

Kuring-gai campus of University of Technology, Sydney

Background

The University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) has both a city campus and a Kuring-gai campus.

Since 2003 UTS has been considering what changes need to take place at its Kuring-gai campus to ensure the University continues to provide all its students with the best possible teaching, learning and research experiences.

The Federal Government has made it clear that universities must develop and implement strategies to ensure long-term sustainability. Over the past decade student interest in studying at Kuring-gai has been declining. For example two-thirds of the nursing program applicants who did not secure a place at the city campus but were offered a place at the Kuring-gai campus declined the offer, opting instead to study at another suitably located University. Students today prefer a more central location where they have easy access to part-time work and accommodation.

It has become apparent that the Kuring-gai campus in its current form is not sustainable and that changes have to be made. The University is currently evaluating a range of options for the Kuring-gai campus.

Option 1 – Change the educational activities on the Kuring-gai campus

UTS has embarked upon an intensive review of educational options for the Kuring-gai campus. The review process included a working party which investigated a range of alternative educational options.

Option 2 – Campus consolidation

Locating all its activities on the one campus is another option for the University. As a result UTS has been preparing a rezoning application and concept plan for the Kuring-gai campus. The plan has been developed over several years with significant community consultation. The most recent plan has been developed to specifically take into account views and comments expressed by the community.

The concept plan builds on the “hilltop” town vision of the original architects. It aims to create a harmonious balance between the built and natural environments. The plan sets out a range of residential and community uses for the campus and offers a range of housing types from traditional family homes to townhouses and apartments. Important areas of existing bushland are preserved under the proposal, as well as significant educational buildings.

Environmental considerations such as the site’s flora and fauna, water quality and bush fire protection have been key considerations in the preparation of the plan.

Should the site be sold, 100 percent of any money realised through that sale would be invested in enhancing and expanding teaching and learning facilities at UTS’s city campus where student demand is high. It would allow UTS to accommodate additional teaching, nursing and business students on the city campus.

Once all the viable options for the campus are available for consideration, the University Council will assess those options and make a decision.