



UQ Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deborah Terry and UQ Student Union President Emily Searle point message on the Union Complex redevelopment
29 March 2022

We are writing to provide you with an update on the redevelopment of the [Union Complex at the St Lucia campus](#). While planning for the redevelopment has been underway for a number of years, the University acknowledges that previous design and usage principles do not have wide support from our diverse community.

As a result, the University announced last year that it was going back to first principles on the project to consider what the future revival of the complex should encompass.

As part of this reset, the elected



The Committee was also briefed on work undertaken by School of Architecture students and Dr Don Watson to look at possible ways to adapt and reuse elements of the current complex in the future redevelopment.

Based on Conrad Gargett's discussions with stakeholder groups the following



As previously confirmed, we will work hard to ensure that the Schonell Theatre will be a central part of the redeveloped Union Complex. The theatre will continue to provide a space free from censorship for student-led performances and community use.

Temporary theatre to support student-led performances and student space
The University and UQ will maintain its support for student-led performances while the Schonell Theatre remains closed. We will be working with student clubs and societies to find suitable alternative performance spaces and provide support with associated costs.

This includes the restoration of the Avalon Theatre for use as a teaching and performance space for students and the community.

We will continue [to keep our community updated](#) and seek input as we progress through the various phases of the project.

In the meantime, we want to assure staff, students and alumni that the University and UQ are working together to ensure that the decisions and investments we make will deliver a space where students can connect and feel safe and supported in an environment that also reflects the cultural and historical significance of the complex.

Best wishes

Professor Deborah Terry AO
Vice-Chancellor and President
The University of Queensland



Emily Searle
President
University of Queensland Union