

Division of Clark: candidates' positions on the University of Tasmania's (UTAS') proposed relocation to the Hobart CBD

Division of Clark Candidates ¹	First emailed	Response Date	Response	Party position (where relevant)
Australian Labor Party				
BENSON, Stuart	13 March		Nil	Nil
DAVIS, Simon	13 March		Nil	Nil
HADDAD, Ella	13 March		Nil	Nil
KAMARA, John	13 March		Nil	Nil
PRINCE, Rebecca	13 March		Nil	Nil
WALLACE, Susan	13 March		Nil	Nil
WILLIE, Josh	13 March		Nil	Nil
Liberal Party				
ALDERGHAM, Mohammad	13 March		Nil	https://tas.liberal.org.au/news/2024/02/27/majority-rockliff-liberal-government-will-keep-utas-sandy-bay
ATTERBURY, Emma	13 March		Nil	https://tas.liberal.org.au/news/2024/02/27/majority-rockliff-liberal-government-will-keep-utas-sandy-bay
BEHRAKIS, Simon	13 March		Nil	https://tas.liberal.org.au/news/2024/02/27/majority-rockliff-liberal-government-will-keep-utas-sandy-bay
GOURLAY, Jon	13 March		Nil	https://tas.liberal.org.au/news/2024/02/27/majority-rockliff-liberal-government-will-keep-utas-sandy-bay
OGILVIE, Madeleine		18 March	<p>"I have announced that the campus will remain in Sandy Bay, and we will amend the University Act to ensure any proposed sale or lease of the land could only occur with agreement of both Houses of Parliament.</p> <p>I think this resolves the concern about the campus location. There is more work to do to assist to re-build capacity at the campus as well."</p>	https://tas.liberal.org.au/news/2024/02/27/majority-rockliff-liberal-government-will-keep-utas-sandy-bay
SEARLE, Catherine	13 March		Nil	https://tas.liberal.org.au/news/2024/02/27/majority-rockliff-liberal-government-will-keep-utas-sandy-bay
VERMEY, Marcus	13 March		Nil	https://tas.liberal.org.au/news/2024/02/27/majority-rockliff-liberal-government-will-keep-utas-sandy-bay

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Animal Justice Party				
DAVIES, Casey	NA			
Local Network (LN)				
CAMPBELL, Sam	15 March		Nil	
FORMBY, Frank	15 March		Nil	
NUNN, David	15 March		Nil	
ZOLLNER, Ranae	NA			
Group E				
JOHNSTON, Kristie	13 March	16 March	<p>"I do not support the UTAS move. I am concerned about the way they have engaged in consultation and particularly concerned about the ongoing financial sustainability and viability of the university. The university is our only one and it must be in a position to provide quality higher education for Tasmanians. I am concerned that whilst they have been pre-occupied with the move they have lost focus on educational and research outcomes.</p> <p>Please feel free to contact me again if you require anything further."</p>	
Tasmanian Greens				
BAYLEY, Vica	13 March	14 March	<p>"A Tas Greens Position statement on the UTAS move, and TAS more broadly has been published here, amongst our education policies.</p> <p>There is no difference between the party position statement and my personal position."</p>	https://tasgreensmps.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/UTAS-Position-Statement.pdf
BURNET, Helen	13 March		Nil	https://tasgreensmps.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/UTAS-Position-Statement.pdf
HOARE, Trenton	13 March		<p>Nil</p> <p>[NB: as I could not find an individual email addresses I asked that Green HQ pass my email on. This may not have happened.]</p>	https://tasgreensmps.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/UTAS-Position-Statement.pdf

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JONES, Peter	13 March		Nil [NB: as I could not find an individual email address I asked that Green HQ pass my email on. This may not have happened.]	https://tasgreensmps.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/UTAS-Position-Statement.pdf
SHELLEY, Janet	13 March		Nil [NB: as I could not find individual email address I asked that Green HQ pass my email on. This may not have happened.]	https://tasgreensmps.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/UTAS-Position-Statement.pdf
VOLF, Nathan	13 March		Nil [NB: as I could not find an individual email address I asked that Green HQ pass my email on. This may not have happened.]	https://tasgreensmps.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/UTAS-Position-Statement.pdf
ZALOTOCKYJ, James	13 March		Nil [NB: as I could not find an individual email address I asked that Green HQ pass my email on. This may not have happened.]	https://tasgreensmps.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/UTAS-Position-Statement.pdf
Group G				
HICKEY, Sue	13 March	17 March	<p>For space reasons, I am only quoting here the first five paragraphs of Ms Hickey's letter. The full text is provided at: https://theutaspapers.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Sue-Hickey-letter.docx</p> <p>"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to state my position about UTAS's relocation to the city, even though it seems you have made up your mind about my ability to think independently.</p> <p>I was very disappointed you claimed I was a puppet of others simply because I worked for UTAS for two years.</p> <p>Even had I not worked for UTAS I would still be supportive of the move. That support goes back to my role as Lord Mayor of Hobart. When presented with the evidence, the entire council was united on this move as a critical economic driver for the city that would enrich the city's heart with intelligent, aspirational younger people who also activate local business and nightlife. It was also believed that it was vital to make tertiary education more accessible for people from the outer suburbs of Brighton, Sorell, New Norfolk, and Huonville, requiring just one mode of transport in each</p>	

