



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

18 October 2023

The Hon Rob Valentine MLC
Chair
Legislative Council Select Committee
Email: utas@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Valentine

Thank you for your letter dated 4 September 2023 seeking additional information on the work undertaken by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) on the new State of Tasmania and University of Tasmania (UTAS) partnership agreement.

Recommendation 27 of the Tasmanian State Service Review (TSSR) was to develop an overarching partnership agreement with UTAS focused on areas of mutual benefit and the broad objectives of improving outcomes for Tasmanians.

Key stakeholders have noted that there is opportunity for a more flexible Partnership Agreement, compared to those of the past, which recognises the breadth of work undertaken by, and relationships between, Government agencies and UTAS Faculties and divisions. We are seeking to learn from previous partnership agreements and develop an agile agreement that meets the speed of changing priorities for both the State and University.

The Tasmanian Government TSSR Implementation Plan identifies the Partnership as being developed in Stage Three from June 2025 through June 2026. This timeline recognises the degree of work to implement all recommendations in the TSSR. There continues to be close association between the UTAS and the Tasmanian Government in a range of areas.

The DPAC Policy and Delivery Branch is responsible for managing the Agreement, with the first action being a stock take of existing partnership activities between UTAS and the Tasmanian Government. This work will progress in line with the TSS Review Implementation Plan timelines. The Implementation Plan is available on the DPAC website.

This timeline will also allow for incorporating recommendations that will emerge from both the Legislative Council Select Committee and the Australian Universities Accord review, which aims at reforming the higher education system in Australia.

I trust this information is of assistance to the committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Rockliff'.

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier