

6 NOVEMBER 2024 – MEDIA STATEMENT

Students support Sandy Bay STEM Campus announcement yet still hold concerns for student experience of peers moved into the CBD.

On Tuesday 5th November, the University of Tasmania announced their reinvigorated Southern campus vision:

- A Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Campus at Sandy Bay.
- A City Campus that incorporates our existing medical sciences and creative arts teaching, learning and research spaces and provides a new home in the Forestry Building for the Schools of Business and Economics, Humanities and Social Sciences.
- A Historic Campus on the Domain, the University's original home, which will play host to special offerings like our International School, Outdoor Education Program and aspects of our health offering.
- A Waterfront Campus comprising the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies facilities at Salamanca and Taroona.

Students are relieved to hear the announcement that STEM facilities will remain in Sandy Bay with some much-needed upgrades to facilities, following strong engagement with staff and students regarding the future of STEM in Tasmania.

“Over the last two years, we have seen a marked improvement in engagement and listening to student voices in regard to the future of the Southern campuses.” said Tasmanian University Student Association President Liam McLaren.

McLaren continued, “This STEM announcement is a perfect example of bringing key stakeholders together, including staff and students, and listening to the overwhelming sentiment that the Sandy Bay location provides an amazing opportunity to create something that is world renowned.”

However, concerns remain over the student experience and lack of student engagement over CBD locations.

“Students are rightly concerned about the effect on student experience that comes alongside an increasingly decentralised campus model. Since the first schools moved to the CBD years ago, city students have complained about the lack of an equitable student experience and equitable access to student services.” Iterated McLaren.

The TUSA also remains concerned about the student experience of those students that happen to be studying during transition periods.

“Across all the transitions of recent years, we have continually seen students who are unfortunate enough to be studying during those changes, being forced to receive a sub-par experience with little to no recognition of this fact. Business and Economics students have been in rented office spaces since the beginning of 2021, meanwhile student sentiment and feedback on their experiences has been particularly damning of these affects on their degrees.”

The TUSA calls on the University to continue to listen to the voices of their students and student representatives but also to meaningfully engage them in decision making processes which affect their student experiences. The University must work with students in ensuring they have a positive student experience, instead of being blinded by future ambitions and ignoring the plight of students studying during transition periods.

ENQUIRIES: President Liam McLaren, 0456 087 863, President@TUSA.utas.edu.au