

Professor Rufus Black
Vice-Chancellor
University of Tasmania
By email: Vice.Chancellor@utas.edu.au

Dear Professor Black

Misleading Comments on ABC Radio Regarding UTAS Council Minutes

I am writing to you in regard to what I consider misleading comments that you made on ABC radio this morning in your interview with Mel Bush.

In this interview you indicated that the Minutes of the 5 April 2019 meeting of the University of Tasmania (UTAS) Council, which approved the 'City-Centric Campus' model, had been provided to a Right to Information (RTI) applicant (although the term used in the interview was FOI, I believe). You also indicated that the Minutes had been placed on the UTAS website.

I am the RTI applicant concerned and what you said is simply not correct.

I lodged an RTI application for the (full) UTAS Council Minutes from 1 January 2015 to 24 March 2022 on the latter date. UTAS' decision of 27 May 2022 regarding my application reworded my request, without my agreement, and provided me with a heavily redacted extract of the Minutes. A copy of this is what was placed on UTAS' website: [University-of-Tasmania-Council-minutes-extract-Hobart-City-Move.pdf \(utas.edu.au\)](https://www.utas.edu.au/University-of-Tasmania-Council-minutes-extract-Hobart-City-Move.pdf)

In line with UTAS' general approach to the Minutes, the section relating to the 5 April 2019 meeting was a heavily redacted extract (covering only agenda items 6.1-6.6), rather than the full Minutes of the meeting (copy of this extract at Attachment A). For such an important decision for UTAS, Hobart and Tasmania's future, this is a paltry record.

I lodged a request for internal review of UTAS' initial decision on my RTI application with you on 27 June 2022 and am currently awaiting a response (Attachment B). I believe you should immediately release the full UTAS Council Minutes as requested, including for the meeting of 5 April 2019, with only such redactions as are absolutely necessary. I intend to shortly lodge an RTI application for the agenda papers for the 5 April 2019 UTAS Council meeting and, in the interests of better informing public debate, suggest you also release these now. As UTAS Council Minutes generally only record decisions, agenda papers are required to make sense of the Minutes, as well as providing the bases on which decisions were made.

On a related matter, in answering questions on the 5 April 2019 UTAS Council decision, I believe that you may have left listeners with the misapprehension that the Council agreed both to a total move to the Hobart CBD and redevelopment of the Sandy Bay campus on that date. As you know, the decision to redevelop the Sandy Bay campus was not made until 2021. You may wish to take action to correct this misapprehension.

I believe that you made a number of other comments in your interview that, at the least, would have left listeners with serious misapprehensions. I will leave others with more knowledge than me on the issues concerned to raise these with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Hogan", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Robert Hogan

14 July 2022

Email: harveyr35@aol.com