord sets a shift from a mass to a universal education system, accessible to more people.

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)

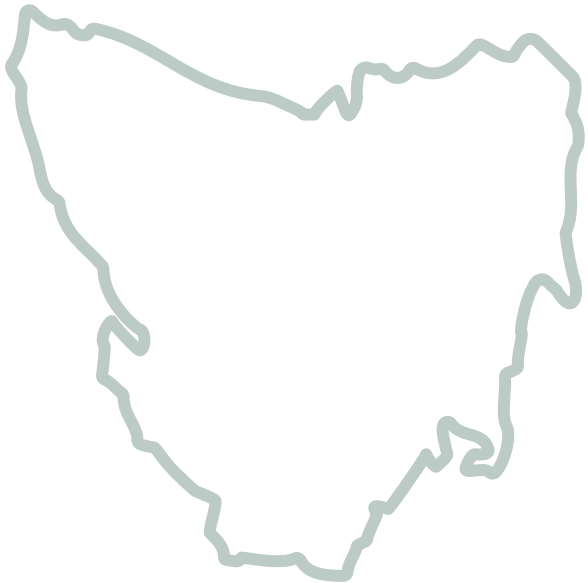


Menzies Institute for Medical Research



Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA)

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

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

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

Outlook

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

Outlook

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

SAVE 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 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

Authorised by AMBIrd, 217 Nelson Rd, Mt Nelson

SAVE UTAS

Save UTAS Campus
saveutascampus@gmail.com
www.saveutascampus.com

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Attached is a copy of the information sheet, embargoed until the media conference for its release .

Outlook

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

IMAS

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

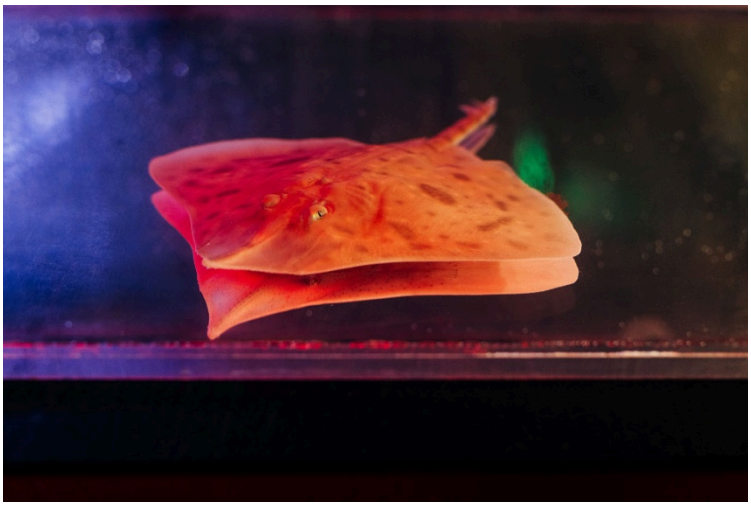
Media assistance: Ben Wild m: +61 438 510 616 e: ben.wild@utas.edu.au

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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Outlook

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

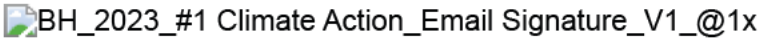
As discussed, here is some info on Government support for the Infrastructure Australia STEM Business Case and the Hobart City Deal. There's a collection of media items around the IA STEM proposal and the role the STEM proposal played in shaping up a Hobart City Deal and how this had the support of the 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


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.

isentia

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Mercury (Hobart), Hobart
03 Feb 2017, by Nick Clark

General News, page 1 - 490.00 cm²
Capital City Daily - circulation 31,125 (MTWTFS-)

ID 722529667 BRIEF UNIT-UNI INDEX 5.2

$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 business 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

isentia

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Mercury (Hobart), Hobart
03 Feb 2017, by Nick Clark

General News, page 1 - 490.00 cm²
Capital City Daily - circulation 31,125 (MTWTFS-)

ID 722529667 BRIEF UNIT-UNI INDEX 5.2

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 Communique 2023.pdf

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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 Minster 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 Lapthorne (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

कौशल विकास और उद्यमशीलता मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Education
Government of India
सत्यमेव जयते