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			<p>direction to get to and from their studies. It was agreed then, and it is my position now that it's essential to get as many Tasmanians as possible participating in and connecting to higher learning to skill our people for the future.</p> <p>Apart from the obvious conclusions about participation and accessibility, I believe the move is a good one from educational and societal perspectives. The reason? The UTAS move represents the progressiveness of learning today. The world is changing, and so is the modern student. The previous earlier years of student life, debating, cheap food, and drinks are all gone. Most students today have no time for such luxuries because now they're juggling study with working and, for some, even raising a family. The average age of the UTAS student is 32 years, and study is often delayed due to, among other factors, the increasing cost of living and/or raising a family. Many of today's students prefer working online, where they can put their children to bed and study the same course as someone in Zeehan, Strahan, Huonville, or Sydney, participating with all notes provided. So, spending endless hours socialising on the grass or in campus clubs is no longer the reality, though I can certainly understand how wonderful that must have been!</p> <p>As you know, moving into the city is not new in terms of relocation. While you've said these CBD buildings are not in question, it's essential to recognise their vibrancy, impact on the city, and the benefits their location has had on students studying in their surroundings. The same is happening now and will continue if UTAS moves faculties into the city."</p>	
Shooters, Fishers, Farmers TAS				
BENNETT, Lorraine	NA			
PICKIN, Adrian	NA			

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Group I				
LOHBERGER, Ben	13 March	15 March	<p>"The Sandy Bay campus is an inter-generational asset, built up over years by generations of academics, students, and governments.</p> <p>The proposal to abandon and destroy the campus is vandalism, and it must be stopped.</p> <p>I am opposed to the UTAS relocation into the CBD, and I will also more to change the law that currently allows UTAS to sell off the campus.</p> <p>The university needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sell its under-utilised CBD properties - move the School of Business and Economics out of rented commercial buildings in the CBD, and back to the Sandy Bay campus - stop trying to force the Law Faculty into substandard accommodation in the CBD - enter into mediation with staff, students, and the community, about the best way to continue teaching on the campus. - come up with a plan to progressively upgrade and refurbish key academic buildings on the campus, especially the STEM faculties." 	
Group J				
ELLIOT, Louise	13 March	16 March	<p>"Before and since being elected to the Hobart City Council, I have strongly and actively supported UTAS remaining on the Sandy Bay campus it was gifted for education, including hundreds of hours of volunteer work for the Save UTAS Campus Committee. My commitment to the cause is steadfast because I believe that the Sandy Bay campus is the university's unique selling point and that it provides the best setting for student and staff attraction, retention, and experience. I believe that the CBD should be for true</p>	

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			<p>CBD activity, such as retail, professional services and apartment living. I understand that universities are facing financial challenges, but this is no justification for UTAS selling off the land it was gifted specifically for education. I am disturbed by UTAS' low ranking in higher education standards, especially given they are our only university. I have two young children who deserve to have access to a high-quality university in their home state. I want to see a return to a focus on academic and research excellence, and student and staff experience, over property development. Immediately upon being elected to the Hobart City Council, I moved a comprehensive Motion focused on advancing the community's wishes that UTAS remain and this decision. At every opportunity, I put this perspective forward and advocate for UTAS to remain. This is not possible, however, when considering planning applications, it is illegal for me to consider anything other than the planning scheme factors. If elected to State, I will actively and strongly support UTAS remaining on its campus, its financial sustainability, and its mandate to deliver academic and research excellence, including through changes to the University Act."</p>	
ungrouped				
FORSTER, John Michael	15 March		Nil	
TRIFFITT, Angela	NA			
VOGEL, Stefan	15 March		Nil	

Notes:

1. The ordering of parties/groups/candidates is from the Tasmanian Electoral Commission's website at: <https://www.tec.tas.gov.au/house-of-assembly/elections-2024/candidates/clark.html> Some additional details of candidates are provided there.
2. On 13 March 2024, I wrote to those candidates in Clark for whom I could obtain an email address, seeking their personal (and where relevant, party) views on UTAS' proposed relocation from the Sandy Bay campus site to the Hobart CBD, by 17 March. Having obtained some additional email addresses, I sent a follow up email on 15 March. Particularly for those candidates for whom I was unable to find an email address, or who have otherwise not received my email, please contact me if you would like to add your position to this table. My best email address for this purpose is now: harveyr35@outlook.com