

Minister for Infrastructure  
Minister for Local Government

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Hon Catherine King MP  
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development  
and Local Government

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Dear Minister

**UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA - HOBART SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS PRECINCT (STEM PRECINCT)**

The proposed University of Tasmania (UTas) STEM Precinct on its Sandy Bay campus is a nationally significant, transformational program of work designed to deliver important economic outcomes for the nation and Tasmania. It is a priority program that has the full support of the Tasmanian Government.

The STEM Precinct is aligned to Australia's national science and research priorities which focuses on achieving a net-zero emissions future, improving health and well-being, elevating Indigenous knowledge, protecting the environment, and building a secure and resilient nation through research and policy development. The program significantly supports these priorities by driving advancements in emission-reducing technologies, enhancing well-being through a greener campus, creating improved employment opportunities, and fostering stronger relationships with Aboriginal Land Council Tasmania (ALCT) through a land hand-back initiative.

National benefits include addressing work-force challenges due to insufficient people acquiring contemporary skills in science, technology, engineering and maths by encouraging and supporting people to obtain skills at the new facility. This will foster a culture of innovation with new cutting-edge technology, enhancing collaboration between researchers and industry by providing a distinct and refreshing space, developing a skilled workforce, and promoting digital literacy, all contributing to driving economic growth and positioning Tasmania as a leader in STEM fields.

Besides national benefits, STEM skills are critical for meeting Tasmania's workforce needs, driving productivity and economic development, and improving employment and skills outcomes across the Tasmanian population. The STEM precinct will create the opportunity to increase access and incentivise Tasmanian youth to study STEM.

The STEM Precinct is more than a significant national science and research project. It is a cross-portfolio program of work which is a mix of:

- building a world-class tertiary education facility, supporting education and research to drive economic diversification and productivity
- repurposing and unlocking surplus land to be used for additional housing close to the Hobart central business district, recreational purposes and land hand-back to the Aboriginal community and
- supporting and enabling infrastructure.

The program will be delivered in three key stages, ensuring time for detailed planning and co-design as well as the continuity of teaching and research activities on-site:

- **Stage 1:** a detailed site plan and retrofit of existing buildings to create new space for Information and Communication Technology, Mathematics, Physics and Engineering faculties (\$50 million)
- **Stage 2:** a major new build featuring a range of teaching workshop and research lab spaces and the home of Chemistry and Earth Science (\$300 million)
- **Stage 3:** a retrofit of existing buildings to create new facilities for Biosciences, Agriculture, Geography and a renewed Engineering workshop and Central science Laboratory (\$150 million).

The economic, social, and cultural benefits from this significant infrastructure investment are identified in an Overview (Attachment 1) which is drawn from a well-supported and detailed business case prepared by Deloitte Economics (Attachment 2). The Sandy Bay Campus option has been assessed as having a positive Benefit Cost Ratio of 1.46 and Net Present Value of \$149.4 million. The business case has been independently assessed and reviewed through Tasmania's Project Assurance Framework. The reviewers considered that the project had a high level of confidence that the project is being effectively developed and delivered, in line with the objectives.

To ensure that this social infrastructure investment is delivered with the intended outcomes, the work requires a total funding envelope of \$500 million including \$50 million for planning and completion of Stage 1 works (2025-26) and around \$450 million for Stage 2 and Stage 3 delivery funding (2026-34). To help offset the project's capital costs, UTAS will provide an in-kind contribution from sale of residentially rezoned land, with an estimated value of \$100 million. It is important to note that this is contingent on the passage of the rezoning legislation by the Tasmanian Parliament around May 2025.

In support of the national significance of this infrastructure I seek your support to encourage the Australian Government to commit the \$50 million for Stage 1 works.

Infrastructure Tasmania is submitting the business case to Infrastructure Australia for review and evaluation.

I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to deliver nationally important infrastructure projects.

Yours sincerely



Hon Kerry Vincent MLC  
**Minister for Infrastructure**

Attachment 1 – STEM Overview

Attachment 2 – STEM Precinct Detailed Business Case