

## UTAS: Question and Answer in House of Assembly – 27 October 2022

**Cassy O'Connor**

My question is to the Premier.

Premier, while the vote isn't finalised it does look increasingly like the people of Hobart have rejected the UTAS takeover of the city. There's also growing alarm among students and staff about the University's move to cut courses, gut the Law Faculty, move its lectures on-line, taking the heart out of campus life, and not negotiate in good faith with the union representing staff.

Are you as Premier also concerned about the direction UTAS is heading in? Do you agree that while UTAS management has been focused on a divisive, unpopular city move, there's a question mark over the quality of higher education being delivered at our only university? What will you do to help UTAS refocus on delivering high quality higher education and restoring public confidence?

**Premier Rockliff**

I thank the Honourable Member for her question....

[Reading from his brief] To the question, the decision to relocate the southern UTAS campus, and how that may align with the University's educational priorities, is a matter for the University of Tasmania organisation, **as a private organisation**, Mr Speaker.

[interjection, "isn't it also a matter for State Parliament?"]

We support and encourage UTAS to continue to engage in a comprehensive and thorough consultation process. We encourage also of course those interested to participate in the consultation process and through the established processes already in place under the planning system.

Mr Speaker, since UTAS first announced its intentions in 2019, the Tasmanian Government has maintained visibility of its plans and progress through the Hobart City Deal, given the focus of city shaping actions like transport, housing and precinct planning. There is also now an inquiry into the provisions of the UTAS Act through the Legislative Council, which can consider a wide range of UTAS activity, and of course the Government will consider the outcomes from the inquiry in due course.

Draft: Robert Hogan