

For immediate release

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**TASMANIANS URGED TO WRITE TO POLITICIANS TO VOICE CONCERNS
ABOUT THE UTAS'S RELOCATION**

THE Save UTAS Campus group is urging ratepayers outside the Hobart municipality to write to Tasmanian members of parliament to voice their concerns about the university's move into the city.

The group says people who don't live in the Hobart municipality and who cannot vote in the elector poll about the relocation can still make their voice heard by making direct contact with their state politicians. Federal Member for Clark Andrew Wilkie MHR told a Save UTAS Campus rally last week the university was created and controlled by laws made by the Tasmanian parliament but was critical not a single state politician attended the rally. Mr Wilkie said Tasmanians should tell their state members of parliament what they think about relocation.

Professor Pam Sharpe, who is chair of the Save UTAS Campus group, said City of Hobart citizens were presently voting in an elector poll on whether they supported UTAS relocation from Sandy Bay to the Hobart CBD but only they can vote.

"I support Mr Wilkie's comments about those outside the municipality who can't vote in the elector poll. The relocation affects all Tasmanians, so everyone needs to have a say. Tasmanians should follow the lead of Mr Wilkie who said the failure of any state politician to attend the rally amounted to a 'failure of the political class'."

Prof Sharpe said she also supported Mr Wilkie's call for a full commission of inquiry on the relocation proposal.

"There is far too much disquiet about the relocation, and it is not confined to people who live in the south. Our group is being inundated by inquiries from people of all demographics who live in all parts of the state and who very concerned about the move. An inquiry into the relocation and its impacts is an absolute given considering the way the university has foisted this massive project onto Tasmanians without any business case on how a relocation will affect every aspect of the CBD and surrounding suburbs.

“Despite what UTAS, its chancellor and vice chancellor have said in UTAS’s grossly expensive public relations campaign, Hobart and the broader Tasmanian community has not been consulted about the plan and continue to be left out of the loop while the university just marches on riding roughshod over communities. It’s not good enough and that’s why those who can’t participate in the poll should make sure politicians hear their serious concerns.”

Prof Sharpe said apart from the Hobart elector poll, a Legislative Council parliamentary inquiry into the UTAS 1992 legislation would not look specifically at relocation.

She said that every Tasmanian stood to lose if the future of the state’s only university was put at risk.

“Submissions to the parliamentary inquiry and UTAS’s own surveys have revealed scathing criticism of UTAS management by current academic staff. Just last week 12 student representative bodies released a joint statement that UTAS would be severely damaged by relocation, calling for the project to cease.

“I am urging those who feel disenfranchised by UTAS’s proposed move and who feel they can’t have a say, to write to politicians to have their voice heard. Save UTAS has an email contact list of all Tasmanian politicians and is happy to provide it to help those who want to send their concerns directly to their local representatives,” Prof Sharpe said.

Ends...

For more information

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