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** *Minister Pradhan and Minister Chaudhary (virtually) to respond*
14.25-14.35 **(10 min)**	**Summary of progress since the 1st Australia India Education and Skills Council** *Progress on commitments made in the 1st AIESC Joint Communique*
14.35-15.00 **(25 min)**	**Agenda item 1: Forecasting future workforce and education needs** *Identifying critical skills of the future* *Building an adaptable workforce to meet employer needs* *Improving youth employment outcomes*
15.00-15.25 **(25 min)**	**Agenda item 2: Bridging skilling gaps through education and training** *Building skilled workforces: collaboration across higher education, vocational education and training, industry and Governments* *Strengthening workforces through innovative delivery and market access* *Strategies for industry-aligned upskilling and reskilling*
15.25-15.50 **(25 min)**	**Agenda item 3: Collaborating to strengthen research workforces** *Leveraging diaspora networks and building connections* *Amplifying impact of collaborative research*
15.50-16.00 **(10 min)**	**Closing remarks by Ministerial Co-Chairs** *Adopt and sign the 2nd AIESC Joint Communique*
16.00-16.15 **(15 min)**	**Gift exchange and official photos**
16.15	**Meeting concludes**

DRAFT

Outlook

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

Tasmanian Labor
*Putting **people** first*

Outlook

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

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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.

Outlook

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

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

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.

Academic Division
University of Tasmania
Locked Bag 1350
Launceston TAS 7250
Australia

T +61 3 6226 1756
E natalie.brown@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

Academic Division
University of Tasmania
Locked Bag 1350
Launceston TAS 7250
Australia

T +61 3 6226 1756
E natalie.brown@utas.edu.au

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
T: +61 3 6226 2314
M: +61 427 299 733

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

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

TIM WATTS

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.

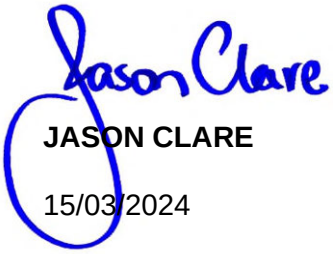
The Australian Government will immediately implement the National Student Ombudsman and the National Code, working closely with State and Territory Governments, relevant agencies and the higher education sector. The National Student Ombudsman is proposed to commence taking student complaints from 1 February 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.

PO Box 6022 Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 | Tel: (02) 6277 7520

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



Catherine King MP

24 / 6 /2024

Outlook

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
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.

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







Newstead College
22 February ·

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

MONASH University | THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

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 Inversek.

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 *(Include proposed duration)*	
ARRIVAL TIME	
DEPARTURE TIME	
PURPOSE OF EVENT	
VENUE NAME AND ADDRESS	
MINISTER'S ROLE **(ie. speech, tour present awards)**	
DIGNITARIES ATTENDING (this includes Local Members, Principal, other key school staff, other community representatives and student leaders)	
EVENT CONTACT *(Including mobile number and email)*	
EVENT BACKGROUND *(a brief summary of the event, including background, information relating to other speakers or host organisation etc)*	
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	*Please supply or complete page 3*
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 - *(for speech, if required)*	
BIOGRAPHIES OF KEY ATTENDEES	Please attach bio's
FORMAL SPEECH/PANEL OR DISCUSSION	
SPEECH THEMES AND LENGTH TIME OF SPEECH *(How many minutes, if relevant?)*	
Q AND A AND LENGTH *(How many minutes, if relevant?)*	
LECTERN OR ROUNDTABLE	
ON COMPLETION	Please return to E: christine.kalivitis@aph.gov.au please contact me on 0403 560 145 for any questions

THE HON JASON CLARE MP
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

EVENT RUN SHEET

Time	Details	Speaker / Facilitator

MINISTER'S BIOGRAPHY	To be supplied on request
ACCOMPANYING THE MINISTER	An adviser will accompany the Minister, name will be provided closer to the event
Q & A/PANEL Session	Please seek prior approval from Minister's office for Q & A or Panel discussion
MINISTER'S DIETARY REQUIREMENTS	NIL

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, Yarrawonga 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.

Outlook

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
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.

Outlook

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
University of Tasmania
Admin Building | Private Bag 51
Hobart TAS 7001
0432 389 793

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA

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THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS 2023

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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 negatived.

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 it assets into the city, it received support from the Australian and Tasmanian governments, and from the local council.

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 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.

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 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 Taroona, 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.

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.

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	**NOES 9**
Mr Abetz	Dr Broad (Teller)
Ms Badger	Ms Brown
Mr Barnett	Ms Butler
Mr Bayley	Ms Dow
Mr Behrakis	Ms Finlay
Ms Beswick	Ms Haddad
Ms Burnet	Ms White
Mr Ellis	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.