# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING 2015 - 2018 BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA AND THE CITY OF HOBART











# INTRODUCTION

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the C ty of Hobart (the City) and the University of Tasmania (the University) builds on the achievements of the 2009-2012 MOU.

It is being entered into with the recognition and acknowledgement of the importance of both organisations to the educational, social, cultural and economic health and wellbeing of the City of Hobart.

The MOU has the objective of contributing to the creation of a city that is dynamic, vibrant and attractive through the University's engagement with the economic, cultural and intellectual life of the City of Hobart.

# PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU between the City and the University is to develop further the strong existing relationship between our two organisations and to identify common strategic objectives and areas of interest.

It also establishes the process that will support the identification and effective achievement of a range of projects and activities over the next three years (2015 to 2018). This is detailed in the Schedule attached to this MOU.

# **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

In order to effectively realise positive outcomes from this MOU, the City and the University will:

- Establish a framework for collaboration between the two organisations;
- Adopt a cooperative approach to working together for mutual organisational, student and broader community benefit;
- Pursue areas of common strategic interest;
- Actively participate in joint initiatives, projects and activities; and
- Identify and address common areas of concern that may emerge during the life of the MOU.

# **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

To facilitate working together:

- The Lord Mayor of Hobart and the Vice-Chancellor, University of Tasmania, accompanied by Hobart City Council's General Manager and the Chief Operating Officer, University of Tasmania, will meet annually to identify areas of common strategic interest;
- The Council's General Manager and the University's Chief Operating Officer will co-chair regular meetings of relevant Council and University staff to ensure effective implementation of agreed activities outlined in the attached Schedule; and
- Relevant Council and University staff will collaborate directly as required on joint projects and activities.

# **DURATION OF MOU**

This MOU is valid for three years from the date of signing.

SIGNED

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Lord Mayor of Hobart Alderman Sue Hickey

Vice-Chancellor , University of Tasmania Professor Peter Rathjen

9 October 2015

# SCHEDULE TO THE 2015-2018 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

#### AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST

The MOU will address, but is not necessarily confined to, matters that fall into the following general areas of mutual interest:

## **GOVERNANCE AND RELATIONSHIPS**

- Establishing a clear understanding of each organisation's vision and plans for the future and identifying shared objectives;
- Enhancing relationships and developing an engagement protocol at higher political and strategic levels;
- Identifying operational units and key staff contacts for specific projects in infrastructure, community partnerships, events and training opportunities and other activities; and
- Building partnerships for supporting development of joint proposals for funding bids from State and Australian Government programs for agreed developments/initiatives.

#### **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

- Youth based initiatives:
  - o Implementing the City of Hobart / University of Tasmania Student Ambassador Program;
  - Biannual participation in the University's student expos (Youth Arts and Recreation Centre / Bush Adventures Program);
  - o Engagement in the Council's democratic processes, for example the General Manager's Roll;
  - Encouraging utilisation and active student engagement in the Council's recreational facilities the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre (DKHAC), Youth Arts and Recreation Centre (Youth ARC); and
  - o Investigating the potential to actively involve students in City initiatives, such as its arrangement with North Melbourne Football Club.
- Events:
  - o Use of University spaces for community events, for example the Melville Street Plaza, the Domain, Sandy Bay Campus;
  - o Closer collaboration on national initiatives, for example, Harmony Day activities;
  - o Council support for the University 125th anniversary;
  - Access, and conditions of access, to University facilities as part of specific events, for example, the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) forecourt and building for The Taste of Tasmania; and
  - o Investigating opportunities for Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre (TTIC) involvement in University events.
- Health and safety:
  - o Jointly responding to community safety issues around student residential communities; and
  - o Joint promotion of community health initiatives, including participation in University health research programs, such as DKHAC support for University research into individuals using gyms and fitness instructors.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- Enhancing the positive impact of major University developments in the Hobart CBD:
  - o Creative Industries and Performing Arts Development;
  - o Student Apartments, Melville Street; and
  - o Further development of the Domain Campus.
- Joint infrastructure developments:
  - o Brooker pedestrian and bike bridge (a City of Hobart Inner City Action Plan (ICAP) project);
  - o The development of 'support infrastructure' within the areas being developed by the University; and
  - Scoping the development of the 'Town and Gown Precinct' (ICAP) around
    Campbell Street after the completion of the Royal Hobart Hospital development.
- Joint identification of 'urban pockets of availability' property potentially available for University development other than on the waterfront.

