

## 13 APRIL 2023 – MEDIA STATEMENT

### Peak student body of University of Tasmania, the TUSA State Council, believes there should be no Hobart city campus move

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, the TUSA State Council passed the below motion to officially change their position on the Sandy Bay to Hobart CBD campus move.

*“The TUSA State Council is of the position that there should be no changes to the physical locations of university campuses in the South of Tasmania unless the following occurs:*

- *The University of Tasmania shows a genuine and concerted effort to significantly improve communication, engagement, and transparency with students.*
- *The University can show that a change in location would not adversely impact both the educational quality, or the student experience, of current students during the transformation and for new students moving into the future.*
- *The University commits to making university facilities and learning environments, accessible and affordable to all students.*

*The TUSA State Council continues to call on the university to improve its methods and avenues for genuine consultation processes with both current and future students. Up until this moment, levels of consultation with University of Tasmania students have been sparse and tokenistic.*

*The TUSA State Council believes that the University of Tasmania is a public institution for all of Tasmania. Any decisions around future directions and locations of the university must be heavily discussed and debated in the public forum.*

*Current levels of communication, transparency, and engagement, with both University of Tasmania students, and the broader community, are significantly inadequate.”*

The TUSA State Council have progressed our stance away from one of neutrality after a continued lack of genuine student voice and input at the decision-making table for the campus move. We believe that, without intervention, the campus move will continue to negatively impact current and future University of Tasmania students.

We have called on the university to re-evaluate their consultation and engagement processes, and to ensure that these conversations are reflected in tangible outcomes that involve both University of Tasmania students and the broader community.

Following consultation with the University of Tasmania, University management have proposed several consultation opportunities for both the TUSA and students more broadly.

This re-invigorated effort from the University is a step toward more holistic student consultation and co-design, that the TUSA State Council believe is integral to meeting student needs at the University in every space.

The TUSA State Council commit to working with the University to capture the diversity of the student voice in opinions and experiences relating to the city move, establishing best practice consultation and meeting the needs of current students.

Our position remains that the Hobart city campus move should not go ahead, but we are open to re-evaluation of our stance if the Universities' consultation practices improve, and student feedback toward the move becomes more positive.

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