

# Public Meeting Summary of Submissions

109 submissions were received.

Three were in support of the proposed move of UTas to the City and the redevelopment of the Sandy Bay Site.

106 were against the proposed move of UTas to the City and the redevelopment of the Sandy Bay Site.

## Against the move into the City

### Parking

Of those against, there was a strong view, 54%, that a move into the city would increase demand on current parking provisions and would cause significant parking and congestion issues.

There were concerns that proposed developments within the city did not include provision for additional parking to compensate the increased number of staff and students.

There was a view that current transport habits of staff and students would not change as a result of the move into the city with many still needing to utilise private vehicles for reasons such as carer duties, to transport teaching and learning materials, to travel to and from employment commitments.

There were concerns that as a result of staff and students not being able to access on-site parking, the need to move cars between time-limited parking spaces would impact on productivity and collaboration because less time would be spent in buildings and more time moving cars.

There were also concerns for the safety of staff and students, particularly during winter months, where those who could not afford parking would need to walk to outer areas such as the Domain for parking.

### Impact on businesses

There was the view that as a result of student and staff competing for parking there would be a negative impact on CBD businesses by reducing parking accessibility for customers and city workers, ultimately forcing small businesses out of the CBD.

29% of submissions also mentioned the negative impact on CBD businesses with concerns the city would be deprived of its shopping precinct in favour of office type buildings. There were the views students, who are typically cash poor, would not spend money in the city.

### Planning and development

37% of submissions also raised concerns about the impact of a micro suburb that exceeds current density limits on the Sandy Bay site.

There was a view that there would be increased pressure on infrastructure and services such as roads, parking, childcare, schools, shops and doctors.

## **Social and health impacts**

40% raised concerns about the loss of the heart, centre and social fabric of the campus.

There was a view that the current campus provided a location for connection and interaction across a congenial mix of students from various faculties. The green spacious environment, quiet meeting locations, access to support services, recreational and social activities enhancing the learning experience.

21% also mentioned that the green outdoor spaces, gym and sporting fields provided enrichment to both student and staff providing a balance to academic demands commenting these would be more difficult to access from a City based location.

## **Suitability of Sandy Bay campus**

There was a view a spacious green campus (28%) is a modern campus and the envy of other universities. Nearby bushland provides a point of difference and additional learning locations.

27% of submissions were of the view that the Sandy Bay campus was still fit for purpose, with many purpose built facilities not being replicated in the city.

There was a view that funding would be better spent refurbishing the current site and would be less costly than refurbishing buildings within the city. The cost of refurbishment could be off-set through the sale of some CBD properties.

Some questions were put as to how the campus was left to deteriorate to its current state.

There was also the view that refurbishment of the current site would be more environmentally sustainable with concerns expressed around the carbon emissions produced should the site be demolished and rebuilt.

There was also concern for the loss of habitat at the Sandy Bay campus with many significant trees being removed and concerns for the Swift Parrot.

A number of submissions, 22%, also raised the question of ethics, if land that was gifted to UTas for education purposes could be sold and re-zoned for development.

## **Access and bus services**

There was a view that the current site was sufficiently accessible for students being only five minutes by bus from Franklin Square and within walking distance from the City.

There was a view the bus services from the northern and eastern suburbs were also good noting there were many factors to enrolment decisions and to claim the current location is barrier to enrolment is a disingenuous motive.

There was also a view that access for students could be improved, by increasing bus services or providing free shuttle buses to and from the area, a service many universities provide.

There was also a view that a move into the city could introduce some access issues.

There were concerns that students who undertake mix degrees in different disciplines will be spread across the city and unable to get between lectures.

Students located in the residential colleges at Sandy Bay, who come from state-wide, interstate or international locations, would have further to travel.

There was also concern raised for students with a disability and access issues navigating their way between different locations within the city.

### **Lack of consultation**

There was a view there had not been a proper consultation process undertaken by UTas with 29% of submissions raising this as a concern.

There were comments that staff and students had not been consulted and were fearful of speaking out against the project. There were concerns for staff cuts with a view the proposal was geared towards a shift to on-line learning, reduced face to face contact and a shift to unsupported teaching.

### **Lack of planning and vision**

There were views that UTas has lost its way and forgotten it is there to teach, that it is now more focussed on property development.

There were views UTas were steamrolling businesses and residents with its size, political influence and buying power forcing a move into the city.

There were views there was an absence of a coordinated planning approach for the entire project and that the existing planning scheme was not adequate to assess the move.

There was a view there was a lack of evidence based research to support the viability of the project and calls for an independent objective public inquiry to all aspects of the proposal be undertaken before it proceeds any further.

### **Relationship with Council**

There were views the Council was biased in its decision making and had formed an improperly close relationship with UTas appearing to work together as a joint project. There were also concerns the Council is not supporting the need for more information to be shared by UTas.

## **In favour of the move into the City**

### **Unsuitability of the Sandy Bay campus**

Of the four submissions in favour of the project, there were views the Sandy Bay campus is no longer fit for purpose, is old fashioned and does not provide the contemporary facilities needed for higher education. There was also limited opportunity for expansion with current land holdings not being suitable for the scale of development required, making a move to the City more economical.

### **Benefits for the City**

There were views that cities which form partnerships with universities, creating structures to identify opportunities for collaboration that builds on both their strengths and responds to their needs, are the cities, and the universities, that will be most successful in the global competition for talent and innovation as the basis for future business and social development.

### **Movement and parking**

There were views the Master Plan centralises UTas activities and removes the need for time wasted travel from the city by students to the north and east.

There were views parking generated by a move into the city would be more than adequate with more access to public transport options available.

### **Housing**

There were views a move to the city will bring life into the city with a critical mass of staff and students being located there and the development of 2,700 residences at the Sandy Bay site would introduce much needed, low cost housing.

### **Consultation**

There were views, UTas has provided the opportunity for everyone to have their say during extensive consultation processes.