

**For immediate release
Sunday September 25, 2022**

HCC candidates to give their response to UTAS move into Hobart city

HOBART citizens who are concerned about the UTAS Sandy Bay relocation proposal will have a chance to hear directly from candidates in the Hobart City Council election at a Meet The Candidates event to be conducted at the Derwent Sailing Squadron on Tuesday, 27 September at 7pm.

The event is being organised by the Save UTAS Campus community group which has been campaigning to raise awareness about the details of what the University proposes.

Save UTAS Campus chair, Prof Pam Sharpe, said: "Surprisingly, UTAS refused a formal request made in March this year by the Hobart City Councillors that UTAS conducts a genuine community engagement process on all aspects of the UTAS proposal.

"It will be interesting to see whether candidates are prepared to stand behind that Council resolution and say to UTAS the project must be paused until the consultation process, as well as the current Legislative Council inquiry into the University Act of 1992, are completed."

Prof Sharpe said the Hobart City Council worked secretly with the university for years to plan the relocation and it's only been in the past year the Council has decided the community should be consulted.

"While the community has good reason to be disappointed in the failure of Council to consult earlier it's to its credit some councillors have realised this must be a community decision. UTAS is not a private corporation which can do as it pleases."

A record 44 candidates are standing for Council.

"Some candidates have already voiced strong opposition to the UTAS proposal and others have called for genuine consultation before any more money is wasted. We are now keen to hear firsthand from candidates what is their position so we can inform ratepayers before they vote for both a new council as well as the elector poll on the university's proposed relocation," Prof Sharpe said.

For more information

Save UTAS Campus Convenor: Pam Sharpe Mobile: 0408 461 514

PLEASE NOTE:

The media is welcome to attend the Meet the Candidates forum on Tuesday, September 27 at the Derwent Sailing Squadron starting at 7pm.