

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## UTAS welcomes West Park DA approval

University of Tasmania today welcomed the approval of the Development Application (DA) for works associated with the planned educational precinct at West Park in Burnie.

The approval is an important milestone in the passage of the project, which includes 40 student apartments worth \$4.6 million plus associated works at the iconic Makers' Workshop, according to University Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Janelle Allison.

"With the DA approved, we can progress to the construction phase of the project," Professor Allison said. "The units will be underway by June to have them ready for occupancy early next year.

"Very soon what the community should start to see take shape is an emerging educational hub – right at the heart of this great city.

"As part of that process we will continue to consult and work with important parties, including the Makers of Burnie, about how they will continue to be a vital part of that hub."

The project also includes:

- The conversion of the disused School of Domestic Arts building to a teaching space and computer labs;
- A mezzanine floor in the existing Makers' Workshop for teaching and tutorials;
- Landscaping across the site;
- Paths linking the precinct to Burnie's Central Business District and to the walkway heading west to Cooee.

The University, with support from the Burnie City Council, is pursuing a vision to create a unique living and learning precinct, which would continue to be an asset open to the community.

The University will maintain a presence at the existing Cradle Coast campus at Mooreville Road, Burnie.

"The university campus of tomorrow will be very different to university campuses as we know them today," Professor Allison said.

“Increasing competition for both resources and students in the higher education sector means we will have to offer something more to stand out.

“As it develops, this West Park precinct has the capacity to become known as one of the truly great places to live and learn, both nationally and potentially internationally.

“As well as that, this region will come to be recognised as having higher education as central to its future.”

**Information released by:**

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