

**Media advisory/release (for tomorrow)  
Wednesday December 7, 2022**

## **Save UTAS Campus (SUC) launches new campaign opposing UTAS building in Hobart's CBD**

THE Save UTAS campus group (UTAS) is launching a campaign tomorrow (Thursday December 8) to get the university to stop its relocation into the Hobart CBD until it's fully collaborated and consulted with the community, and its own staff and students.

The new campaign is in response to the decision by UTAS to continue with relocation building works in the CBD despite the Hobart elector poll vote in October that resulted in 74 pc *against* the UTAS relocation.

SUC chair Prof Sharpe said her committee had chosen December 8 for the launch because it was the day the 'secretive' UTAS council was having its quarterly meeting in an undisclosed location in Hobart.

"This secrecy is par for the course from UTAS which has been less than transparent in its dealings with the community over its relocation.

"It's interesting the UTAS Council which governs the university and is led by Chancellor Alison Watkins who fronted the recent million+ dollar pro-move campaign, has decided it's good optics to meet secretly so noone knows where and what it's discussing. An extraordinary decision.

"The Council has let down the University and Tasmania. It wasted up \$1 mill+ and featured its own leader Chancellor Watkins in an unprecedented but ultimately failed campaign to skew the Hobart elector poll. In addition, it's rewarded Vice-Chancellor Rufus Black, whose management led to the current parliamentary inquiry, with an indefinite appointment. So, Australia's most controversial Vice Chancellor now holds his office forever," Prof Sharpe said.

SUC calls on UTAS to respect the proposal by Tasmanian Premier Jeremy Rockliff and the Hobart City Council for genuine community consultation before any more money is wasted on the relocation proposal.

"SUC has invited every Tasmanian State and Federal parliamentarian to a personal architect-guided tour of the existing and proposed UTAS CBD buildings to see how damaging the relocation proposal is to both the city and the university itself.

“Tours will also be offered to the community. The tours will start at the former Forestry building in Melville St where UTAS already has Hobart City Council approval for an extravagant \$100 million redevelopment which is eventually intended to replace good buildings at Sandy Bay, buildings UTAS wants to demolish.

The Legislative Council parliamentary inquiry into the University of Tasmania is holding public hearings this week and next with many current and past senior academics scheduled to give evidence. It will release its report and recommendations next year.

## **LAUNCH DETAILS:**

When: 11.30 am, Thursday December 8  
Where: Melville St in front of the former Forestry building  
Title of campaign: Now Save The CBD From UTAS

## **The media is invited to cover the launch**

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