

Fears for UTAS funding

Sue Bailey

The chancellor of the University of Tasmania has expressed serious concerns about legislation to ban the sale of land at its Sandy Bay campus, saying it creates funding uncertainty.

In a letter obtained by the Sunday Tasmanian, Alison Watkins said the legislation, which requires both houses of parliament to approve any land sales, would “in practice, deter virtually all prospective development partners”.

“The legislation thereby impacts the university’s ability to secure its financial sustainability and allocate its resources in a way which creates maximum benefits for Tasmania,” she wrote.

Leaked letter reveals threat from land sale Bill



UTAS Chancellor Alison Watkins.

“...it is highly unlikely any development partners would contemplate a transaction dependent on parliamentary approval.

“The chilling effect will be further reinforced, according to the short summary, by the requirement that any sale motion include ‘details of the

amount of payment or consideration, or any other benefits that the University is to receive if the sale is approved as required under this section’.

“This could require disclosure of much of the ‘usual’ parts of the contract, eg purchaser indemnities, purchaser waiving rights to claim for problems with the property and so on.”

The letter was written on June 18 and sent to Liberal Clark MP Madeleine Ogilvie just days before the legislation was introduced into the House of Assembly. It is yet to be debated.

While commending the gov-

ernment for seeking funding for a southern STEM facility, Ms Watkins said the university was “disappointed” it was not given a draft of the Bill “to enable proper consultation to occur ahead of its tabling in Parliament” but rather a short summary from the Education Department.

Ms Watkins said she was “very concerned” the legislation would impede University Council members from making the best decisions and could potentially expose them to liability.

She said the legislation created “uncertainty with regard

to our ongoing funding arrangements” which is of “considerable concern to the council”.

The chancellor points out that the land for the Sandy Bay campus was originally commonwealth land and questions whether the federal government was consulted on the legislation.

Ms Ogilvie on Saturday confirmed Ms Watkins’ letter.

She said the government would ensure “community perspectives are considered when it comes to the University of Tasmania selling or leasing the land comprising the

Sandy Bay campus”.

“We will continue to work with the University as the legislation progresses through Parliament,” Ms Ogilvie said.

“Importantly, we will work with the University, and key stakeholders, to seek federal government investment in the University of Tasmania’s important proposal for a STEM focused Sandy Bay campus upgrade.”

The Liberals promised the legislation during the March state election and after a Hobart City Council elector poll of ratepayers in 2022, in which 75 per cent of those who voted opposed the university’s move from Sandy Bay campus to the CBD.

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Cap to be a devil of a surprise for Max



Award-winning Tasmanian cartoonist and artist Jon Kudelka, inset, has made a special Tassie devil swimming cap for Olympian Max Giuliani to remind him of the state’s support. Pictures: Chris Kidd

Sue Bailey

A special piece of Tasmania is on its way to swimming sensation Max Giuliani in Paris thanks to the love of his father and one of Australia’s leading cartoonists.

When his son was selected to compete at the Olympics, Mic Giuliani contacted artist and cartoonist Jon Kudelka to see if he could produce a swimming cap with his much loved Tasmanian devil on it.

“I wanted to do it earlier, but I just thought I don’t want to jinx Max not getting in, so I waited until he made the team,” Mr Giuliani said.

“I really love that design.” Mr Giuliani has packed 10 caps and hopes to surprise Max when he sees him.

“Hopefully he can go for a little train with one, get a photo but also to use as a little bit of currency in the in the Olympic village.

“They are beautiful and a unique little piece of Tasmania that Max can carry with him.”

Kudelka said before he got Mr Giuliani’s email he had not thought about putting the devil lino cut on to a swimming cap.

“I did a fair bit of research

and the main issues were a minimum order of 100 caps and a lead time of six weeks, which would be after the Olympics.

“After asking on Facebook, I realised that I’d be able to shift 100 of the caps without too much trouble and negotiated a rush job with a printing company.”

To everyone’s delight the caps arrived with days to spare before Mr Giuliani headed overseas. Now, they are almost sold out.

“They’re pretty fancy silicon ones and printed up really well,” Kudelka said.

“The caps are definitely selling like hot cakes.

“I think I might have tapped into the unbelievably cold water swimming trend and they do look pretty schmick even if I do say so myself.”

Kudelka, who was this year diagnosed with a brain tumour, got the results of an MRI scan on Friday which he described as “good, with the tumour being considerably reduced in size”.

“Hopefully this is an optimistic omen for Max,” he said.

Max’s first swim is in the 200m freestyle on July 28.



PM hits out at Russia’s claims

Hannah Moore

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has rebuked Russia for its claims charges against an Australian Army private and her husband were inciting “anti-Russian propaganda”, telling the nation to “back off”.

On Friday, Kira Korolev and her husband Igor were the first people in Australia to be charged with espionage offences introduced in 2018 after allegedly stealing state secrets to share with Russia.

Kira, who was employed with the Australian Defence Force as an information systems technician for several years, was allegedly undertaking non-declared travel to Russia while on leave, and instructed Igor to login to her work account from their Brisbane home.

Court documents allege the couple unlawfully accessed, copied and disseminated information from the Department of Defence computer systems that concerned national security.

The federal government will allege they maintained a relationship with members of affiliates of the Russian Federation intelligence services to provide information she had illegally obtained. It is not yet known if that information reached Russian authorities.

On Saturday, the Russian embassy declared a press conference held by AFP and ASIO chiefs Reece Kershaw and Mike Burgess on Friday announcing the charges was intended to stoke anti-Russian sentiment.

Asked to respond, Mr Albanese did not mince words.

“Russia can get the message, back off,” he said.

“Russia engages in espionage here and around the world. Russia has no credibility.

“And the message to Russia is, how about you get out of Ukraine?”