

**For immediate release
Monday October 3, 2022**

Hobart ratepayers urged to vote in elector poll on university's Sandy Bay campus

The Save UTAS Campus group (SUC) is urging Hobart ratepayers to use their voice to save the Sandy Bay campus by voting No in the elector poll being sent out this week as part of the local government elections.

SUC group's chair, Professor Pam Sharpe said electors would finally have their chance to say what they think in the poll about UTAS's plan to abandon the Sandy Bay campus.ππ

Electors in the Hobart local government area (LGA) will receive an additional elector poll voting paper in their pack for the Hobart City Council elections, which is being posted out from today, Monday October 3. Voting is postal only and papers must be returned by Tuesday October 25.

The elector poll is the result of a Save UTAS Campus petition to the Hobart City Council which received more than 1200 signatures. SUC asked for the elector poll so views of Hobart citizens could be gauged. While voting for aldermen and councillors is now compulsory, voting in the elector poll is not.

Electors will be asked whether they support the UTAS proposal to relocate from Sandy Bay to the CBD, turning the existing campus into a housing estate of 60 apartment blocks.

Prof Sharpe said the group's advice was UTAS had spent about \$1 mill on advertising alone to influence the outcome of the vote.

"It will be very interesting to see if that spending has the effect UTAS is hoping for. Judging by the turnout at yesterday's Vote No Rally, the Save UTAS campus meet-the-candidates' forum held last week, the public meeting earlier in the year plus the overwhelming feedback we're getting, there is an incredible depth of feeling in the community," Prof Sharpe said.

"Vice Chancellor Rufus Black said the outcome of the poll had 'no chance' of changing UTAS's position on the move. This begs the question why the enormous advertising spend if UTAS will not change its position based on the poll results?"

"We believe it's an abhorrent waste of money that should have been spent on teaching and research. Because UTAS is not accountable to anyone it can spend university funds as it pleases, and it has demonstrated it will happily do so."

"All people of Hobart on the electoral roll can vote. It's not limited to property owners as it once was. We urge everyone to ensure they vote. This is the time to make sure their voice is heard," Prof Sharpe said.

For more information

Save UTAS Campus Chair Professor Pam Sharpe Mobile: 0408 461 514