

# A message to the people of Hobart from UTAS student leaders

**We, the undersigned student leaders at the University of Tasmania,  
urge the voters of the Hobart City Council to  
**VOTE NO** to the University's move to the CBD.**

We believe that the city move, as the plans currently exist, will be detrimental to the University and undermine the quality of our education and the education of future generations. The move away from a central campus will have a negative impact on the student community, interdisciplinary interaction and collaboration across the learning areas, and ultimately destroy campus life.

## Facilities will not be fit-for-purpose and a significant loss of amenities

The proposed city facilities will not be fit-for-purpose and do not cater to our needs or the needs of staff. The loss of amenities at Sandy Bay will be significant and a highly fragmented city campus will compromise the educational experience.

The Forestry Building is an example of a trend where future facilities will be inadequate. For the entirety of law, business and economics there will be no lecture theatres, fewer tutorial rooms and open-plan offices for staff and postgraduate students against their wishes. This is a sign of things to come as the University downsizes to cut costs at the expense of our education and a face-to-face learning environment.

## Lack of consultation

The decision to move and subsequent planning has lacked genuine and proper consultation. Proper consultation should be where the University responds to negative feedback in a constructive way and should aim to work with us rather than dismiss our views. The University's approach should be driven by the interests of students and staff rather than the blind pursuit of ideology. Currently, the University has demonstrated an inability to listen.

## Accessibility

The city move will not make tertiary education more accessible while other significant barriers exist. If the University is truly concerned about accessibility then it would work to reduce the costs of education and other barriers. A 3 kilometre move will not achieve any greater level of educational attainment.

## Sustainability

The loss of greenspace and the demolition of buildings at the Sandy Bay campus as well as significant development and refurbishments in the CBD is not a sustainable decision. The University could be much more sustainable and environmentally responsible if it simply refurbished the Sandy Bay campus for the benefit of students and staff for decades to come.

Further, the Sandy Bay campus includes habitat for the critically endangered Swift Parrot. There have been multiple daily sightings of these birds this Spring already. The campus in its current state offers established protection of this critical habitat, and it offers students the tangible opportunity to experience and contemplate the role society plays in retaining a sense of place - for all species.

Ultimately, this move disregards our interests and the interests of prospective students. It is driven by purely commercial reasons for the purpose of maximising profit.

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Joshua Blum  
**Tasmanian University Medical Students' Society**  
Felix Fischer  
**Tasmanian University Engineering Society**  
William Grant  
**Mathematics and Physics Society**  
McKinley Nolan  
**Tasmanian Association of Pharmacy Students**  
Bico Ngu  
**Malaysia Students' Society Tasmania**  
Liam McLaren  
**Tasmanian University Environment Society**

Fletcher Clarke  
**Tasmania University Law Society**  
Lauren Harvey  
**Tasmanian Education Society**  
Kt Lertsinpakdee  
**Tasmanian University Medical Research Students' Society**  
Samantha Climie  
**Student Environment and Animal Law Society**  
Golden AM Lewis  
**UTAS Japan Society**  
Michael Steel  
**UTAS Agricultural Science Society**

For students  
please **VOTE NO**