

2021/877

Emeritus Professor Warren Jones AO  
Convenor, Protect our Heritage Alliance  
Via email: [convenor@protectourheritage.org.au](mailto:convenor@protectourheritage.org.au)

31 January 2021

### **Statement regarding Waite Gatehouse**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a statement to the staff and students, and members of the wider community gathered today.

Please understand that the University is very much sympathetic to your cause.

It is also our cause.

The University is entirely opposed to the acquisition of Waite campus land.

We are entirely opposed to any adverse impact on the heritage of the land, and to the legacy of Peter Waite.

The bequest of land to the University from Peter Waite – almost 100 years ago – is one of the largest and most significant philanthropic gifts in the history of South Australia.

The Waite campus – which includes both the natural history of the Waite Arboretum, as well as built heritage such as the Gatehouse – is held in perpetuity by the University.

This land is a South Australian treasure.

The support we have seen from members of the community so far has been heartening. Your support today means a lot to us.

We also support you, as you voice your concerns today.

The University has now received formal notification from the State Government that it intends to take the land from us.

We will be pursuing our legal rights under that process to oppose the acquisition of the land.

We do not want to see an impact on the Gatehouse. We do not want to see an impact on the trees. We do not want to see an impact on the legacy of Peter Waite.

The State Government has offered the University \$2 million to move the Gatehouse – but we know, and they know, that sum of money is unlikely to be anywhere near the amount needed to help relocate and save the building.

Our preferred option is for the Gatehouse to stay where it is, and for the land to remain untouched.

We appreciate your support today.

The University will continue to strive to protect the campus, its heritage and the legacy of Peter Waite – and your voices are a critical part of that.

We hope your voices are heard.

**Professor Mike Brooks FTSE FACS**  
Interim Vice-Chancellor and President  
The University of Adelaide