## IMPLICATIONS OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- Student Apartments, Melville Street:
  - o Promoting positive community perceptions of the impact;
  - o Encouraging development of student friendly and appropriate offerings in services, retail, business, activities and events; and
  - o Meeting contractual obligations car park management, investment of sale funds in public infrastructure.
- Development of the Inner City generally: extension and delineation of the Hobart City cultural precinct following completion of the Creative Industries and Performing Arts Development and enhanced use of Council facilities such as City Hall;
- Revitalisation of the Domain, the University's historical home, as a vibrant educational and public precinct; and
- Continued communication and engagement for proposed redevelopments to ensure alignment of existing master planning, such as the City of Hobart Queens Domain Master Plan.

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

- Sandy Bay campus consolidation of teaching, research and student services on main campus between Churchill Avenue and Sandy Bay Road, and potential re-zoning of the Sandy Bay Campus;
- Providing information on the disposal of significant property assets such as the sale of the Conservatorium preceding relocation to the Creative Industries and Performing Arts Development; and
- Rates regime establishment of clear, agreed guidelines based upon applicable law.

## CONNECTIVITY

- Work together on initiatives to improve connectivity between:
  - Sandy Bay campus and the Sandy Bay shopping precinct, including reconsideration of the 'Well lit Passage' proposal to create a safe and accessible pathway of travel; and
  - o Sandy Bay campus to the Inner City.
- Joint involvement/support on specific improvements:
  - o Developing the IMAS forecourt to enhance the safety and utility of the Castray Cycleway;
  - o Movement in and around Battery Point and its foreshore;
  - o Potential for public use of University 'end of trip' bike facilities; and
  - o Assessing walking and cycling implications resulting from the Creative Industries and Performing Arts Development and Melville Street development.
- Ensure safe movement though the City and between University facilities more generally.

#### INTERNSHIPS AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- Fostering the existing internship program;
- Investigating the potential for the development of a whole-of-Council internship framework, in consultation with the University, including support for a whole-of-University Internship program, to ensure best practice outcomes for students and the City;
- Through Hobart's sister cities, seek to add value to the University's international student strategy;
- Developing further opportunities for student vacation work placements across disciplines;
- Engaging students on specific projects, such as design;
- Maintaining existing involvement by students from Arts, Business, Architecture, Engineering, as well as looking at other opportunities, including marketing, tourism, public relations;
- Exploring co-teaching opportunities for University and Council staff;
- Investigating study opportunities for Council staff, including development of targeted teaching programs; and
- Seeking a strengthening of the integration and coordination of activities related to international students.

### COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTION STRATEGIES

- Developing a joint communication and promotion protocol, with defined responsibilities for each party, that includes:
  - o The development of key messages to enhance positive perceptions relating to major University developments in the City;
  - o Value adding to the University's promotional strategy on building international and interstate student intake, by developing co-promotion and marketing;
  - o The development of student-specific collateral that ensures students feel welcome and get the best experience in the City of Hobart; and
  - o The identification of a role for the TTIC in the 'visiting family and friends' market to ensure best experience of the City.

## ORGANISATIONAL SUPPORT

- Developing responses, as required, to meet specific needs of each organisation, including, by way of example:
  - o Providing paid work experience opportunities with the Council for University students;
  - o Academic input into Council activities; and
  - Commissioning of research projects to assist the Council to meet its strategic objectives, including specifically the development of qualitative and quantitative measures to assist the Council to assess the value of its sister city / friendship agreements.

