

SAVE UTAS

ASK YOUR LOCAL LABOR MP WHY LABOR LIES ABOUT UTAS

Labor backs the quest by UTAS management to destroy the magnificent Sandy Bay campus of the University of Tasmania (UTAS), demolishing good buildings at Sandy Bay and duplicating them in the city.

BUT LABOR ISN'T BEING HONEST WITH YOU, MAKING FALSE OR MISLEADING CLAIMS:

1. Labor says the answer to the housing challenge is 'to build more homes and faster'.

NO home, NOT a single one, can be built at Sandy Bay because the entire campus is zoned 'education'. Experts say rezoning, if granted at all, would take years. In the meantime, vacant and under-utilised UTAS properties across Hobart city are 'shovel-ready' for building homes right now.

2. Labor says it wants 'to see nearly 2000 new homes built on the university's land above Churchill Avenue'.

This is a fantasy. Labor's plan leaves new housing for Tasmanians delayed for years, awaiting the outcome of a complex rezoning application process. If rezoning was ever approved not even UTAS has claimed its possible to build 2000 homes 'above Churchill Avenue', where the land is steep, wooded and has serious access problems.

3. Labor claims the government's plan prevents UTAS using its biggest asset, 'its vacant, unused land above Churchill Avenue'.

On the contrary, the government's bill enables UTAS to put forward a plan for the sale of any land that is genuinely not needed, but in a way that gives transparency for one of Tasmania's most important public assets.

4. Labor claims UTAS needs a '\$500M STEM facility'.

There is no costing of refurbishing STEM facilities at Sandy Bay or anywhere because there is no design .UTAS has only recently begun staff consultation on what might be needed. There is no basis to say the works would cost anything like \$500M. Experts suggest about \$110M would be sufficient and UTAS could fund that right now.

5 Labor says UTAS 'is unable to fund' STEM without selling its campus.

Labor's plan delays STEM facilities for years, leaving them dependent on the success of a long rezoning process. Young Tasmanians are left high and dry. At the same time UTAS has hundreds of millions of dollars tied up in idle property around the city, ideal for urgent housing. The sale of this plus the hundreds of millions UTAS has in the bank is enough to refurbish STEM at Sandy Bay right now.

6 Labor says the move from Sandy Bay 'is nearing completion'.

This is false. Every single Sandy Bay college/school remains at Sandy Bay except the College of Business and Economics which was temporarily moved for COVID-related reasons to rented rooms in the CBD where both staff and students say it is slowly dying, crippled by access problems caused by the lack of staff/student parking in the city.

7 Labor says relocation is only opposed by 'a noisy minority group'.

Labor knows this is a lie. The 74% (Hobart elector poll) who opposed relocation were from all of Hobart, not just Sandy Bay. This is no NIMBY issue. Relocation is strongly opposed by UTAS staff and students, the very people who know what a good university needs. Law School staff and students have recently won their fight to stay permanently at Sandy Bay.

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If UTAS management wants to return its focus to teaching and research it should do so without interference. If it insists on being a major property developer using the land gifted to it for higher education then it needs to be accountable to the people of Tasmania. The government's University of Tasmania (Protection of Land) bill does that , no more and no less. Ask your parliamentarians to support it.



Proposed site of Law, Business Schools and Admin, Melville St



UTAS Sandy Bay Campus