

Frequently asked Questions – Bruce Hall redevelopment proposal

In early July, Graham and Louise Tuckwell made Australia's largest personal philanthropic contribution to a university, worth about \$200 million over 30 years. The purpose of the donation is to provide a perpetual fund for the Tuckwell Scholarship program and to enhance and expand the residential experience at ANU by creating two iconic new halls of residence to be built over the next two years.

The current proposal for these new college-style residences is that they be built on the existing Bruce Hall site. The Vice-Chancellor conducted forums in mid-March to gather feedback on this proposal from students and this consultation process is ongoing.

The Proposal

Why is ANU building new student accommodation?

The demand for housing on campus currently exceeds the number of spaces we have available. We estimate approximately 1,500 students who wanted to live on campus in 2016 were not able to be accommodated. By building new residences, we will be able to maximise the number of students who get to enjoy the unique experience of living at ANU, providing accommodation that meets the standards of the future.

Where will the new residences be built?

The preferred location for the new residences is on the existing Bruce Hall site. The current design plans propose two buildings constructed on the current Bruce site with an open green space in between in line with University Avenue. This would extend University Avenue from Childers Street in the east through to Clunies Ross Street in the west.

The newer Packard Wing buildings would remain as part of this plan however the rest of Bruce Hall's buildings would be demolished.

Why are the new buildings proposed for the existing Bruce Hall site?

The University looked at a number of options for the site of the new accommodation including the carparks both north and south of the existing Bruce Hall site. Both sites have deficiencies such as planning height restrictions, difficult shapes and light and shade issues. More than 10 different site placements and configurations were evaluated, with the existing Bruce Hall site offering the best design alternative.

Graham Tuckwell is an alumnus of Bruce Hall and his experiences living there inspired him to expand the Tuckwell Scholarship program by creating what will become Australia's premier student accommodation. Our vision is to recreate that special experience for our students on the Bruce Hall site.

What are the key design features of the new buildings?

Each building will be built to accommodate approximately 400 students. The buildings will also have their own central quadrangles on either side of University Avenue. Designs for communal spaces including dining halls are still being worked on however it is likely that the buildings will share some service infrastructure in order to help keep costs down and deliver the lowest possible tariffs.

Will the Halls be catered or uncatered?

The new Halls will be catered. The Tuckwells rate food quality as a major opportunity to make these residences the premier on campus residences. The University is currently looking at a range of options and improvement possibilities.

What is the proposed timeline?

If the new buildings proceed, demolition would have to commence at the end of 2016 or early in 2017. Prior to the actual demolition, a large amount of work would need to be carried out on the site. The community will be kept informed on these developments and once a final decision on the site has been made a timeline will be provided.

Will the University maintain the unique culture and heritage of Bruce Hall in the new building?

Bruce Hall Keep and Preserve is a heritage committee that has been established to identify, collect and store significant artefacts, artwork, documents, furnishings, furniture and objects relating to the unique culture and histories of Bruce Hall. This committee will help determine and manage the Bruce Hall collection so that important components of it are appropriately integrated into the new building.

Student's affected by the proposal

What will happen to current Bruce Hall students?

Bruce Hall residents approved to return in 2017 will be temporarily accommodated in the student residence "SA5" which is currently under construction. This would also include an intake of first year Bruce students to ensure the cultural continuity of the Bruce Hall community.

Provisions will also be made for temporary catering facilities so that Bruce students housed in SA5 during construction of the new buildings will continue to have fully-catered meals.

When the new buildings open, residents residing in SA5 will have the opportunity to apply for the new residential spaces in the two halls.

Will the new buildings address the problems of recent years with returning students not all able to return?

Yes, the new buildings will provide some much needed additional student accommodation space and over time we will be able to accommodate more new and returning students.

Will the current pastoral care model at Bruce Hall continue at SA5 in the interim and in the new buildings?

Yes, ensuring a high level of quality pastoral care as a continuing feature of the new Bruce Hall is a priority and the University is committed to providing support for pastoral care for the two communities.

Is 800 beds too large for one residential hall?

The proposal is to create two separate and independent communities of around 400 students each. Each building will house a distinct community, each with their own unique identity. The Tuckwells have asked that the University ensure that the population of the halls have an even distribution of 1st, 2nd and subsequent years.

Will fees and tariffs increase for Bruce Hall students?

The current financial models are based on keeping tariffs at their current levels (plus CPI).

Management and Staffing

Who will manage the new buildings?

The new buildings will remain under ANU management. The full staffing model is yet to be finalised, but each Hall will have its own Head.

Will there be staffing changes?

The University has met with all the staff of Bruce Hall. It is proposed that maintenance of the new Hall and SA5 will be provided under a third party arrangement but all existing maintenance staff in Bruce Hall have been guaranteed alternative employment. There are operational staffing issues that impact catering and housekeeping staff that have not yet been determined.

The decision-making process

How has the University community been engaged in the process so far?

The Vice-Chancellor conducted a number of forums with students that ran through the second half of March this year. The feedback received from students at these forums was then passed onto the architects who are formulating the designs for this proposal.

On April 7 2016 a forum was also held to get input and share ideas with Bruce Hall alumni.

Several student working groups have also been held over recent months allowing students from Bruce Hall to speak with architects and contribute to the new building plans.

How do I provide input into the process?

A number of student and alumni forums have been scheduled over the coming weeks to discuss the proposal and we encourage you to come along and share your thoughts and ideas so we can talk with you about the current state of the proposal.

For more information on alumni forums contact enquiries@anu.edu.au

For more information on student forums contact Rochelle.WilkinsTate@anu.edu.au

When will new information be available?

An updated version of the FAQs will be made available after the next round of forums.