

# MINUTE TO THE PREMIER

CRITICAL DATE:

DPAC RM (TRIM) 16/81926/1

Related document(s): 16/81926, 16/81926/2

Ministerial RM (TRIM) reference:

**SUBJECT: HOBART SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PRECINCT**

NOTATION:

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

SIGNED:

DATE

*[Handwritten signature]*  
6/11/16.

RECOMMENDATION:

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## KEY ISSUES:

- The University of Tasmania (UTAS) draft's Hobart Science and Technology Precinct (HSTP) Business Case indicates that the Tasmanian Government should provide \$75 million funding for the project.

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## BACKGROUND:

- The draft HSTP proposal involves spending an estimated \$400 million to relocate Science Technology Engineering Maths (STEM) research and teaching facilities from UTAS's Sandy Bay Campus to a purpose built facility in Hobart on land between Elizabeth, Melville, Argyle and Bathurst Streets.

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- The Department of Premier and Cabinet has received a draft Business Case in relation to the HSTP on a 'Commercial - in - Confidence' basis. A copy of the draft Business Case is provided at Attachment 2.

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- The draft Business Case indicates that UTAS is seeking \$250 million in Australian Government funding, \$75 million in State Government funding, with \$75 million in funding from UTAS.
- By comparison, the Commonwealth's contribution to the Northern Cities initiative was \$150 million and the Tasmanian Government contribution was \$60 million.

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- The Australian Government is currently considering supporting the project. The Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull MP, has noted that the HSTP is the only education project identified in Infrastructure Australia's 15 year national infrastructure plan.

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Greg Johannes  
Secretary

Date: 25/10/16

Prepared by Through Cleared By	Name	Position	Signature
	Alexis Wadsley	Acting Assistant Director	
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	David Nicholson	Deputy Secretary	
DPAC contact for more information:	Name David Nicholson	Phone Number	

Attachment(s):

- 1 Letter Premier to UTAS Vice Chancellor providing in-principle support for the HSTP (16/81926)
- 2 Draft UTAS Hobart Science and Technology Precinct Business Case (16/81926/2)



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

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8 NOV 2016

Professor Peter Rathjen  
Vice-Chancellor  
University of Tasmania  
Private Bag 51  
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Professor Rathjen

I am writing to affirm the Governments' in-principle support for the University of Tasmania's Hobart Science and Technology Precinct proposal.

As you are aware, my Government indicated support for the Science and Technology Precinct proposal in its submission last year to an audit of major national infrastructure initiatives by Infrastructure Australia. At that time, we noted that the project would help revitalise the Tasmanian economy, support increasing productivity by raising the State's educational attainment levels, and attract migrants from interstate and overseas. By replacing ageing current infrastructure, the project would also continue the University's long-term strategy to invest in an expanded campus in the Hobart CBD, building a critical mass of research and teaching excellence while supporting the city's revitalisation and growth.

I note that a draft Business Case for the Science and Technology Precinct, marked Commercial - in - Confidence, has been provided to my departmental officials indicating a potential contribution of \$75 million may be required from the Tasmanian Government. Given the time the Government has had to consider this proposal and the fact that it is still under development by the University and being assessed by Infrastructure Australia, I am unable to commit to a contribution at this stage

However, my Government would welcome the opportunity to continue to work closely with the University over coming months to identify practical options to assist the project in proceeding. To that end, I have agreed that senior officials from the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of State Growth will work on this issue with you and your team.

I wish you well in finalising the proposal.

Yours sincerely

Will Hodgman MP  
Premier