

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Thursday August 25****TASMANIANS URGED TO MAKE THEIR VOICE HEARD TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S UTAS INQUIRY**

TASMANIANS have been urged to make a submission to the Legislative Council's inquiry into the provisions of the University of Tasmania Act 1992.

The inquiry was established earlier this year following a successful motion by Rob Valentine MLC in response to the full range of issues relating to the University in past months. Submissions to the Legislative Council close next Monday, August 29.

Convenor of the Save UTAS Campus group Professor Pam Sharpe said it was vitally important all Tasmanians had the opportunity to have their say about the provisions of the Act particularly in relation to the University's governance and decision-making processes.

"With growing community disquiet about UTAS's proposed move into the Hobart CBD, the parliamentary inquiry is timely as it provides an opportunity to review the institution's governance and transparency and whether there need to be changes to the Act," Prof Sharpe said.

The Terms of Reference for the Inquiry include examining the Act in relation to the functions and powers of the University, the role and powers of the University Council and Academic Senate, and the Act's oversight on aspects of accountable decision-making and protection of academic freedom.

"While the inquiry won't be looking specifically at the proposed move into the Hobart CBD, it will be examining UTAS's power and the appropriateness of its decision-making. In light of the Hobart City move Save UTAS Campus group will be submitting a paper to the inquiry around UTAS's decision-making and how those decisions have been articulated to the wider community. Save UTAS will also be raising the issue of academic freedom and likely changes to the Act to protect those freedoms," Prof Sharpe said.

"Professor Sharpe said the Inquiry was an important review into the University of Tasmania Act. The Legislative Council provides the appropriate framework to have this review.

"That is why we are urging Tasmanians to make the most of this opportunity to have their voice heard."

Anyone wanting information on how to make a submission, the inquiry's terms of reference and examples of topics that need to be addressed can find more details on the Save UTAS website <https://www.saveutascampus.com>

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