

SAVE UTAS CAMPUS

Save UTAS Campus Inc



Newsletter - Volume 1 - 28 January 2022

We are opposed to the UTAS plan to abandon the campus it was gifted at Sandy Bay, and we want proper consultation for the people of Hobart *before* UTAS ploughs ahead with its wasteful plan.

Committee Members and positions

Pam Sharpe; Chairperson, Mike Foster; Deputy Chairperson, Ben Lohberger; Secretary, Julie Bird; Treasurer, Angela Bird, Louise Elliott and John Livermore

Facebook Group

[Save UTAS campus | Groups | Facebook](#)

The Facebook group has 1,248 members. Thank you to all members of this group for their posts and contributions. We will continue to share all media and information through this group. The page has highlighted the many letters and Talking Points from The Mercury as well as HCC and UTAS information and publications. It is important that all comments are as positive and informative as possible. Criticism of other Group members and journalists is not constructive and does not help our cause. Please keep your post strictly relevant to the UTAS campus to city move.

Media and publicity

Bruce Scott, Jeff Malpas, Bob Cotgrove and members of our committee have all had articles published in the Mercury over the last 3 months as well as letters to the editor from members of our Facebook group and the community more widely. Many of these articles are now accessible on our website. Public opinion is clearly against the move of the campus to the city, and against the sell off of the Sandy Bay campus.

We also held a very successful, peaceful protest on the Sandy Bay campus in December where we launched our banner and corflute signs as well as our Save UTAS stickers.

Corflute signs are beginning to appear around Hobart and if you have a suitable site to display a sign within the HCC area, that has good visibility and high volume traffic please email us and we can discuss this as a possible site.

saveutascampus@gmail.com



Visit our Website [Home | Save UTAS Campus](#)

Register your details and email address to show your support.

Our concerns

- The picturesque and well-serviced Sandy Bay campus is a dream location that other universities would embrace as their selling point. It provides a truly unique learning environment and it's just 10 minutes from the CBD.
- There has been a wilful failure by UTAS to genuinely consult the people of Hobart. Talking at people after the decision has already been made is not consultation.
- The Hobart City Council has openly stated its intent to "support and facilitate" the relocation of the campus into the CBD, before UTAS had even lodged its application. There is serious doubt about the Council's impartiality, and its ability to represent all ratepayers.
- The traffic and parking impacts on Hobart and Sandy Bay have been ignored. There is no study on the inevitable parking and traffic chaos if UTAS brings thousands of extra cars into the CBD and Sandy Bay. Why not, and where is it?
- The Sandy Bay campus can be easily refurbished and it's wrong of UTAS to claim otherwise. Abandoning this campus and rebuilding it all over Hobart will also cause huge, unnecessary carbon emissions, which should be unacceptable for a climate-change focused university and a council that has declared a climate emergency.
- UTAS has lost its way on educational outcomes and delivering an exceptional student experience. Its role is to teach, not develop property. But while it built up a property empire UTAS drastically cut down the number of courses on offer, and now it's cut student contact hours in those courses.
- UTAS promised a grand architectural vision for Hobart and has so far delivered concrete boxes. Big concrete boxes. Any move into the city will mean more of these same overpowering buildings, which are largely inaccessible to the people of Hobart.
- UTAS significantly overpaid on CBD real estate during its buying spree, which will artificially inflate rates and land tax for all the neighbouring shopkeepers and small traders in the CBD. Its size, political influence, and buying power is steamrolling the businesses and residents of Hobart, and there seems to be no oversight at all.

Save UTAS stickers available through the website or from SHALL Design in Battery Point

Behind the scenes with the committee

The committee wants to ensure that those who oppose the UTAS move to the city have a voice and are kept up-to-date with the latest developments. Initially the Facebook Group was established and later the website. We are aware that some of our supporters do not use social media and so we felt the Newsletter was another option for communication. Alongside of this we are setting up a database of subscribers and you can subscribe via the website or by sending us an email to saveutascampus@gmail.com

Hobart City Councillors

Members of the committee have met with:

- Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds
- Bill Harvey, Will Coates, Damon Thomas, Marti Zucco, Jeff Briscoe, Helen Burnett, Mike Dutta, Simon Beharakis and Peter Sexton

Meeting soon with Jax Fox

Zelinda Sherlock - contacted but has not yet agreed to meet

Committee members are meeting with councillors prior to a HCC meeting on Wednesday 2 March. This meeting will provide an opportunity to speak with all councillors at the same time to further inform them about the objections we have to the UTAS move and proposed sell off of the Sandy Bay campus. We will also provide arguments as to why the University is best suited to the current site in Sandy Bay and not in the CBD.

State and Federal politicians

Committee members have also met with Senator Eric Abetz, Andrew Wilkie MHR and Meg Webb MLC, and plan to meet with other politicians in the near future.

Abetz said of the proposal, "I am beginning to harbour some real doubts".

Meeting with UTAS Chancellor, Alison Watkins

Committee member, Mike Foster, met with Alison Watkins to express our concerns in particular regarding UTAS staff being able to express an opinion about the proposed UTAS move. Mike was given an assurance that UTAS staff can speak out.

It is also important to note that anyone can email us anonymously and confidentially if that is their preference.

Save UTAS Flyer

We are nearing the production of a Flyer that we will be letterboxing in the near future. Due to COVID we are unable to doorknock. We will be starting in Sandy Bay, Mount Nelson and Dynnyrne.

If you are willing to assist in the letterbox drop please email us at: saveutascampus@gmail.com

Petition

The committee has also been working on a petition which will be launched very soon. This petition will be available to anyone supporting our cause. Once we have 1,000 signatures of people from HCC area, we will be able to request a public meeting in the Town Hall. The petition will be available online and in hard copy and will be launched soon.

Open committee meetings in 2022

We hope to hold an open meeting soon, as we did last year at the Black Buffalo. The purpose of the meetings will be to tap into the expertise of supporters and create interest groups in various areas such as rates, retail, campus and housing.

Donations

The committee wishes to thank all donors for their support which is highly appreciated and valued. So far funds have been used to purchase the banner, corflutes and stickers and to fund the set-up of the Website. As we progress our action in 2022, it is likely funds will be needed for legal advice, so any further donations will be very warmly accepted via our website.

Hobart City Precinct Plan and Planning Scheme Amendments

Thank you to all members of the group who put in submissions in regard to the Melville St Parklet – which as we know is now on hold – and also regarding the Hobart City Precinct Plan. These submissions provide valuable insight for Council about our objections to the UTAS proposals.

The committee has received correspondence in relation to the UTAS application to rezone the Sandy Bay campus for development. HCC is awaiting further information from UTAS as the application is incomplete. It may take 6-8 weeks to evaluate and report to Council.

The committee is also closely watching for further information about the Forestry building application.

