

How to make a submission to the Legislative Council Inquiry

SAVE UTAS CAMPUS INC. URGES ALL TASMANIANS TO MAKE A SUBMISSION



What is the purpose of this inquiry?

The inquiry is looking to see whether the University of Tasmania Act 1992 is fit for purpose and will focus on:

- powers and functions of UTAS
- the UTAS governing Council and the university Academic Senate
- management and financial management of UTAS
- treatment of academic staff

What are the Terms of Reference?

The Terms of Reference [TOR] Submissions **MUST** relate to at least one of the following

1. The constitution, functions and powers of the University;
2. The constitution, role, powers and obligations of the Council and Academic Senate;
3. The appropriateness of the Act to ensure accountable executive, fiscal and academic decision making;
4. The appropriateness of the Act to protect and promote academic freedom, independence and autonomy;
and
5. Any other matters incidental there to.

How do I make a submission?

- Any person or organisation can make a submission to the committee.
- A reminder that **relocation is not the focus of the inquiry** and submissions should focus on whether the Act is working in the best interests of the Tasmanian community.
- Issues experienced across the state are relevant to this inquiry.
- We particularly urge UTAS academics to make a submission.
- Submissions can be made confidentially if there is concern about repercussions.
- Submissions will be received until close of business on **Monday 29 August 2022**

What can I/we include in a submission?

“Your submission may contain factual information, opinion or both. You may wish to draw the attention of the committee to something relevant to the inquiry. You may choose to emphasise solutions to the matter or issue before the committee... If a submission does not address any of the terms of reference, it generally cannot be accepted by the committee ” (see Inquiry fact sheet, see link below)

What are some examples that could be included?

TOR 1:

UTAS management style and the significant damage done, particularly to the law school. Lack of care for the community it serves.

TOR 2:

Inadequacies of the University Council and Academic Senate to make decisions. For example:

- Lack of consultation and support for decision making including the relocation of the university to the CBD.
- Not exhibiting its values.
- Lack of effective and comprehensive community engagement.
- Lack of economic and social research into impacts of decision making.
- Lack of maintenance for 10 years prior to the announcement of wholesale move.
- Lack of consultation about the development of the Sandy Bay campus.

TOR 3:

- Poor financial decisions over many years eg building purchases.
- Examples of waste and extravagance and overspending on property.
- Lack of input by academic staff about academic decisions.
- Lack of accountability to the community and the government when making decisions. The ambiguity of the Act regarding the sale of land.

TOR 4:

Academic staff have been poorly treated over many years and excluded from decision making. They have experienced lack of academic freedom, independence and autonomy. The Act does not, in any practical way, recognise their interests.

How do I/we submit?

Your submission can be forwarded by email to utas@parliament.tas.gov.au or posted to Parliament House, 1 Salamanca Pl, Hobart TAS 7000, attention **Inquiry Secretary**, Ms Jenny Mannering.

Useful links

Inquiry web page www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/council/LC%20Select%20-%20University%20of%20Tasmania.html

Submissions Fact sheet www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/council/ACO.2020.MakingaWrittenSubmission.sw.001.pdf

The University Act 1992 www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1992-051